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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 1 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. (Adopted 1.13.02)

### *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 Affiliate Member

#### **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 Affiliate Member.

#### **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 and rules defined in the following sections of this document.

#### **MIDWEST REGIONAL LEAGUE**

This is an invitation only interstate sanctioned league for U15 – U19's administered by US YOUTH SOCCER Region II.

## **DISTRICT SELECT PROGRAM**

This is an ODP experience offered for 13 year-old players. A State Select pool of up to 40 players attends a sub-regional camp in the summer competing as two teams.

This pool is selected through district tryouts conducted in the fall. A district team of 20 to 22 players is selected at that time. This team trains 4 to 6 times for approximately a month under the supervision of two district coaches. In the late fall the district teams meet for a two day tournament at which time the state staff selects the pool of 40.

The district select program allows for sustained training and identification for the youngest age group of the ODP. Refer to the State Select/ODP Handbook for additional information.

## **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 U.S. 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 fall. 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**

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 Affiliate Member can be obtained from the MYSA State Office. All Affiliate Members 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.

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. Provisional status will not be granted to groups or organizations operating in areas already served MYSA affiliate members. While on provisional status, a group or organization may register players for the purpose of conducting a recreation program and Recreation Plus teams. A group or organization on provisional status has no voting rights in MYSA.

### *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 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.

### *1.1.4 Individual Members*

Individual Members of the MYSA are all soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators or officials who are not Participant Members. Individual Members may not independently organize teams for participation in MYSA activities.

### *1.1.5 Associate Members*

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

### *1.1.6 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. Affiliate Members must meet the requirements specified below to qualify for Competitive Status.
- a. 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. Applicants who submit a complete application for provisional membership and meet all the provisional membership requirements, will be accepted as provisional members. Applicants who submit a complete application for recreational membership and meet all the recreational membership requirements, will be accepted as recreational members. Applicants who wish to enter teams into competitive leagues or form Tournament and Tournament Only teams must meet the additional requirements for competitive status.
- b. Minimum Requirements for Recreational Status: A new applicant seeking to become an Affiliate Member of MYSA must submit all of the following:
  1. The appropriate Affiliate Membership fee;
  2. Proof of incorporated status and current registration with the Minnesota Secretary of State as a corporation;
  3. Copies of the applicant's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws;
  4. 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 submit a completed registration form, informed consent/disclosure form, and pay the appropriate fee;
  5. A list of fields including location and street addresses;
  6. Identification of 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. A statement of the number of teams that the applicant intends to have in their first season and the level of play for each team that they propose to enter;
  2. An acknowledgement that the applicant will have a minimum of four competitive teams (9 and older). The Youth Council may consider a waiver to this requirement in the event of unusual circumstances;
  3. 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 is available;
  4. A plan for referee assignment approved by the State Youth Referee Administrator. The plan should include details that address the provision of a sufficient number of referees for the projected number of games (including a list of names and phone numbers), the possible sharing of referees with neighboring communities, and the mentorship program that the applicant anticipates using;

5. 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;
6. The new Affiliate Member will have an annual review by the Youth Council for the first 3 years of membership. During this period, its Competitive Status is subject to revocation by the Youth Council if the Affiliate Member fails to comply with the requirements of approval.

#### **1.2.1.2 PROCEDURES FOR NEW AFFILIATE MEMBERS**

- a. The MYSA Compliance Committee will examine the documentation required in section 1.2.1.1 and advise the Youth Council of the applicant's conformance or nonconformance and suggest any changes necessary to bring an applicant into conformance.
- b. The Youth Council shall have the responsibility to accept an application for Affiliate Membership as complete, or reject any application found to be incomplete or inadequate.
- c. Within the first year of affiliation, the President and Registrar of the new Affiliate Member must attend a training program conducted by MYSA.
- d. The Youth Council, upon recommendation of the District Operating 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;
  2. Proof of incorporated status and current registration with the Minnesota Secretary of State as a corporation;
  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;
  3. A list of fields, including location and street addresses;
  4. A list of administrators;
  5. By September 1, 2002, an Affiliate Member must meet the requirements of 1.2.1.1. to maintain Competitive Status.
- b. The Youth Council will 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 Compliance Committee will examine the documentation required and advise the Youth Council of the applicant's conformance or nonconformance and suggest any changes necessary to bring an applicant into conformance. The Youth Council 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 Youth Council for the first 3 years of Competitive Status. Competitive Status is subject to revocation by the Youth Council 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. 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 preceding 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;
- b. A 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;
- c. A list of fields and other venues including location and street address;
- d. 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 is available;
- e. A statement of the number of teams that the applicant intends to have in their first season and the level of play for each team that they propose to enter;
- f. A 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;
- g. A plan for referee assignment approved by the State Youth Referee Administrator. The plan should include details that address the provision of a sufficient number of referees for the projected number of games (including a list of names and phone numbers), the possible sharing of referees with neighboring communities, and the mentorship program that the applicant anticipates using;
- h. A written plan for risk management, including the name and phone number of the program coordinator. Additional plan requirements are specified in the MYSA Risk Management policy;
- i. 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;
- j. Applicants who have been determined to meet the requirements of this section may be admitted as an Extraterritorial Member. The Youth Council may consider additional criteria for the good of the membership based on the specific contractual relationship with each National State Association.

#### **1.2.2.2 PROCEDURES FOR NEW EXTRATERRITORIAL MEMBERS**

- a. A new member training program must be attended by, at a minimum, the President and Registrar of the applying organization within the first year of affiliation. This training will be conducted by the MYSA as needed.
- b. The Compliance Committee (YC 10/13/02) will examine the documentation required in section 1.2.2.1 and advise the Youth Council of the applicant's conformance or nonconformance and suggest any changes necessary to bring an applicant into conformance.
- c. The Youth Council shall have the responsibility to determine qualifications, to accept an application for Extraterritorial Membership as complete, or reject any application found to be incomplete.
- d. Applicants who have been determined to meet the requirements of section 1.2.2.1 by the Youth Council may be admitted as Extraterritorial Members.
- e. The Youth Council upon recommendation of the District Operating 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;
  2. A list of fields, including location;
  3. List of administrators upon election;
  4. 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;
  5. Proof of not for profit status as defined by the Internal Revenue Service;
  6. To maintain Extraterritorial Member status, an existing Extraterritorial Member must meet the requirements of Section 1.2.2.1 by September 1, 2002.
- b. The Youth Council will have the authority to determine whether an Extraterritorial Member is in good standing under MYSA Bylaws Article 2.407.
- c. 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 Youth Council 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 Youth Council and paying the appropriate annual fee. Individual Memberships must be renewed by September 1 of each year.

### *1.2.5 Officer Registration*

In order to affiliate or renew affiliation, an Affiliate, Extraterritorial, or Associate Member must submit a 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.

### *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 pay the appropriate registration fee. The 21-Day Policy for Player's begins the moment a player signs a club registration form, pays a registration fee and/or pays a try-out 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.

### 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 and rules, 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 District Operating 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 The US YOUTH SOCCER recognizes two types of teams:

- a. Teams with females only are Girls Teams.
- b. All other teams are Boys Teams

### 1.3.3 Age Levels

#### 1.3.3.1 BIRTH YEAR CUTOFF DATES: 2001-02                      2002-03                      2003-04

U6	8-1-95 to 7-31-96	8-1-96 to 7-31-97	8-1-97 to 7-31-98
U7	8-1-94 to 7-31-95	8-1-95 to 7-31-96	8-1-96 to 7-31-97
U8	8-1-93 to 7-31-94	8-1-94 to 7-31-95	8-1-95 to 7-31-96
U9	8-1-92 to 7-31-93	8-1-93 to 7-31-94	8-1-94 to 7-31-95
U10	8-1-91 to 7-31-92	8-1-92 to 7-31-93	8-1-93 to 7-31-94
U11	8-1-90 to 7-31-91	8-1-91 to 7-31-92	8-1-92 to 7-31-93
U12	8-1-89 to 7-31-90	8-1-90 to 7-31-91	8-1-91 to 7-31-92
U13	8-1-88 to 7-31-89	8-1-89 to 7-31-90	8-1-90 to 7-31-91
U14	8-1-87 to 7-31-88	8-1-88 to 7-31-89	8-1-89 to 7-31-90
U15	8-1-86 to 7-31-87	8-1-87 to 7-31-88	8-1-88 to 7-31-89
U16	8-1-85 to 7-31-86	8-1-86 to 7-31-87	8-1-87 to 7-31-88
U17	8-1-84 to 7-31-85	8-1-85 to 7-31-86	8-1-86 to 7-31-87
U18	8-1-83 to 7-31-84	8-1-84 to 7-31-85	8-1-85 to 7-31-86
U19	8-1-82 to 7-31-83	8-1-83 to 7-31-84	8-1-84 to 7-31-85

**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.
- b. 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 and rules, 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 AFFILIATE MEMBER OR EXTRATERRITORIAL MEMBER**

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) signs the Affiliate Member's or Extraterritorial Member's registration form and pays the fees required by the Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member. Once registered, a player is bound to that Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member for that soccer season (summer or fall) except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws of MYSA or these policies and rules.

#### **1.3.4.2 PLAYER TRANSFER OR RELEASE REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Once registered with an Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member, a player is bound to the team to which the Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member has assigned the player for that soccer season, except as otherwise provided by MYSA Bylaws or these policies and rules.
- b. At the player's request, a registered player not assigned to a team by his/her Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member must be released by such Member.
- c. A registered player may request a transfer from his/her Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member. Transferred players must be released by the original Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member before the player may be registered by another Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member.
- d. Player transfers must be approved 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 or at a higher level than that offered or available with the player's current Affiliate Member.
- e. Upon request, a player may be voluntarily released by an Affiliate Member.
- f. Inter-Club transfers (from one Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member to another) must be submitted in writing on the appropriate form, signed by both Affiliate Members or Extraterritorial Members and must be approved by the appropriate District Director of the original Affiliate Member's or Extraterritorial Member's home district.

#### **1.3.4.3 LIMITS ON DROPPED PLAYERS**

- a. A dropped player is one who is involuntarily released by an Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member and not put on another team sponsored by that Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member. After the Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member 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 Affiliate Member's or Extraterritorial Member's registrar and the MYSA office must be notified of a dropped player.

### *1.3.5 Affiliate Member Responsibilities*

- a. An Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member 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. An Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member who intentionally submits false or inaccurate information to effect a player registration or transfer or prevent an otherwise legitimate player transfer will be subject to disciplinary actions.

## **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 Affiliate Member 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 14 players to register as a team.
- c. U11 – U19 teams must have at least 11 and no more than 18 players to register as a team.
- d. Club Presidents and the District Operating 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 Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member 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.

### *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 Affiliate Member 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 Affiliate Member 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 and an informed consent/disclosure form, 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 Amateur Games**

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

- a. The player must be registered with an MYSA team.
- b. The player must have only a youth player pass. A youth player may not have an amateur player pass at the same time he/she holds a youth player pass.
- c. Procedures for receiving permission to play amateur:
  1. Fill out MYSA's Application for Youth Participation in Amateur Games. This must be signed by the player's youth coach.
  2. Mail or bring the completed application and the player's MYSA current player pass to the State Office.
  3. The MYSA pass will be marked so it will be identifiable as authorized to play amateur.

4. In the event of a conflict between an amateur game and a youth game, the youth game will take precedence.
5. All cautions and send-offs will be carried over to youth games.
6. A player who plays in an amateur game without a properly approved 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 amateur on a game by game basis.

## **1.6 Fees Determined Annually by Youth Council**

All fees shall be determined annually by the Youth Council.

## **2.0 MYSA RECREATION PROGRAM**

### **2.1 General Policies and Rules for Recreational Play**

The MYSA Recreation Director oversees the Recreation program, a series of intra- Affiliate Member 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 youths (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 and Rules for Recreation Plus Play**

The MYSA Recreation Plus Director oversees the Recreation Plus program. Recreation Plus is an intermediate program designed to allow the recreation 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 youths (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 and Rules Manual*.

### *3.1.5 Terms of Participation*

Recreation Plus teams may not play as a team in MYSA competitive league play, district and state tournaments, and state cup competition.

### *3.1.6 Games Allowed*

Recreation Plus teams may play Recreation Plus games, invitational tournaments, Holiday Station Stores Festival, or “friendly” games.

### *3.1.7 Invitational Tournament Participation*

When attending invitational tournaments the team and its players are subject to the policies and rules 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 and 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 14 players registered; and
- b. U11-U19 teams must have at least 11 and no more than 18 players registered.

With the written approval of the Recreation Plus Director, a Recreation Plus team may register more than 18 players; however, only 18 players may be rostered for any one game.

### *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 LEAGUE PLAY**

### **4.1 General Policies and rules for All Age Levels and Competitive Divisions**

The following policies and rules apply to MYSA competitive league play, district and state tournaments, and State Cup competition unless otherwise noted in those sections of the handbook. MYSA policies and rules that are modifications of FIFA are noted in Chapter 4 *Laws of the Game*.

### 4.1.1 Team Rosters

#### 4.1.1.1 ROSTERS AVAILABLE TO TEAMS

Official team rosters are required for all teams. MYSA will issue a preliminary team roster after the deadline for player registration with MYSA. A final roster will be issued shortly after the deadline for newly registered players. All rosters must be signed by the appropriate District Director to be official.

#### 4.1.1.2 ROSTER CHANGES AND FREEZE DATES

- a. Roster changes must be made through MYSA with the approval of the appropriate District Director.
- b. Transfer of registered players for the summer and fall competitive league seasons: players registered for that season may not make an inter- or intra-club transfer after the player transfer freeze date set by the District Operating Committee.
- c. Addition of previously unregistered players for the summer and fall competitive league seasons: players not previously registered by an Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member for that season may not be added to a competitive team after the player add freeze date set by the District Operating Committee.

### 4.1.2 Player Passes

#### 4.1.2.1 PREPARATION OF PASSES

Each player pass must: (1) be separate from any other player pass; (2) include the player's signature; (3) include a recent photograph of the player; (4) be completely laminated front and back; and (5) be signed by the authorized MYSA official.

#### 4.1.2.2 USE OF PASSES REQUIRED FOR GAMES

- a. Player and coach passes must be presented to the referee at the start of each game in order for a player to play in a match. Birth certificates, driver's licenses, and other forms of identification are not valid substitutes for a valid player pass. Players who have served out a suspension may use their properly signed *MYSA Ejected Participant Report* while waiting for the return of their player pass from the District Director after the player's suspension. See section 7.12.1.b.3.g.
- b. The referee shall confiscate improper player passes and mail the confiscated pass to the appropriate District Director or MYSA office. Improper player passes are defined as MYSA passes without a recent picture, signature, or lamination on front and back
- c. In the case of a lost player pass, a coach must submit a request for a replacement pass to the appropriate District Director. The player may not participate in league or tournament play without a valid pass or *Ejected Participant Report* (used after serving a suspension).

### 4.1.3 Illegal Player

#### 4.1.3.1 DEFINITION

For MYSA competitive league play, district or state tournaments, and State Cup competition, 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 and playing for more than one competitive league team;
- c. playing for teams for 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 player's pass;
- h. using a photocopied or tampered pass;
- i. participating in a game without presenting a proper player 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 district and state tournaments.

#### **4.1.3.2 SANCTIONS**

- a. Any team playing 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 in MYSA sanctioned play as an illegal player shall be subject to sanction or suspension.

#### *4.1.4 False Registration*

- a. A player found guilty of submitting falsified birth information shall be subject to sanctions.
- b. An individual who submits false information relevant to a player's record or past or present status with an Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member in order to register as a player or to effect a player transfer is subject to sanctions that may include verbal or written warning, game(s) suspension, partial or full season suspension, temporary or permanent banishment, or fines.

#### *4.1.5 League Schedules*

- a. The appropriate District Director sets league schedules. Schedules will be generated by the MYSA.
- b. Fall league games will be played on Saturday and/or Sunday. Summer league games may be scheduled on any day in conformance with the published schedule of playing days.

#### **4.1.5.1 FORFEITS AND FINES**

The District Operating Committee 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. **Refusal to play:** in the case that a team refuses to play a game against a particular team.
- d. **Dual forfeit:** neither team attempts to play the game.
- e. **Telephony fine:** games with no scores reported to the telephony system before the published deadline will be treated as a forfeit for calculated standings and each team will be fined.
- f. All fines accumulated by a team must be paid before the start of district play-offs.
- g. Fines levied will be split by 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 won on the field of play; therefore, every attempt should be made to play a match rather than have it won by forfeit.

#### **4.1.6.1 ANTICIPATED RESCHEDULES**

- a. General
  1. 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).
  2. No request must be honored if made less than 72 hours before the scheduled game time.
  3. 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 that an 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 date, the appropriate District Director 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.
  4. Any rescheduled game requires that both coaches complete a rescheduled game form and send this form to the appropriate league director regardless of the reason for the reschedule.

5. If a coach believes that the number of requests is burdensome, he or she may appeal to the appropriate District Director.
  6. All games must be played before the date set by the District Operating Committee for the end of league play. Forfeits will be assessed for all un-played games; the District Director will determine the nature of the forfeit.
- b. Tournaments
1. Teams registered in tournaments should reschedule any league games that fall on possible tournament playing nights.
  2. 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.
  3. Teams that request that league games be rescheduled due to MYSA State Cup or Region Cup play, shall be honored upon a 72-hour notice.
- c. School Events, Other
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. 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.
- d. Unavailable Fields and Referees
1. In cases when fields and/or referees are not available and the home team gives the visiting team at least 72 hours notice that the game must be rescheduled, the teams should attempt to find a mutually agreeable date or follow the guidelines in 4.1.6.3.
  2. In the case that a team repeatedly requests to reschedule games because of unavailable fields or referees, the District Director may assign some or all of that team's remaining home games to the visiting team's home field with assignment of any costs to the original home team as described in 4.1.6.2.

#### **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 District Director or his/her designee using the appropriate rescheduling form.
- b. In the case of adverse weather conditions, the game will be rescheduled to the home team's fields.
- c. Other than rainouts, the game will be rescheduled to the visiting team's home field 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 scheduled registered referees appear 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);
  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 District Director or his/her designee.
  6. If the coaches are at an impasse in agreeing upon a suitable reschedule date, the appropriate District Director 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 District Director 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 District Director 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 they are 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 District Director 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 through a registered referee assignor, marking fields, placing corner flags, and putting up nets. The home team must also provide a ball that is acceptable for play. It is suggested that in advance of a match, coaches should contact each other to be sure time and directions are clear.
- b. Incidents of using unregistered referees and unprepared fields can result in fines, forfeit of games or cancellation of schedule. The respective District Directors 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 District Director by visiting coaches. District Directors will make determinations of fact and may direct remedial action.
- c. The home team shall select the side of the field for their bench and fans; the visiting team shall take the opposite side. In the case of any problems, the referee will make the final determinations for seating.
- 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 and rules. 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 District Director or his or her designee. The appropriate District Director will investigate and may direct remedial action.

#### **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 lineup/referee 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 laminated, properly prepared MYSA pass with his or her picture and signature.

- b. There will be a minimum of 1 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 for every league game within 48 hours of a match.
- b. Both coaches must fill out a *MYSA Lineup/Referee Report* for each game. Only registered coaches listed on the *MYSA Lineup/Referee Report* will be able to coach that game. The home coach should provide the referee with a postage pre-paid envelope addressed to the appropriate District Director or designee.
- c. Coaches should initiate post-game handshakes.

##### **4.1.8.2 TRAINING FOR COACHES**

- a. Coaches should attend the State Coaching Schools.
- b. It is beneficial for coaches to attend referee clinics and to referee at some level.

##### **4.1.8.3 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 touch line.
- c. Behavior to anger or degrade a player, coach, or referee is subject to disciplinary action. Any coach found guilty of abuse to a referee, player, or member of MYSA will be subject to disciplinary action.

## **4.2 League Operation U11 and Older**

**\*Warning\* These rules will not apply to U9 and U11 teams after August 15, 2002. See section 4.5**

### *4.2.1 League Organization*

#### **4.2.1.1 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 District Operating Committee at its discretion.
- b. A "new team" is a team in which 2/3 or more of the team has not played together in the previous summer soccer season.

New teams will be placed at the Classic 3 level. New teams can be placed at the Classic 1 or Classic 2 level by the discretion of the District Operating Committee (YC 03/10/02).

To be considered for Classic 1 placement, new teams must prove that 2/3 of their players were rostered the previous summer season on a team that would be eligible to play at the Classic 1 or Premier level this year.

For example- if a team was to be relegated to Classic 2, and some of these players were asked to play for a "new team", these players would not count towards the 2/3 required to roster this team at the Classic 1 level. However, if these players were rostered on a team the previous summer season that retained the Classic 1 or Premier status, this team would be eligible to participate at the Classic 1 level.

If a team fits into the category of New Teams, please notify the MYSA State Registrar at the MYSA office, who will help you with verifying where players played the previous year, then send this information to your district director. The State Registrar will supply the information if the request is received by the published deadline.

If a club is unhappy with its team placement, the club may write a letter to its District Director and the Vice President of Leagues stating the reasons why and the District Operating Committee will review and make the final decision.

c. District Operating Committee Uniform Promotion-Relegation Standards for Classic Leagues

**1. Promotion**

- a. Classic 2 and 3 teams that place first in their leagues are automatically promoted.
- b. Classic 2 and 3 teams that score 75 percent or higher of the total number of points possible for their league are automatically promoted.
- c. A team scoring below the 75 percent standard also may be promoted, after consultation between the district director and the team's club president, with the approval of the District Operating Committee.

**2. Relegation:**

- a. The last place team in each classic league is automatically relegated. If two teams tie in points for last place they will both be relegated.
- b. Classic 1 and 2 teams that score 25 percent or lower of the total number of points possible for their league are automatically relegated.

Exception: Teams that score 25 percent or lower in total possible league points but also earn as many combined wins and ties as losses are not automatically relegated.

- c. A team scoring higher than the 25 percent standard, and teams earning as many combined wins and ties as losses, may after consultation between the district director and the team's club president, be relegated with the approval of the District Operating Committee.
- d. The District Operating Committee has the absolute right to change a team's declared competitive division to properly and fairly place teams. At the discretion of the District Operating Committee, a team may be allowed to play at an older playing age than that of the team's players. See section 11.0.

**4.2.1.2 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 District Operating Committee sets the number of league games.

**4.2.2.2 ROSTER SIZE**

- a. Teams at age levels U11 through U19 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 District Operating Committee may grant over roster waivers beyond two players after review of a written request by the Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member.
- b. Over rostering will not be allowed at the Classic 1 level below the Under 17 age level. Over rostering is limited to the lowest division team at an age level.

For example, if your club's lowest level in the Under 12's is a Classic 3 team; that is the team that can over roster. The Classic 2 team in that age bracket will not be allowed to over roster.

**4.2.2.3 LEAGUE STANDINGS**

- a. League games ending tied will remain ties.
- 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 2 teams are tied).
    - c. Winner of most games.

- d. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) in all games, with a maximum of a 3-goal differential per game.
  - e. Most goals scored in all league games, with a maximum of 3 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 tied in total points have played an unequal number of games; a calculation will be made 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.
  5. 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. Premier Players - Players on Premier teams may only play up to another Premier team at an older age level.
- c. Classic Players - 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 player pass before the freeze date.

### 4.3 League Operation U10 and Under

**\*Warning\* These rules will not apply to U9 after August 15, 2002. See section 4.5.**

The competitive program for U10 and younger 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.

#### 4.3.1 League Organization

- a. Players may be assessed for the level of development of their soccer skills, coach ability, motivation, and team skills.
- b. Affiliate or Extraterritorial Members may place their teams in one of three subdivisions of play--red, white, and blue--based on their level of development, with red being teams comprised of players with greater skill development, blue being teams whose players demonstrate a lower level of skill development and white comprising teams with intermediate skill development.

#### 4.3.2 League Operational Guidelines

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



#### **4.3.2.1 NUMBER OF GAMES**

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

#### **4.3.2.2 ROSTER SIZE**

Teams at age levels U10 and younger must have at least eight and no more than 14 registered players. Club presidents may grant over roster waivers for a maximum of two players. The District Operating Committee may grant over roster waivers to this rule after review of a written request by the Affiliate or Extraterritorial member.

#### **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.
- c. Players from U9 and U10 teams may not play across subdivisions (Red, White, and Blue).

### **4.4 MYSA Sponsored Tournaments**

- a. MYSA sponsors the: *Snickers* Minnesota State Youth Soccer Championship (State Cup); various District Tournaments; the Summer State Tournament; a Fall Tournament; and the Summer and Fall U9/10 Jamborees.
- b. The District Operating Committee publishes specific district and state tournament policies and rules. Before each state tournament, the MYSA President shall appoint a 3-member Rules Committee. Only the state tournament Rules Committee can adjudicate a rules dispute at a state tournament.

#### *4.4.1 Snickers Minnesota State Youth Soccer Championship*

The Snickers Minnesota State Youth Soccer Championship (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 Minnesota State Cup is held approximately two to six weeks before the Midwest Regional competition. State Cup policies and rules are published by MYSA in the early spring.

#### *4.4.2 Summer State Tournament*

MYSA administers a season-ending summer state tournament for the following leagues: boys/girls, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, U19 for the available Premier, Classic 1, Classic 2, and Classic 3 competitive divisions.

#### **4.4.2.1 QUALIFICATION AND DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS**

- a. Number of Teams - Each state tournament will have a minimum of four teams. The District Operating 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 district tournament results.
  2. Automatic state tournament seeds:
    - a.) The league champion is seeded into the state tournament from any district allocated two or more seeds unless that league is divided into two distinct playing groups.
    - b.) League champions from two distinct playing groups, i.e.: National or American League, or league champions from districts allocated only **one** team must play in the district tournament in order to advance to the state tournament.
    - c.) Statewide leagues with 8 teams or fewer will have 4 teams advance to the state tournament through a one round single elimination playoff (knockout) and/or automatic seeds. Statewide leagues with more than 8 teams will have 8 teams advance through automatic seeds and/or one round single elimination playoff. All teams will be allowed an opportunity to compete.
- c. District Tournament Procedures

1. Each district provides a season-end tournament for any league run within that district.
  2. District tournaments must be completed by the Friday prior to the start of the state tournament.
  3. No team will be allowed to participate in a district tournament unless it commits to play in the state tournament.
  4. The District Operating Committee sets the number of seeds in each district. The number allocated from each district is proportionate to the number of teams in that age level and division in each district.
  5. The district tournaments shall be single elimination format.
  6. A willful forfeit in a district tournament will result in a team not advancing to the state tournament and a fine will be assessed.
- d. District Tournament Registration
1. Each team must register as directed by the appropriate District Director prior to the deadline date in order to participate in the district and/or state tournament.
  2. There may be a fee to cover the cost of administering the tournament.
  3. No player may be rostered on more than one District or State Tournament team.
  4. Player passes will be checked and stamped at district tournament registration. Rosters will be frozen before the start of the first district game. The roster frozen at the time of the district tournament is frozen for the state tournament.
  5. Each team is allowed up to 3 call-up players to be added to its roster at District Tournament registration except that: (1) any player on a team automatically seeded to the state tournament may not participate in a District Tournament; (2) no player may be rostered on more than one District or state tournament team; (3) no Premier player may be added to a non-Premier team; (4) only 18 players may be listed on the roster at registration.

#### **4.4.2.2 SUMMER STATE TOURNAMENT POLICIES AND RULES**

- 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. Player passes will be checked and stamped at the coaches' registration meeting preceding the state tournament. Rosters will be frozen at the time of the district tournaments.
- d. No player may be rostered on more than one team in the state tournament.
- e. No team shall cut an available registered player from its team to allow for another player to play on that team during district or state tournaments.
- f. The MYSA summer state tournament will be a round robin format. In divisions with only four teams, the champion will be determined by the team with the highest point total. In the event of a tie, the champion will be determined using the tie breaking rules in paragraph 4.4.4.1.c.

#### *4.4.3 MYSA Fall Tournament*

MYSA administers a season-ending fall tournament for all competitive leagues at age U11 and older for the Premier, 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 District Operating Committee.
- c. Teams qualify based on league standings.

##### **4.4.3.2 MYSA FALL TOURNAMENT POLICIES AND RULES**

- a. Fall tournament is single elimination.
- b. Player 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 3 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.

- 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 and rules will be used for MYSA sponsored tournaments.

##### **4.4.4.1 ROUND ROBIN FORMAT TOURNAMENTS**

These policies and rules 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. There is no sudden death during either overtime period. After the first 5-minute period, teams will switch goals with no interval. 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. There is no sudden death during either overtime period. After the first 5-minute period, teams will switch goals with no interval. At the end of two 5-minute overtimes, if the game is still tied, it will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark per following the procedures published in the *USSF Laws of the Game*.

## **4.5 MYSA Developmental Travel League**

### *4.5.1 League Organization*

- a. U9/U10 (6v6) will have two levels self-selected: Maroon level for more experienced players and Gold level for less experienced players.
- b. U11 (8v8) will have two levels, Classic Maroon the upper level and Classic Gold the lower level, with the lower level being broader based than the upper level
- c. U12 (8v8) will have 3 levels: C1, C2 and C3 with C3 level being broader based than the upper levels and C2 being broader than C1

## 4.5.2 League Operational Guidelines

### 4.5.2.1 ROSTER SIZE

- a. U9/U10 team size: 8-12 players
- b. U11/U12 team size: 10-14 players

### 4.5.2.2 FIELD GUIDELINES

- a. Field Size: U9/U10 a minimum of 35x45 to a maximum of 45x55  
U11/U12 a minimum of 45x80 to a maximum of 50x90
- b. Field Layouts: (see brochure layout)
- c. Field equipment: Goal size: U9/U10—6x12 and U11/U12—7x21

### 4.5.2.3 REFEREES

- a. U9/U10: one referee with no off sides
- b. U11/U12: one or three man team with off sides

### 4.5.2.4 MODIFICATIONS OF THE GAME (FROM THE BLACK AND WHITE DRAFT BROCHURES)

#### U9/U10

- a. Law VIII: removed, no modification
- b. Law X: Off side is not in effect c. Law XV: Indirect kicks in goal area would be placed on the line closest to infraction
- d. Law XVII: replace wording with Refer to Law XII B

#### U11/U12

- a. Law V: one or three person team
- b. Law VII: duration 30 minute halves
- c. Law VIII: removed, no modification
- d. Law XII: removed A. Shall be classified under one heading, INDIRECT. Change B to A
- e. Law XVI: change B to A
- f. Law XVII: change B to A

Substitutions: for all age groups, allow at any stoppage with referee discretion.

## 5.0 MIDWEST REGIONAL LEAGUE

Midwest teams, boys and girls U-15 through U-19, will be invited to enter the Midwest Regional Leagues based on Premier League standings from the previous summer. Two teams and an alternate per age group will be invited: in order, starting with the Premier League winner; then the second place team; and then the third place team as alternate. If one or more of these teams declines the invitation to apply for entry in the Midwest League then the team(s) next in line will be invited. However, no team with less than a .500 record in Premier League play or that does not qualify to retain a Premier League position will be invited to represent Minnesota in a Midwest League. In the event a team plays in the Midwest League and chooses not to also play in an MYSA Premier League, that team may petition the District Operating Committee (DOC) for entry into the Midwest League the following season. The DISTRICT OPERATING COMMITTEE will determine, based on its policies and procedures, if that team will be accepted for Midwest League play and in what order in relation to the top finishers of the Premier League. Midwest teams will be held to the same sanctions as MYSA Premier or Classic teams.

## **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 Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member, including fines, suspension, and/or loss of Affiliate or Extraterritorial Membership.
- b. Invitational Tournament policies and rules may differ from league policies and rules.
  1. Please refer to the policies and rules 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 and rules 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 Amateur 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 Youth Council. 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 Affiliate Member and pay a player registration fee;
  2. Teams must be registered with an MYSA Affiliate Member 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 an MYSA Tournament Player 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, complete all sections, and submit the appropriate fee.
- c. Applications for Travel should be mailed to the MYSA office 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.
- d. 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. MYSA player 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/fifa/pub/index.publications.html>  
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. (YC Nov 10, 2001)

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 District Director 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 Modification for U11-19 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 Modification for U9, U10*

- a. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 80 yards or less than 70 yards and its width not more than 50 yards or less than 40 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. USYS recommendation: length 70 yards; width 50 yards.
- b. Markings: A center circle with 8-yard radius; Four corner arcs with a 2-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.
- d. Goals: Maximum: 7 feet high and 7 yards wide; Minimum: 6 feet by 6 yards.

## 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.
- e. 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**

**\*These modifications will change after August 15, 2002\***

### 7.3.1 *MYSA Modification for U11-19 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. *MYSA 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 *MYSA Lineup/Referee Report* are considered to have played that game.
  4. If a player playing up in a game is not on the *MYSA 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: 18 players on roster.
  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 team with possession of ball.
  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 *MYSA Modification for U9, U10 League Play*

- a. MYSA Lineup/Referee Report – As for U11-U19.
- b. Number of Players
  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
- c. Substitution – substitutions maybe made as for U11-U19

## 7.4 **LAW 4 – The Players’ Equipment**

### 7.4.1 *MYSA Modification 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. All eyeglasses shall be secured by an elastic eyeglass holder band or strap, or by other means that will be reasonably secure the eyeglasses to the player’s head. The MYSA strongly recommends that eyeglasses, including frames and lenses, shall be either athletic glasses or flexible plastic or other synthetic frame glasses with shatterproof lenses. Eyeglass frames should either have rounded corners or have any non-rounded corners taped. Metal frames or wire-rim eyeglasses are not recommended.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. 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
- g. Players must have their own numbers on jerseys with no numbers being shared by players on the same team.
- h. Jerseys must be tucked in at all times.
- i. Players must be uniform in appearance with respect to jersey, shorts, and sox.

## 7.5 **LAW 5 – The Referee**

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

### 7.5.1 *MYSA Modification for U11-19 League Play*

**\* Following Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002 these modifications apply to U12-19 only.\***

- a. Referees will be subject to disciplinary action if they allow violations of MYSA policies and rules.
- b. A three-person system (diagonal system of control) must be used. 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 and rules 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:
- e. 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 nets, and players' equipment and uniforms.



Referees shall not engage in arguments or debates with coaches, players, or spectators regarding decisions. 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 District Director.

- f. Referees are required to mail or submit an *MYSA Lineup/Referee Report* within 48 hours of a match to the appropriate person.
- g. Referees shall be the official timekeepers and scorekeepers.
- h. Referees are public figures and, if asked in a civil manner, they should identify themselves.

### 7.5.2. *MYSA Modification for All Ages*

- 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 Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member 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:
- c. Sanctions to the referee:
  - 1. 1st incident - referee is placed on 1-year probation by the MYSA from the date of the infraction.
  - 2. 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.
- d. Sanctions to the scheduler
  - 1. 1st incident - letter of reprimand to the Affiliate Member or Extraterritorial Member and referee scheduler.
  - 2. 2nd incident - \$50 fine to the Affiliate Member.
  - 3. 3rd incident - \$100 fine to the Affiliate Member
  - 4. 4th incident - 1-year suspension from any MYSA activity to the referee scheduler and a 1-year suspension to the Affiliate Member.

### 7.5.2 *MYSA Modifications for U9, U10*

**\*Effective until Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Following Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002 these modifications are for U9, U10 and U11. \***

- a. U10 and U9 games must have at least 1 certified referee.
- b. Scheduling club assistant referees (club lines) for U10 and under games is allowed.

## 7.6 LAW 6 – The Assistant Referees

### 7.6.1 *MYSA Modifications for All Ages*

U9 - 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	7. U13 Two 35-minute periods
2. U18 Two 45-minute periods	8. U12 Two 30 minute periods
3. U17 Two 45-minute periods	9. U11 Two 30-minute periods
4. U16 Two 40 minute periods	10. U10 Two 25-minute periods
5. U15 Two 40-minute periods	11. U9 Two 25-minute periods
6. U14 Two 35-minute periods	
- b. A game shall be complete when at least one half (of the game) and 50 percent of the second half has been played. Anything less must be replayed as a completely new game. The referee is the official time keeper 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. If the game is still tied after the two overtime periods, the tie shall be broken by taking 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 District or League 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 District Director 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 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 MYSA modifications**

## **7.10 LAW 10 – The Method of Scoring – no MYSA modifications**

## **7.11 LAW 11 – Offside – no MYSA modifications**

## **7.12 LAW 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**

### *7.12.1 MYSA 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 District Director. This behavior may result in forfeiture of the game or other appropriate action as deemed necessary by the District Director. If a coach is out of control, a referee may request the coach to leave before a game continues.
    - a.) This information must be included in the game report (*MYSA Lineup/Referee Report*.)
    - b.) District Director 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 MYSA age groups in league play or MYSA 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 player pass of the player with a red card goes to the appropriate District Director.
  - 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.) Player passes of red-carded players will be sent to the appropriate District Designee.
  - 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*

No cautions or send offs shall be issued to players except by an independent neutral referee.

### **7.13 LAW 13 – Free Kicks**

#### *7.13.1 MYSA Modifications for U9, U10*

Opponents must be 8 yards away before kick is allowed.

### **7.14 LAW 14--The Penalty Kick**

#### *7.14.1 MYSA Modifications for U9, U10*

Opponents must be 8 yards away before kick is allowed.

## **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 8 yards away from the ball.

## **7.17 LAW 17 – The Corner Kick**

### *7.17.1 MYSA Modifications for U9, U10*

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 and rules to the appropriate District Director as well as the Vice President of League Operations. 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 and rules apply to all players, coaches, referees, club officials or administrators registered with MYSA; MYSA officials and administrators; and spectators.
- c. These policies and rules 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 and rules 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 player 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 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 and rules*

**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 and rules 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 and rules are in addition to any discipline which may be imposed by the referee during an MYSA sanctioned game.
- c. Violations of these policies and rules shall be reported to the appropriate District Director as well as the Vice President of League Operations for assignment to the appropriate individual for investigation and disposition.

## **9.0 HEARINGS & APPEALS**

These rules set forth the procedure for levying and appealing fines and suspensions, for making and investigating complaints, and for conducting hearings and appeals.

### **9.1 Definitions**

The following definitions are intended as a guide to the MYSA Hearing and Appeal process. They are not intended to supersede specific definitions or meanings given to any of the following words in the Glossary or elsewhere in these Rules, including the remainder of this Section 9.

*Appeals Committee:* A standing committee of the MYSA, empowered to hear appeals from decisions of the MYSA Hearing Panels.

*Appellant:* The party filing a notice of appeal, regardless of their status at the hearing level.

*Complainant:* The person making a complaint under these Rules, or in the case of an immediate suspension imposed under these Rules, the MYSA official imposing the immediate suspension.

*Fine:* A monetary sanction that does not involve a suspension. A fee imposed by the MYSA for any reason is not a fine. Both fines and fees are identified in the MYSA Schedule of Fees and Fines.

*Hearing:* A procedure, as specifically set forth in Section 9 of these Rules, to provide a person receiving or facing suspension with an opportunity to present their defense of the charges against them.

*Hearing Board:* The board created by the MYSA consisting of volunteers to hear complaints or to review imposed or proposed suspensions.

*Hearing Panel:* A panel selected by the Chair of the Hearing Board to hear a specific matter.

*Investigator:* A person appointed by the MYSA President pursuant to Section 9.3.3 to investigate complaints.

*Party:* Either the complainant or the respondent.

*Respondent:* The person against whom a complaint is made or, in the case of an immediate suspension imposed under these Rules, the person suspended. Also the party responding to an appeal, regardless of their status at the hearing level.

*Suspension:* The loss of the right to participate as a coach, player, official, or otherwise from MYSA, US YOUTH SOCCER, USSF or FIFA authorized or sanctioned activities.

## **9.2 Fines; appeals of fines**

### *9.2.1 Assessment and notice of fines*

Fines as set forth in these policies and rules or in the MYSA Schedule of Fees and Fines may be assessed against any MYSA member by designated members of the Youth Council. MYSA staff will send notice of the imposition of the fine to the MYSA member, and if the MYSA member is registered through an Affiliate Member, also to that Affiliate Member. The failure to accept or receive the notice does not affect or delay the imposition of the fine.

### *9.2.2 Procedure to appeal a fine*

The MYSA member against whom a fine has been assessed may appeal the imposition of such fine. An Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member that would be ultimately responsible for the payment of the fine may also appeal the imposition of the fine. If both the individual MYSA member and the Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member appeal the imposition of the fine, the appeals shall be consolidated and treated as one appeal. The appeal must be submitted in writing. An e-mail is not a sufficient submittal. If a District Director assessed the fine, the appeal shall be filed with the Vice-president of Leagues. If a member of the Youth Council other than a district director assessed the fine, the appeal shall be filed with the MYSA Secretary.

The appeal must be received in the MYSA office within ten (10) business days of the imposition of the fine. The appeal must set forth in detail the precise reasons why the appellant believes the fine was improperly assessed or should not be imposed.

### *9.2.3 Decision on appeal*

The person receiving the appeal shall review the appeal and determine whether the fine assessed should be confirmed, modified or withdrawn. The person receiving the appeal shall inform the appellant in writing of the final determination regarding the appeal. The decision of the person receiving the appeal is final and may not be appealed further.

## **9.3 Violations of MYSA Policies or Rules; Suspensions; Complaints**

### *9.3.1 Suspensions*

Violations of MYSA Policies or Rules may result in the suspension of the violator(s) from participation in MYSA, US YOUTH SOCCER, USSF or FIFA authorized or sanctioned activities. Suspensions may result from a complaint filed by another member of the MYSA, or at the instigation of authorized members of the MYSA Youth Council. Except as provided in these rules, suspensions may only be imposed after the respondent is given the opportunity for a hearing under Section 9.4 below.

Any coach, manager, player or MYSA member may be suspended for any violation of any of the rules of competition, or for any of the following offenses (as defined in the MYSA Policies and Rules Manual):

- a. Assault or other violence;
- b. Drug, alcohol or tobacco use;
- c. Gambling
- d. Harassment;

- e. Submitting false information, including but not limited to birth date or registration status, with respect to the registration, eligibility, record or past or present status of a player;
- f. Taunting or showboating; or
- g. Using an illegal or ineligible player in any MYSA, US YOUTH SOCCER or USSF sanctioned activity, including without limitation an unregistered or overage player, a player not eligible to serve as a call-up, a player not presenting a proper player pass or a player under suspension.

A hearing is not required prior to suspension in the event of:

- a. Referee abuse;
- b. Referee assault;
- c. Violent conduct against a person or persons; or
- d. A suspension for a specific number of games pursuant to the rules of competition, such as a suspension due to a red card offense.

Even though suspension may be imposed prior to a hearing for the above offenses, the suspended party may request a hearing in accordance with these Policies and Rules for any suspension for alleged referee abuse or assault, or for a suspension based upon violent conduct.

### *9.3.2 Complaints*

Anyone may file a complaint against any MYSA member for a violation of MYSA rules, policies, or procedures.

In the event of an immediate suspension, the MYSA official imposing the suspension shall file a written report with the MYSA, which shall trigger a hearing under Section 9.4 of these Rules. The written report must be filed with the MYSA Secretary within five (5) business days of the notification of the suspension. All complaints must be submitted in writing, using the form prescribed by the MYSA. The information requested in the form is essential to the proper investigation of a complaint. Complaints that are not properly and fully submitted will not be investigated. The complainant will be notified and may resubmit the complaint.

### *9.3.3 Investigation of complaints.*

All complaints properly and fully submitted will be investigated by a person designated by the MYSA President. The MYSA office will provide a copy of the complaint to the respondent. The investigator shall request or accept information orally or in writing from the complainant and the respondent, and may request or accept information orally or in writing from any other persons who may possess relevant information regarding the complaint. The investigator shall make a determination as to whether the respondent violated any MYSA rules, policies or procedures, including but not limited to the rules, policies or procedures cited in the complaint.

The investigator shall within ten (10) business days prepare a written summary of the investigation and, if of the opinion that a violation has occurred, make a recommendation for an appropriate sanction. The investigator shall submit the summary to the MYSA Secretary. The MYSA Secretary shall promptly send the investigator's summary and recommendation, if any, to the respondent and the complainant.

If the investigator is of the opinion that no violation has occurred, and if the complainant does not request a hearing as provided in these rules section, the complaint will be dismissed. If the investigator is of the opinion that a violation has occurred, the matter shall be referred an MYSA hearing panel for a hearing in accordance with these rules.

## **9.4 Hearings**

### *9.4.1 Mandatory and discretionary hearings*

A hearing shall be held for any immediate suspension or any recommended suspension. All other hearings are discretionary, and will only be held upon request as specifically allowed by these rules. In the case of an immediate suspension, the written report pursuant to Section 9.3.2 of these Rules shall function as a request for a hearing. In the case of a recommended suspension, the written summary pursuant to Section 9.3.3 shall function as a request for a hearing. In the case of a determination that no violation has occurred, a hearing must be requested by the complainant.



### *9.4.2 Requesting a hearing*

A request for a hearing must be submitted in writing within ten (10) business days from the date of mailing of the investigator's summary and recommendation, as set forth in Section 9.3.3. The request must be delivered by hand or sent by certified mail to the MYSA office. An e-mail is not sufficient as a writing. The hearing request must be submitted using the form prescribed by the MYSA. A hearing request that is untimely, or that does not provide all of the required information will be dismissed, with no further appeal permitted.

### *9.4.3 Scheduling of the hearing*

Upon receipt of a hearing request that complies in full with Section 9.4.1 or 9.4.2 of these rules, the Chairperson of the MYSA Hearing Board shall schedule a hearing. A reasonable time will be allowed to prepare for a hearing. No hearing will be held on less than ten (10) business days written notice. The hearing shall be held within twenty (20) business days of receipt of the hearing request. These times may be modified by agreement of the parties or, for good cause shown, by the MYSA.

### *9.4.4 Waiving a hearing; failure to appear*

The person against whom an immediate suspension has been imposed, or against whom a suspension has been recommended, may by a writing submitted to the Chairperson of the MYSA Hearing Board, waive their right to a hearing. The written waiver of the right to a hearing shall operate as an acceptance of the recommended suspension, and as a waiver of the right to any further appeal. Failure to appear at a scheduled hearing shall operate as a waiver of the right to present oral witnesses and argument. A party not appearing at the hearing may present written testimony and evidence. Failure to appear or present any evidence shall operate as a waiver of the right to a hearing. The waiver of the right to a hearing is conclusive and final and also waives the right to any appeal.

### *9.4.5 Makeup of the hearing panel*

A hearing panel shall consist of no less than three (3) or more than five (5) members, chosen by the Chairperson of the MYSA Hearing Board from members of the MYSA Hearing Board. The Chairperson shall designate one of the panel members to serve as Chair of the panel. If one or more members of the panel cannot attend the hearing, the parties may agree to proceed with the hearing so long as at least three (3) panel members are present.

### *9.4.6 Conduct of the hearing: general*

Hearings are not open to the public, nor to any member of the MYSA except as specifically authorized by these rules. A hearing is not a court of law. Legal rules of procedure or evidence do not apply and need not be observed. Individuals appearing at a hearing as either the complainant or respondent have the right to consult with counsel or an advisor. The counsel or advisor may attend the hearing and the individual(s) may consult with them during the hearing. If this consultation becomes excessive or disruptive, the Chair of the Hearing Panel may limit or deny further consultation. The counselor or advisor may not participate in the hearing process, such as by asking questions, presenting testimony, or making statements, arguments or objections.

### *9.4.7 Conduct of the hearing: evidence and testimony*

**9.4.7.1** The complainant, respondent and witnesses will appear before the Hearing Panel. Both sides have the right to call witnesses and present oral and written evidence and argument. The complainant and respondent have the right to be present for all the proceedings except the actual deliberations of the Hearing Panel. Witnesses may be present in the hearing room only during their own testimony and questioning by the Hearing Panel.

**9.4.7.2** Each side may present testimony from up to three (3) witnesses to an incident. The identity of these witnesses must be provided to the Hearing Panel and the opposing side at least seventy-two (72) hours before the scheduled start of the hearing. Only witnesses who have direct knowledge of the event or incident in question may testify. Testimony about an individual's character is not allowed. The Hearing Panel may limit the time allowed for any witness to testify.

**9.4.7.3** If the witness is a minor, a parent or guardian may be present during their testimony. The parent or guardian, however, may not testify unless called separately by a party.

**9.4.7.4** If a witness is unable to appear in person at the hearing, the party sponsoring such witness may submit their written testimony to the Hearing Panel. Such written testimony must contain the name, address and telephone number of the witness, must be dated and signed and the signature must be notarized. Relevant documents may be attached to and become part of the written statement. The Hearing Panel has the right to reject any written

testimony that does not conform to this Rule. A witness testifying by writing shall count as one of the three witnesses allowed.

**9.4.7.5** The complainant and respondent may not cross-examine witnesses presented by the other side. The Hearing Panel may, at its discretion, ask questions of the complainant, respondent or any witness.

**9.4.7.6** Either party may submit documentary evidence, such as player passes, team rosters, referee game reports, letters, birth certificates and other sources of written or printed information. All proof of age documents must conform to the rules of the MYSA. Any party submitting written evidence must list all such evidence on a Document Directory form available from the MYSA, and submit the Document Directory to the Hearing Panel at the start of the hearing. All documentary evidence will be retained by MYSA as part of the hearing record.

**9.4.7.7** The hearing will be tape-recorded. The complainant or respondent may request a copy of the tape, which copy will be made and provided by the MYSA at the expense of the requesting person(s). A party may, at its expense, have a court reporter present at a hearing, provided that the party makes a copy of the transcript of such hearing available at no cost to the other party and the MYSA.

#### *9.4.8 Conduct of the hearing: hearing procedure*

**9.4.8.1** The Chair of the Hearing Panel will:

- a. call the hearing to order;
- b. introduce him or herself, other members of the panel and all hearing participants;
- c. provide all present with a copy of the hearing agenda, which will include the time allotted for each portion of the hearing;
- d. notify all present that decorum must be maintained at all times during the hearing;
- e. present a summary of the incident, giving the date, time, location and parties involved, the identity of relevant entities and persons, such as teams, players, coaches, and others; and
- f. identify the participants and witnesses to be heard.

**9.4.8.2** If the complainant or respondent is not an individual person, they must identify a primary spokesperson at the beginning of the hearing.

**9.4.8.3** Complainant shall proceed first, and shall follow this order of presentation:

- a. an overview of the case (no more than ten (10) minutes);
- b. testimony by witnesses (no more than ten (10) minutes each); and
- c. for each witness, questions by the Hearing Panel.

**9.4.8.4** Respondent shall proceed second, and shall follow this order of presentation:

- a. an overview of the case (no more than ten (10) minutes);
- b. testimony by witnesses (no more than ten (10) minutes each); and
- c. for each witness, questions by the Hearing Panel.

**9.4.8.5** The time allotted for any particular segment of the hearing may be extended at the discretion of the Hearing Panel if it believes a longer presentation is essential to the resolution of the appeal. If the time is extended, each party will be afforded equal additional time.

**9.4.8.6** Parties and witnesses may speak only when testifying before or called upon by the Hearing Panel. There will be no debate between or cross-examination by the parties.

**9.4.8.7** The Hearing Panel may recall any witness for further testimony or questioning. At the discretion of the Hearing Panel, either party may recall one or more of its witnesses.

**9.4.8.8** Following completion of testimony and questioning by the Hearing Panel, the complainant and respondent, in that order, may give a closing statement of not more than ten (10) minutes each. There shall be no rebuttal. The Hearing Panel may ask questions of the parties either during or after their closing statements.

**9.4.8.9** At the conclusion of closing statements and questions, the hearing is completed. No additional testimony or evidence may be presented or considered once the hearing is completed. The Chair of the Hearing Panel may, however, allow the submission of written evidence requested by the panel during the hearing. The party submitting such additional written evidence must provide a copy of the same to the other party at the same time it is submitted to the Panel.

**9.4.8.10** At the conclusion of the hearing, all parties and witnesses must leave the hearing room. The Hearing Panel may begin its deliberations at that time or may adjourn to a later date. Only the Hearing Panel members may be present during deliberations and voting. Deliberations must be concluded within five (5) business days from the final presentation of evidence.

#### *9.4.9 Determination of the panel*

The Hearing Panel may only consider the specific issues charged in the complaint or written report. This means, for example, that an individual charged with referee assault cannot, as a result of the hearing on that charge, be found guilty of harassment. This does not preclude a separate complaint on any charge that could have been but was not included in the initial complaint.

The Chair of the Hearing Panel will send written notice of the decision of the panel to the complainant and respondent within ten (10) business days of the conclusion of the deliberations. Verbal communication of panel decisions is expressly prohibited and is of no legal or procedural effect. The written notice will include a statement of the charges, findings of fact, the decision of the panel, and a statement of the procedure for appeal. If the written notice is not sent within ten (10) business days of the conclusion of the hearing, either party may submit an appeal to MYSA Appeals Committee.

The Chair of the Hearing Panel shall within ten (10) business days of the date of the written notice provide to the MYSA Director of Operations the full and complete hearing file, including the final written determination of the panel.

### **9.5 Appeal to the MYSA Appeals Committee**

#### *9.5.1 Filing a notice of appeal; fee*

The complainant or the respondent may appeal the determination of the Hearing Panel by filing a notice of appeal with the MYSA Appeals Committee. The notice of appeal must be submitted in writing, using the form prescribed by the MYSA, to the Chairperson of the MYSA Appeals Committee. The written notice of appeal must be accompanied by an appeal fee in the amount set by the MYSA and published in its Schedule of Fees and Fines. If on appeal the decision of the Hearing Panel is overturned, the entire appeal fee will be refunded. If on appeal the matter is remanded for another hearing, one-half of the appeal fee will be refunded. If the decision of the Hearing Panel is upheld, the entire fee will be retained by MYSA. The written notice of appeal must be sent by certified mail to the Chairperson of the MYSA Appeals Committee within ten (10) business days of the date of the written notice of determination from the Hearing Panel. An appeal that is untimely, does not provide all of the required information, or does not include the appeal fee will be dismissed, with no further appeal permitted within the MYSA.

#### *9.5.2 Scheduling of the argument*

Upon receipt of an appeal that complies in full with Section 9.5.1 of these rules, the MYSA Appeals Committee shall schedule a time for argument of the appeal. A reasonable time will be allowed to prepare for the argument. No argument will be held on less than ten (10) business days written notice. The argument shall be held within twenty (20) business days of receipt of the appeal. These times may be modified by agreement of the parties or, for good cause shown, by the MYSA.

#### *9.5.3 Failure to appear*

Failure to appear at a scheduled argument shall operate as a waiver of the right to present oral argument.

#### *9.5.4 Conduct of the argument: general*

The argument of an appeal is not open to the public, nor to any member of the MYSA except as specifically authorized by these rules. The MYSA Appeals Committee is not a court of law. Legal rules of procedure or evidence do not apply and need not be observed. The complainant and respondent have the right to be present for the arguments on appeal. Individuals appearing at an appellate argument as either the complainant or respondent have the right to consult with counsel or an advisor. The counsel or advisor may attend the argument and the individual(s) may consult with them during the argument. If this consultation becomes excessive or disruptive, the Chair of the Appeals Committee may limit or deny further consultation. The counselor or advisor may not participate in or make the argument.

### *9.5.5 Conduct of the argument: no additional evidence or testimony*

The appellate process is not intended as a second evidentiary hearing. The MYSA will provide the Appeals Committee with the hearing file from the hearing, including any written testimony and documentary evidence. No additional testimony, oral or written, or documentary evidence may be submitted to the Appeals Committee.

**9.5.5.1** The argument will be tape-recorded. The complainant or respondent may request a copy of the tape, which copy will be made and provided by the MYSA at the expense of the requesting person(s). A party may, at its expense, have a court reporter present at the argument, provided that the party makes a copy of the transcript of the argument available at no cost to the other party and the MYSA.

### *9.5.6 Conduct of the hearing: hearing procedure*

**9.5.6.1** The Chair of the Appeals Committee will:

- a. call the meeting to order;
- b. introduce him or herself, other members of the Appeals Committee and others present;
- c. provide all present with a copy of the argument agenda, which will include the time allotted for each portion of the argument;
- d. notify all present that decorum must be maintained at all times during the argument;
- e. present a summary of the incident, giving the date, time, location and parties involved, the identity of relevant entities and persons, such as teams, players, coaches, and others; and
- f. identify the participants to be heard.

**9.5.6.2** The argument shall follow this order of presentation:

1. Argument by the party filing the notice of appeal (no more than twenty-five (25) minutes);
2. Argument by the other party (no more than thirty (30) minutes); and
3. Rebuttal argument by the party filing the notice of appeal (no more than five (5) minutes).

**9.5.6.3** The time allotted for any particular segment of the argument may be extended at the discretion of the Appeals Committee if it believes a longer presentation is essential to the resolution of the appeal. If the time is extended, each party will be afforded equal additional time.

**9.5.6.4** Parties may speak only when arguing to or called upon by the Appeals Committee. There will be no debate between the parties.

**9.5.6.5** The Appeals Committee may ask questions of the parties either during or after their arguments.

**9.5.6.6** At the conclusion of arguments and questions, the appellate argument is completed. No additional testimony, evidence or argument may be presented or considered once the appellate argument is completed. The Chair of the Appeals Committee may, however, allow the submission of written material requested by the Appeals Committee during the argument.

**9.5.6.7** At the conclusion of the argument, all parties and witnesses must leave the meeting room. The Appeals Committee may begin its deliberations at that time or may adjourn to a later date. Only the Appeals Committee members may be present during deliberations and voting.

### *9.5.7 Determination of the Appeals Committee*

The Appeals Committee may only consider the specific issues raised in the notice of appeal. This means, for example, that an individual who appeals one issue from a written hearing determination cannot obtain or be granted relief on any other issue contained within the hearing determination. The Appeals Committee must affirm, reverse, or remand the determination of the Hearing Panel on each issue raised in the notice of appeal.

The Chair of the Appeals Committee will send written notice of the decision of the Appeals Committee to the appellant and respondent within ten (10) business days of the conclusion of the argument. Verbal communication of committee decisions is expressly prohibited and is of no legal or procedural effect. The written notice will set forth the decision of the panel and include a statement of the procedure for appeal. If the written notice is not sent within ten (10) business days of the conclusion of the hearing, either party may submit an appeal to the USSF if allowed to do so by the rules of the USSF.

The Chair of the Appeals Committee shall within ten (10) business days of the date of the written notice provide to the MYSA Director of Operations the full and complete appellate file including the final written determination of the Appeals Committee.

## 9.6 Appeal to USSF

Any party dissatisfied with the decision of the MYSA Appeals Committee may appeal such decision to the United States Soccer Federation. The procedure to be followed is that established by the USSF and set forth in its Appeals Manual.

## 10.0 FINES & SANCTIONS

### 10.1 Fines

The fines below have been adopted by the MYSA Youth Council. These are in addition to any disciplinary action described in the *MYSA 2001 Policies and Rules Manual*.

#### 10.1.1 Team Registration and Payment

- a. Electronic file and payment must arrive in the MYSA office by the published date.
- a. b. Electronic submission of teams and/or team fees submitted after published date will be assessed \$100 per team late fee from the published deadline date up to 5 PM of the following business day.

#### 10.1.2 Dropped Teams

- a. Dropping a team after being submitted and before the scheduling starts, the team registration fee will be forfeited.
- b. Dropping a team after the scheduling has started will be assessed an additional \$200 fine.
- c. Dropping a team after the season starts and no notification is made to the district director, the club will be assessed a \$200 per game fine.

#### 10.1.3 Non-played Games

- a. Forfeitures (as defined in the glossary) - the team will be assessed a \$100 fine.
- b. Willful Forfeitures (failure to compete) - the team will be assessed a \$200 fine.
- c. Refusal to Play (intentional failure to compete) - the team will be assessed a \$400 fine and loss of all post season play (District, State Tournament and Fall Tournament) eligibility.
- d. When a District Director does not receive a rescheduling form signed by both coaches and the game has not been played, the fine will be administered to both teams as a willful forfeiture.

#### 10.1.4 Telephony

Game scores not reported on telephony system by the published cut off date will be considered not played and therefore considered a forfeit for recording purposes only. There will be a \$50 fine assessed both teams.

#### 10.1.5 Clean-up for State Tournament

A \$50 fine will be assessed to teams leaving debris on the playing field and surrounding area.

### 10.2 Sanctions

The sanctions below have been adopted by the MYSA Youth Council. These are in addition to any disciplinary action described in the *MYSA 2001 Policies and Rules Manual*. The following offenses are defined in the Glossary of the *MYSA 2001 Policies and Rules Manual*.

#### 10.2.1 Fighting/Physical Assault

Coach/Manager/Registered Adult

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

### 10.2.2 Threats

#### Coach/Manager/Registered Adult

- 15-day suspension - minimum
- 90-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

#### Players

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

### 10.2.3 Escalating Sanctions

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

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.

## 11.0 PREMIER LEAGUES

**No over rostering will be allowed at the premier level.**

### 11.1 Number of Teams

- a. Premier leagues will be limited to 6 teams at each age level.
- b. Premier leagues will not be formed for ages U12 or younger.

### 11.2 Placement in a Premier League

- a. Qualifying intact teams will be placed in a Premier league the following summer season at the next highest age group.
  1. An intact team is defined as: a team with at least 50% plus 1 of the players from the previous summer season's final official MYSA league roster. All players listed on the official roster will be used in determining the number of players required to qualify as an intact team.
- b. The District Operating Committee (DOC) will review the leagues results and publish a list of the following year's preliminary qualifying teams by mid September.

#### 11.2.1 Returning Premier Teams

- a. **U14-U19:** The top 4 teams from each Premier League will remain Premier.
- b. **U13:** The U12 Classic 1 League winners will automatically be promoted into the U13 Premier League. All teams must retain intact status.

#### 11.2.2 Promoted Premier Teams

##### 11.2.2.1. U14-U19

- a. The Classic 1-league winners from each District will have a round- robin playoff. The winner will become the fifth place Premier team for the upcoming season.

- b. The present fifth and sixth place Premier teams will play off and the winner will play against the runner-up of the Classic 1 round-robin and the winner will become the sixth Premier team for the next season.

#### **11.2.2.2 U13**

- a. The final two spots will be filled by the U12 Classic 1 league runners-up with the best records in the Chevy Cup MYSA State Tournament.
- b. If no runner-up teams from league play advance to the Chevy Cup MYSA State Tournament, the two teams with the best league record will advance to Premier.

#### *11.2.3 Opting Out of a Premier League*

Qualifying intact teams will not be permitted to opt out of a Premier league. Qualifying teams that are no longer intact must request specific, written approval from the DISTRICT OPERATING COMMITTEE to play in a Classic league. The request to opt out of Premier must be sent to the Vice President of Leagues along with team rosters from the previous summer's team and the current team.

**Note:** If a qualifying team is dropped out of a Premier league because it is no longer an intact team but then later returns with an intact roster the team will not be permitted to play in any MYSA summer competitive league.

#### *11.2.4 Dropping Out of a Premier League*

Qualifying intact teams must maintain their intact status to remain in a Premier league. Teams falling below the required minimum number of rostered returning players will be dropped from the league.

#### *11.2.5 Playing at the Same Age Level for More Than One Year*

In the event an intact team previously playing up an age level in a Premier league qualifies to participate in a Premier league the following summer season, but chooses not to continue playing up to that older age level the following year, it will be permitted to play in the Premier league at the players' correct age level. To accommodate this situation without displacing another automatically qualifying team, the DOC will expand the league as necessary.

#### *11.2.6 Teams Playing in the US YOUTH SOCCER National League-Midwest Region*

- a. Intact teams that played in the US YOUTH SOCCER National League-Midwest Region in the previous season and that finished 1st or 2<sup>nd</sup> in the previous Snickers MYSA State Cup competition will be accepted into a Premier league.
- b. A team that played the previous year in the US YOUTH SOCCER National League-Midwest Region that wishes to play in a Premier league must apply to the Vice President of Leagues before the published deadline.
- c. The league will be expanded as necessary to accommodate any accepted team.

### **11.3 Application Requirements**

- a. All automatically qualifying teams will receive an application to participate in a Premier league.
- b. The application must be returned by the deadline along with proof from the club registrar that the minimum number of returning players has registered with the team for the current season.
- c. Teams meeting this requirement but then subsequently failing to maintain an intact team will be offered a position in a Classic 1 league if the leagues have not been finalized. Otherwise, such teams may register as a Tournament Only team.

### **11.4 Unfilled Premier Leagues**

- a. When the number of eligible returning and promoted Premier teams does not fill a league to maximum capacity, the District Operating Committee (DOC) may invite teams that participated in an MYSA Competitive Sanctioned league.
- b. The order of invitation is:
  - 1. Age eligible Premier team, pursuant to 11.2.5.
  - 2. The Premier team that placed either fifth or sixth in the previous summer league and did not advance past the fifth vs sixth place game.
  - 3. Classic 1 runner-up from the Classic 1 Round-robin that did not advance to Premier,

4. If there are not enough teams to form a viable Premier league, invitations will be extended to the Classic 1 league winners that finished third and if necessary fourth in the Classic 1 round robin.

## **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**

See definition in section 8.2.2.1.

#### **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.

#### **Classic League**

An inter-Affiliate or Extraterritorial Member 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 and rules restrict the manner in which players may be registered to participating teams.

#### **Classic Team**

A team that participates in a Classic League.

#### **District**

A subdivision of the territory of a National State Association.

#### **District Director**

Supervising officer of a respective district. Purpose is to provide support to enable MYSA to meet the objectives of the organization and provide the communication link between the MYSA Youth Council and the Affiliate Members within a district.



### **District Operating Committee (DOC)**

Consists of all the District Directors, one per MYSA District. The Vice President of League Operations shall chair the District Operating Committee. The duties of the District Operating Committee shall be to: (1) administer MYSA's program at the district level in accordance with the policies and procedures approved by the Youth Council; (2) review and propose policies and rules or procedural changes to the Youth Council; (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.

### **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**

See section 8.2.2.10.

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the following elected officers: President, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Development, Vice President of League Operations, Secretary, and Treasurer. The duty of the Executive Committee is to transact all business delegated to it by the Youth Council.

### **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 International de Football Associations (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.

### **Forfeit, Willful**

No attempt is made to play the game.

### **Forfeit, Refusal to Play**

A team refuses to play a game against a particular team.

### **Forfeit, Dual**

Neither team attempts to play the game.

### **Friendly Game**

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

### **Gambling**

See section 8.2.2.11.

### **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**

See definition in section 8.2.2.2.

### **Inappropriate Language**

See section 8.2.2.12.

### **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 and rules.

### **League Team**

A team that participates in regularly scheduled league play.

### **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.

### **Play Up**

A player of the same Affiliate Member who competes on another team of the same Affiliate Member 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 and rules.

### **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-Affiliate Member league at the highest competitive level in which no rule restricts the manner in which players may be registered to participating teams, except for policies and rules which:

- a. Define and prohibit unethical recruiting behavior, or
- b. Limit the participation of players previously registered to another team.

### **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 District Operating Committee. Teams that qualify for Premier placement may also compete in the Midwest league if they meet appropriate criteria for the Midwest league. Policies and rules for Premier qualification are contained in the *District Operating 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**

See definition in section 8.2.2.3.

### **Recreational League**

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

### **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 Affiliate Member.

### **Recreational Plus Team**

A team that participates in a Recreational Plus League.

### **Recreational Team**

A team that participates in a Recreational League.

### **Register**

Players are registered by an Affiliate Member 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 District Director 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**

See definition in section 8.2.2.4.

### **Reserve**

A player listed on the line-up for a game who is eligible to participate but is not starting.

### **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**

See section 8.2.2.5

### **Sexual Violence**

See section 8.2.2.6.

### **Showboating**

See section 8.2.2.8.

### **Soccer Year**

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

### **Stop a Match**

A referee stops the match any time the referee stops play (after a goal, foul, injury, etc..)

### **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 Affiliate Members, teams, players and officials imposed by this association shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations within USSF after proper notification.

### **Terminated Match**

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

### **Taunting**

See section 8.2.2.7.

### **Tournament Only Team**

A team of not more than 18 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 an Affiliate Member) - Change of players between teams registered with the same Affiliate Member.  
Inter-Club (from one Affiliate member to another) - Change of players from teams registered with one Affiliate Member to teams registered with another Affiliate Member.

### **United States Soccer Federation (USFF)**

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**

See section 8.2.2.9.

### **Youth Council**

The Board of Directors of the corporation known as the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association is called the Youth Council. The directors who comprise the Youth Council are the President, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Development, Vice President of League Operations, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Director, State Youth Referee Administrator, Tournament Director, Recreation Director, Recreation Plus Director, and the District Directors. The Youth Council shall conduct the business and affairs of MYSA.