

Alabama Youth Soccer Association
(A Division of Alabama Soccer Association)

Rules and Regulations

Updated May 2011

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Article I. General

3:01:01 Authority

1. The Rules and Regulations contained herein will govern all members of the Alabama Youth Soccer Association (hereinafter called AYSA or the Association) in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Charter, Constitution, and Bylaws of ASA. All competition will be governed by the rules and regulations as stated herein unless the rules of a specific competition determine otherwise.
2. Member Organizations may deem fit to include rules and regulations more stringent than those included herein, but in no case may rules and regulations be less stringent. Member Organizations must submit their rules and regulations and any amendments for review and approval by ASA.
3. Each team will assume responsibility for the conduct of its Players, Parents, Coaches, Managers, and Team Assistants and it is the responsibility of each team to insure that its actions on or off the field do not bring disrespect upon AYSA. Each member organization will be responsible for the conduct of those persons associated with its operations and it is the responsibility of each member organization to insure that its actions do not bring disrespect upon AYSA.
4. Falsification of records will be grounds for disbarment from future participation and/or membership in AYSA.
5. Any person found guilty of violating the Constitution and Bylaws of ASA, or Rules & Regulations of AYSA may be asked to appear before the Board of Directors of ASA in order to explain said violation.
6. A plea of ignorance of the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules & Regulations is not sufficient and violators may expect appropriate action by the Board of Directors of ASA.

3:01:02 Insurance

1. All registered AYSA member organizations whose team names are on file with AYSA which include the names of their team members (up to age 19), coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers, for whom premium(s) have been paid, will be covered under the established insurance program of AYSA.
2. The member organization's insurance representative will check all claims against player registration records and will forward all claims to the AYSA office for processing.

3:01:03 Intent to Travel

1. Application to Travel inside Region III- Any AYSA team wishing to travel inside Region III (TN, FL, LA, MS, GA, NC, SC, AK, OK and TX) shall submit a properly completed 'Intent to

Travel' form on the website. No approval is necessary and no fee is due.

2. Application to Travel Outside Region III - Any AYSA team wishing to travel outside Region III shall submit a properly completed "Permission to Travel" form to AYSA together with Hosting Agreement from tournament which must be delivered to AYSA at least 2 weeks prior to playing games in the United States, Canada or Mexico, and at least 90 days prior to playing games in any other country. Travel outside of the United States, Canada or Mexico requires approval of USYSA and approval or denial will be sent directly to the team's coach or team representative. Applications for travel that are not submitted within the foregoing time frames will be charged a special processing fee as determined by the Board of Directors. The time limits in this paragraph are set by USYSA and permission to travel may be refused if these stated time limits are not satisfied. The fee for timely application is in accordance with AYSA fee schedule.

3:01:04 Games with Non-Affiliates

Affiliated AYSA teams desiring to play 'exhibition' or 'friendly' games with (against) non-affiliated teams must obtain permission from AYSA State Office in writing by filling out the 'Application To Play An Unaffiliated Team' contained on the AYSA webpage. (www.alabamayouthsoccer.org)

3:01:05 Hosting Tournaments or Out-Of-State Teams

1. Teams, clubs, or other organizations wishing to host a tournament must request permission from AYSA in accordance with the procedures detailed in the USYSA 'Travel and Tournaments Policy' (Available through the USYSA web site at www.usyouthsoccer.org).
2. Teams, clubs, or other organizations desiring to host Out-Of-State Teams for exhibition or 'friendly' games must receive permission from AYSA State Office in writing.
3. Only teams and participants in good standing with AYSA/USYSA and affiliated organizations may participate in tournaments sanctioned by AYSA. Participants and teams playing in tournaments, which have not been sanctioned by AYSA or USYSA, will not have the privileges, benefits and protection of AYSA. All players and coaches must have USYSA player/coaches passes before each game in order to participate in any AYSA sanctioned tournament.
4. All tournaments sanctioned by AYSA shall adhere to and abide by all Constitutions, Bylaws, and Rules and Procedures of ASA and USYSA. Tournament Rules of Play may be altered with prior approval from AYSA.
5. If an assault on a referee occurs in an Alabama event/tournament by a player from another state, the referee shall immediately notify the Event/Tournament Chairman and forward a copy of the Event/Tournament game report, a copy of the USSF Referee Report, and his/her comments on the incident to the Event/Tournament Chairman on the day of the incident, and the National State Association President and the player's home state within ten (10) days. The Event/Tournament chairman shall have the right to immediately convene a review at the site of

the event/tournament, at which the player, his/her coach and the game official shall be present. The Event/Tournament Chairman or the AYSA Office shall promptly relay all of the information presented and the action taken at this review to the player's State President or Office verbally and in writing.

3:01:06 Definitions of Terms:

Most definitions are found in Appendix 'A'. Some definitions are also contained in the various sections.

Article II. Registration Procedures - General Membership

3:02:01 General Requirements

1. All players must register in the state in which he/she resides with his or her parents, or in the case of a student in residence at a boarding school, college, or university, the player may register in the state in which the boarding school, college, or university is located.
2. All players or teams wishing to compete in a state other than the state in which they are registered, should use the 'Alabama Interstate USYSA Region III Permission Form' and receive written permission each seasonal year (August 1-July 31) from:
 - (a) The State Association where they are registered.
 - (b) The State Association where they wish to play.

3:02:02 General Registration Requirements

1. This section applies to all players who register with AYSA regardless of division. Certain divisions may have additional requirements. Therefore, look to those sections that address specific divisions.
2. Only players, coaches and teams in good standing with the state association are permitted to participate.
3. **PLAYER:** Each player to be registered with AYSA, including Division IV, shall be entered into the registration database by his or her club. Each player, except Division IV, shall be issued one current USYSA pass which must have current photograph attached thereto by the manager, approved by the AYSA State Administrator and laminated by the manager. The submittal of the signed AYSA Division I or Division II Player and Parent Commitment Form binds the player to that team for the seasonal year (August 1 - July 31) unless the player requests a transfer or is released in accordance with their local associations and AYSA's Rules and Regulations.
4. **DIRECTOR OF COACHING, COACHES, ASSISTANT COACHES, TRAINERS AND TEAM MANAGERS:** Each director of coaching, coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and team managers participating shall be registered with AYSA in the registration database and shall have a current USYSA pass with current photograph affixed thereto, approved by the AYSA State Administrator and laminated. All requirements of the Kid Safe Program in Section XIV shall be complied with. Clubs may request to AYSA to receive a special 'COACHES PASS' for any coach within their club who holds a 'C' license or higher in accordance with AYSA fee schedule. (See AYSA Minimum Licensing Standards for AYSA Coaches).
5. **TEAM:** Each club will submit to AYSA a Team Roster for each team except for Division IV. The AYSA State Administrator must approve this roster for the appropriate seasonal year by the deadline dates established by AYSA except for Divisions III and IV.
6. **ROSTER FREEZES:** Clubs are responsible for keeping the roster changes of their

developmental teams, so that the tournament roster is current at the time the roster is frozen for tournament play. Roster Freeze dates are two weeks prior to the first game of tournament competition.

7. TERM OF COMMITMENT: A term for player registration for Divisions I and II is the full seasonal year and in Divisions III and IV is season to season.

3:02:03 Tryouts for Division I and Division II

1. Tryouts for AYSA affiliated member teams may be conducted anytime during the AYSA designated tryout period. Tryouts being conducted prior to the start of the tryout window are an illegal recruitment violation for each team conducting an early tryout.
2. Players must complete an AYSA Division I or Division II Player and Parent Commitment Form to indicate their decision to play for a specific team.
3. The period of player commitment is defined as the time from the date the AYSA Division I or Division II Player and Parent Commitment Form is correctly executed up to the day prior to the start of the tryout period for the next seasonal year.
4. Open recruitment can occur during the tryout period.
5. The AYSA Division I or Division II Player and Parent Commitment Form cannot be executed prior to the tryout period.
6. New team formations comprised of players not previously registered and rostered to another team can occur at any time during the seasonal year.
7. Tryout Advertise: General tryout advertisement may occur beginning February 1st for the upcoming tryout period. Tryout advertisement may contain:
 - (a) Team and or Club Name, age group(s) and association affiliation;
 - (b) Geographical area served;
 - (c) Dates, times, and location;
 - (d) Coach or contact person's name and phone numbers;
 - (e) What to bring (i.e. water, ball, shin guards, etc);
 - (f) Club/Team fact sheet/information;
 - (g) Coaches' resumes/bios;
8. Distribution of tryout advertisement:
 - (a) Advertisement is defined as but not limited to, any notification of tryouts on television, radio, and periodical, newspaper articles, notices posted in public places, flyers, mass mailers, or circulars.
 - (b) Flyer/mailers can be sent to individual players, but can only have a specific name on the outside of the envelope. All information in the envelope must conform to the above rules,

and may not be addressed to any specific player. Beyond the address envelope, there may be no personalized information for the receiving player.

3:02:04 District Registration

1. Players must register in the district within which they reside except as noted below.
2. All players wishing to compete on a team operating in a district other than the district in which they are registered must receive permission from:
 - (a) The Club where they are registered (only if already registered for the soccer year);
 - (b) The Club where they wish to play;
 - (c) The District Commissioner from where they should be registered;
 - (d) The District Commissioner where they wish to play;
 - (e) State Registrar.
3. All teams wishing to compete in another district with which they are not registered must receive written permission from:
 - (a) The Club where they are registered;
 - (b) The League where they wish to play.
4. All players that are registering with Division I teams may cross district boundaries and register in the other district without obtaining permission. This is only for the initial registration of this player per seasonal year.
5. A decision by the districts, leagues, clubs or commissioners may be appealed to the Discipline and Appeals Committee of the ASA Board of Directors.
6. These permissions must be obtained each seasonal year (August 1 - July 31) and the Player Release/Transfer form must be used.

3:02:05 Dual Registration

Players, with the concurrence of their local association, at initial registration, may roster on two or more Intra-club youth teams per seasonal year. The player must indicate his/her primary team at initial registration. Division I and II players may be dual rostered on to an Intra-club DIII team. A player may play for only 1 team in any state tournament competition (Division I, Division II and the Governor's Cup). Refer to the state tournament rules with regard to which team a dual rostered player may play on.

3:02:06 Registration Responsibility

Each Member Organization will be responsible for insuring proper registration of their players, coaches, team managers, and teams, proper accounting of fiscal transactions, and accurate

reporting to the AYSA State Administrator. Deadlines for submitting rosters and fees to AYSA shall be determined by the Board of Director's of ASA prior to the AGM.

3:02:07 Age Limits and Proof of Age

1. Players must verify upon registration their date of birth; proof of age will consist of a birth certificate 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 or a certificate of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency; hospital, baptismal, religious certificates, driver's license, and/or Military ID cards will not be accepted as proof of age.
2. **TEAM AGE GROUPS:** All leagues and all sanctioned competitions, unless otherwise approved in advance by AYSA, shall divide play among their teams by the Age Groups described below in 3:02:08.
3. **PLAYING UP TWO YEARS:** A player whose birth date falls within the dates outlined in the chart may play up two years when approved by the Club.
4. **PLAYING UP MORE THAN TWO YEARS:** A player whose birth date falls within the dates outlined in the chart may play up more than two years when approved by the AYSA State Director of Coaching and execution of ASA Release and 'Hold Harmless Agreement.' Refer to Club Pass section Rule 3:02:13 for more information.
5. **PLAYING DOWN:** A player whose birthday falls within the dates outlined in the chart may not play down one or more years unless approved by AYSA. Only players with handicapping conditions may 'play down.' In such cases the player will play at the most appropriate physical/social level, with the approval of the State Director of Coaching.

3:02:08 Limiting Age Groups

1. Players attaining the limiting age for any age group on or after August 1st are eligible to play the whole seasonal year.
2. TEAM AGE DIVISIONS

All member organizations, unless otherwise sanctioned by the Board of Directors of ASA, will divide players among teams of equal age divisions who are:

Division	Description
Under 19	Player has not reached their nineteenth (19th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
Under 18	Player has not reached their eighteenth (18th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
Under 17	Player has not reached their seventeenth (17th) birthday before Aug. 1st of the Seasonal Year.
Under 16	Player has not reached their sixteenth (16th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
Under 15	Player has not reached their fifteenth (15th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
Under 14	Player has not reached their fourteenth (14th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
Under 13	Player has not reached their thirteenth (13th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
Under 12	Player has not reached their twelfth (12th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
Under 11	Player has not reached their eleventh (11th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
Under 10	Player has not reached their tenth (10th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
Under 9	Player has not reached their ninth (9th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
Under 8	Player has not reached their eighth (8th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
Under 7	Player has not reached their seventh (7th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
Under 6	Player has not reached their sixth (6th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.

3:02:09 Team Names

Any teams which have the same name (e.g. Club's Name) must be identified by a numerical prefix/suffix or a different name. The same team name will not be used for more than one team in the same age division within a district or league.

3:02:10 Adding, Dropping, Releasing and Transferring Division I, II and III Players

1. **NO DOUBLE ROSTERING:** A player may play for only 1 team in any competition sponsored by AYSA. A Division I or II player may be double rostered on an Intra-club DIII team. There shall be no double rostering of players within Division I & II.

2. **NATIONAL RULES PREFERENCE:** Rules governing rosters and players for competitions leading to the U S Youth Soccer National Championships supersede Alabama rules outlined in this section.

3. **PLAYER BOUND TO A TEAM:** A signed AYSA Player and Parent Commitment Form binds a player to that team.

4. **MOVING PLAYERS, TEAM-TO-TEAM:** From week to week, a club may not move players between its teams except as noted in Club Pass. (See 3:02:13)

5. **ADDING PLAYERS:** A club may add an unlimited number of currently unregistered players to its rosters up to a limit as defined in Article III in any given season.

6. DROPPING PLAYERS:

(a) Dropping a player against his or her will from a team is prohibited unless the coach shows cause and the ASA Board of Directors approves the action. If approved, there will be a fee in accordance with AYSA fee schedule.

(b) A player remains on the roster until the AYSA Board of Directors approves the action, dropping the player from the roster, in writing.

(c) A player may drop from the team with whom they have appropriately executed an AYSA Division I or Division II Player and Parent Commitment Form anytime during the seasonal year. If the player decides to play for another team then the Inter-Club transfer provisions shall apply.

7. **PLAYER RELEASE:** All requests for release of a player from a team shall be submitted to AYSA in writing, on the appropriate form, and shall contain the following:

(a) Signature of the player.

(b) Signature of a parent or guardian of the player if the player is under 18 years of age.

(c) Signature of the Director of Coaching from the club the player is leaving and DOC of the club the player is transferring to both must sign a transfer form. In lieu of a DOC being at a club, the President or the team coach could sign these forms.

(d) A player remains on the roster until the AYSA State Administrator releases them from the roster in writing. There will be a fee in accordance with AYSA fee schedule.

(e) If a released player wants to register with another team, it becomes a transfer subject to Inter-Club transfer provisions and the appropriate fee in accordance with AYSA fee schedule.

8. **FAILURE TO RELEASE:** In the event the releasing coach, the club coach or the Board of Directors of the releasing club fails to sign the appropriate form, the coach's/club's failure to sign may

be appealed to AYSA's Discipline and Appeals Committee. The following, while not exclusive, are valid reasons for not releasing a player during the seasonal year:

- (a) When the player individually or as part of a group of players requesting release would unfairly impact the releasing team.
- (b) When the player was illegally recruited as determined by the Discipline and Appeals Committee.
- (c) When the player is indebted to the releasing team and/or club (money, uniforms, other tangible goods).

9. INTER-CLUB TRANSFERS: An Inter-Club transfer of a player shall be defined as the movement of a player who has been registered with a club in Alabama Division I, II or III from one USYSA club to another USYSA club (in Alabama or another state) within the same USYSA seasonal year. The transfer rules apply whether the player is actively rostered to a team or the player has been dropped from a team in accordance with these Rules and Regulations. US Youth Soccer National Championship series policy has a 5 player transfer limit for teams taking part in State, Regional and National Championship competition.

(a) A state transfer request form, properly filled out, must accompany the transfer request. If the transfer is to or from a USYSA team registered in another state association, a USYSA Interstate Transfer Form must also be submitted. All policies for state tournament, regional, and national play must be adhered to and have authority over these policies. These include, but are not limited to: roster freeze dates and player transfer limits for teams.

(b) Transfers of Players Registered in Division I and II

i. A fee in accordance with AYSA fee schedule is required for each Division I or II player moved or transferred.

ii. A player may transfer between clubs from the date they sign a written AYSA Division I or Division II Player and Parent Commitment Form and the first date of Fall State League play (see AYSA approved calendar for date) if any of the following apply:

A. The player obtains a release as described in player release provision.

B. The player's family moves to another geographical area more than 50 miles from his/her original residence.

C. The team on which the player is currently rostered disbands.

D. Any player may appeal to the Discipline and Appeals Committee requesting a transfer due to extenuating circumstances not covered by the foregoing or when a player who otherwise qualifies for a transfer is not released from his current team. The Discipline and Appeals Committee will consider each such appeal on its own merits and may allow a player transfer when in its sole judgement the transfer is justified. The fee for any appeal of a decision on a transfer request is in accordance with AYSA fee schedule.

iii. A player may transfer between clubs from the start of Fall State League play through December 15 of the same seasonal year if one of the following applies:

A. ~~The player obtains a release as described in player release provision~~—

A. The player's family moves to another geographical area more than 50 miles from his/her original residence.

B. The team on which the player is currently rostered disbands.

C. Any player may appeal to the Discipline and Appeals Committee requesting a transfer due to extenuating circumstances not covered by the foregoing or when a player who otherwise qualifies for a transfer is not released from his current team. The Discipline and Appeals Committee will consider each such appeal on its own merits and may allow a player transfer when in its sole judgment the transfer is justified. The fee for any appeal of a decision on a transfer can be found on the AYSA approved fee schedule.

iv. A player may transfer between clubs during the period December 15 of current seasonal year up to the first game of Spring State League (see AYSA approved calendar for date) assuming the player is free of all financial obligations to the team/club the player is leaving and one of the following applies:

A. The player obtains a release as described in player release provision.

B. The player's family moves to another geographical area more than 50 miles from his/her original residence.

C. The team on which the player is currently rostered disbands.

D. Any player may appeal to the Discipline and Appeals Committee requesting a transfer due to extenuating circumstances not covered by the foregoing or when a player who otherwise qualifies for a transfer is not released from his current team. The Discipline and Appeals Committee will consider each such appeal on its own merits and may allow a player transfer when in its sole judgment the transfer is justified. The fee for any appeal of a decision on a transfer request can be found on the AYSA approved fee schedule.

.v. The December 15 to the first game of Spring State League play (see AYSA approved calendar for date) window is not an open recruitment period. The recruitment policies are still in place. Players must initiate any contact with the coach of any team the player is not currently rostered with during this window. Once this has been established, communication between the coach/team/club and the player is NOT illegal recruitment. Contact during this period in the form of training/playing must adhere to Section 3:04:03.4 until the transfer is approved. A player must have his/her transfer request approved or receive his/her coach's/director of coaching's approval per 3:02:11 for any participation with another team during this window.

vi. A player may transfer between clubs from the start of Spring State League play through June 1 of the same seasonal year if one of the following applies:

A. ~~The player obtains a release as described in player release provision~~

A. The player's family moves to another geographical area more than 50 miles from his/her original residence.

B. The team on which the player is currently rostered disbands.

C. Any player may appeal to the Discipline and Appeals Committee requesting a transfer due to extenuating circumstances not covered by the foregoing or when a player who otherwise qualifies for a transfer is not released from his current team. The Discipline and Appeals Committee will consider each such appeal on its own merits and may allow a player transfer when in its sole judgment the transfer is justified. The fee for any appeal of a decision on a transfer request can be found on the AYSA approved fee schedule.

vii. A player may transfer between clubs within Division III from the date upon which they are placed on an approved roster until the end of Local League play for a given season if:

A. The player obtains a player release as described in player release provision; and

B. The transfer conforms to AYSA transfer requirements

viii. A player originally registered with a Division III team in one club may transfer to a Division I or II team in a different club at any point in the seasonal year, provided the player obtains a release as described in player release provision. (See AYSA fee schedule)

10. INTRA-CLUB TRANSFERS: An Intra-Club transfer shall be defined as adding a currently USYSA registered player from one team to another team or returning a currently dropped player to a roster within the same club. US Youth Soccer National Championship series policies has a 5 player transfer limit for teams taking part in State, Regional and National Championship competition including DIII players. Intra-club transfers are allowed at any time during the seasonal year.

(a) All policies for state cup, regional, and national play must be adhered to and have authority over these policies. These include, but not limited to: roster freeze dates and player transfer limits for teams.

(b) For Division I and II transfers only, a state transfer request, properly filled out, must be submitted to AYSA for approval.

(c) Intra-club transfer for each Division I and II player moved or transferred shall be in accordance with AYSA fee schedule.

(d) No approval form or fee is required for intra-club Division III player transfers.

11. PLAYER MOVEMENTS THAT ARE NOT TRANSFERS: A USYSA registered player moving from an in-house developmental program to a state league team after the approval of the roster of the state league team shall not be considered to be a transfer.

3:02:11 Guest Playing

1. The following process is mandatory in order to have a player currently rostered to a team participate in any capacity with another team. Participation includes tournaments, scrimmages, practices, trips, camps, or any other activity that the team is a participant.

2. The head coach desiring the participation of a player must direct a request in writing, phone call, or e-mail to the head coach of the team that the player is currently rostered, or to the director of coaching of the players club. This applies to guest players from outside the team's club/association.

3. The individual contacted must grant approval for such participation prior to the player partaking in

any event or activity.

4. If the player's current coach or director of coaching does not grant approval for the player to participate in the event or activity, then that player is not permitted to participate.

5. Non-compliance with the guest playing provision by a coach concerning players outside of their club/association shall be deemed both unethical and a violation of the recruitment policy.

6. A player that participates in any event or activity as a guest player without the permission of their current coach or director of coaching shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions outlined in this policy as a guideline.

7. Paperwork must be completed as stated or forms must be approved by state office. If submitted more than 14 days prior to tournament no fee is required, if submitted less than 7 days there is a fee per player in accordance with AYSA fee schedule.

3:02:12 Guest Loan Form (Spring High School Season Only)

If a players' team does not re-form from the fall due to high school participation and the player selects to play with another team not from the same club, the player must complete the Guest Loan Form. The form must be signed by all parties granting permission. This form must be submitted to AYSA for approval after all proper signatures have been received. The player will receive a player pass only for a limited time expiring at the end of the designated high school season.

3:02:13 Club Pass System

1. The purposes of the Club Pass System are:

(a) For top-level players to be challenged in older, more competitive environments.

(b) For mobility of players from B to A teams and vice versa which will assist in the development of the entire player when teams are missing players for various reasons;

(a) development of the entire player when teams are missing players for various reasons; players may be pulled from other teams in their club to allow for appropriate numbers for a match. This should help smaller clubs that are low in player numbers.

(b) To allow for players to compete as registered and rostered players in given competitions outside of the team the player is rostered on but within the club the player is registered to.

(c) Available to Division I, Division II and Division III. It is the responsibility of the local Division III league as to whether or not they implement this system for Division III. The Division III Leagues can determine the use of game day rosters as long as they follow the Club Pass Guidelines as stated in this section.

2. Registration/ Rostering of teams and players. Teams and players will roster and register their teams in the same manner as before. This will be their standard and permanent roster. This will also be the roster that will be used for State Cup competitions. Changes to this roster will be

subject to the same rules as in previous years and subject to all State and National cup rules. This includes transfers and transfers limits of 5. Only 1 player card will be issued to each player. Exception is for rostered secondary players that will be issued 2 player passes.

3. Movement of players using the club pass system

- (a) May Club Pass an unlimited number of players up (i.e. DIII players to a DI or DII team, or DII player to a DI team).
- (b) No player may be club passed down (i.e. 3 DI players to another DI team or 3 DII players to another DII team).
- (c) There is a lateral club pass limit of 3 players (i.e. 3 DI players to another DI team or 3 DII players to another DII team).
- (d) If a player is (playing up) on an older team, that player may not play down to their own age group as a club pass player
- (e) Division III teams, if their league implements this system, may receive players for any matches using this system.
- (f) It is highly recommended that coaches communicate about the temporary movement of players and that it is coordinated through club directors. This will be deemed an internal club issue and not a state issue. This movement is also not a violation of the illegal recruitment rules as it is within a club.

4. State Cup Competition: The state cup competitions will not implement any aspect of the club pass system.

5. Activities and logistics for the Club Pass System

- (a) Division III teams should refer to their local Division III league rules for implementation of this system. The local league rules may be more stringent than the state league rules but may not be less stringent.
- (b) DIVISION I AND II GAMES: Teams should provide the following at all matches:
 - i. Provide a game day roster (maximum number of players as defined in Article 3:03:05) of all players the team is using for the game;
 - ii. Show current passes for all players/coaches/carded staff the team is using for the game. Passes must be laminated;
 - iii. All players and their player passes must be from the same club;
 - iv. It is the responsibility of the Division I and II teams to ensure they meet all National Rules on 'team eligibility' such as but not limited to the following rules:
 - A. The team must compete in at least a 4-team approved league during the current seasonal year in its state association or, with its state association's permission, in another states association. The league must consist of a minimum of 1 game against each of 3 different teams participating in the league;

- B. The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and National Championships competitions by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to the rosters of both competitions.
- (c) FRIENDLIES & SCRIMMAGES: For these games the teams should show the following:
 - i. Show current passes for all players/coaches/carded staff the team is using for the game;
 - ii. All players and their player passes must be from the same club.
- (d) TOURNAMENT PLAY: The club pass system would be allowed for rostering a temporary team for entry in a tournament. The club would be responsible for:
 - i. Provide a 'tournament roster' to the state office 3 weeks prior to the tournament. There will be an expedited fee in accordance with AYSA fee schedule for not meeting the 3 week deadline. The roster must be typed. No handwritten roster will be approved.
 - ii. AYSA will verify player eligibility and sanction roster for the tournament. On the roster will be a statement notifying all parties that all players with player cards from within a club are eligible to participate on any team within the club meeting age requirements;
 - iii. Players may only play for one team for the duration of the tournament. This is a requirement of sanctioned tournaments as well.
- 6. PLAYING TIME LIMITS for players using the club pass system and competing on multiple teams:
 - (a) For State league competitions, there will be playing time limits for a player.
 - i. Restrictions: A player may only play 3 halves of soccer between the two teams. If a player's primary team is scheduled for two games on a given day then a player may play 4 halves of soccer. (the same amount of soccer would be allowed in this scenario);
 - ii. Teams and coaches violating the above restrictions would be subject to a disciplinary review and would risk losing their ability to receive players using the club pass system.

Article III. Rules of Play

3:03:01 Laws of the Game

The Rules of Play will be the Laws of the Game as published by FIFA with those modifications stated herein. All contests sanctioned by AYSA will abide by the Laws of the Game and the modifications as adopted by AYSA. These may be amended per competition rules.

3:03:02 General

In order for a game to start and continue a team must have a properly registered (with card) adult club representative (club's Director of Coaching, a carded adult properly rostered on the team or another club coach holding a club coach pass) in the Coaching Technical Area. If a team does not have a properly registered adult club representative at all times the game will be declared a forfeit. A maximum of 4 carded staff are authorized in the technical area. If one is not present at game time the game will not begin and a forfeit will be declared after the 15- minute grace period

Players wearing orthopedic casts, air-splints, or metal splints will not be eligible to participate in any game without parental permission and prior inspection and approval of the officiating referee or senior referee at an event

3:03:03 Coaching from the Technical Area

Coaching from the technical area (giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position) by a coach or assistant coach is permitted, provided:

- (a) No mechanical devices are used;
- (b) The tone of voice is informative and not a harangue;
- (c) Coaches, staff, players, and substitutes must remain in the technical area as described in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.

3:03:04 Uniform Colors

Where colors of uniforms are similar, the home team must effect a change of colors which are distinct from those of the opponent.

3:03:05 Playing Format & Ball Specifications

1. The playing format, length of the games, overtime periods, ball size, ball weight, ball dimensions, and roster size for each age group, will be as follows:

Age Roster Min/Max	Playing Format	Goalkeeper	Offside (Law 11) Enforced	Playing Periods (minutes)	Max Overtime Periods (minutes)	FIFA Ball Size	Field Size (yards)
U19 11 – 22 (see #2 below)	11 v 11	Yes	Yes	2x45	2x15	5	FIFA Standards
U18 11 – 22 (see #2 below)	11 v 11	Yes	Yes	2x45	2x15	5	FIFA Standards
U17 11 – 22 (see #2 below)	11 v 11	Yes	Yes	2x45	2x15	5	FIFA Standards
U16 11 – 22 (see #2 below)	11 v 11	Yes	Yes	2x40	2x10	5	FIFA Standards
U15 11 – 18	11 v 11	Yes	Yes	2x40	2x10	5	FIFA Standards
U14 11 – 18	11 v 11	Yes	Yes	2x35	2x10	5	FIFA Standards
U13 11 – 18	11 v 11	Yes	Yes	2x35	2x10	5	FIFA Standards
U12 8 – 14	8 v 8	Yes	Yes	2x30	2x10	4	45x60 to 55x80
U11 8 – 14	8 v 8	Yes	Yes	2x30	2x10	4	45x60 to 55x80
U10 7 – 11	6 v 6	Yes	No	2x25	None	4	35x45 to 45x60
U9 7 – 11	6 v 6	Yes	No	2x25	None	4	35x45 to 45x60
U8 5 – 8	4 v 4	No	No	4x12	None	3	20x25 to 30x35
U7 5 – 8	4 v 4	No	No	4x12	None	3	20x25 to 30x35
U6 4 – 6	3 v 3	No	No	4x8	None	3	15x20 to 25x30

2. Per US Youth Soccer Policies 205-1, 221-3, and US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Policy 101, all U16, U-17, U-18 and U-19 teams may register and roster 22 players to their teams. Only 18 players may suit up and play in a game.
3. All sanctioned tournaments will comport to these specifications unless AYSA approves deviations.

3:03:06 Conditions of Grounds and Weather-Related Cancellation

1. The home club will be responsible for the condition of the grounds, the proper field markings, and proper equipment. Nets and approved corner flags are required;
2. In the event of bad weather, the home team is responsible for verifying the status of the game. The home team shall contact the field coordinator and/or field condition hotline in sufficient time to notify the visiting team. In addition, the home team will communicate with the field coordinator to verify that the official's assignor has been notified of the game cancellation. Failure to do so may result in loss of fees. Should a game be suspended, please refer to rules and regulations.

3:03:07 Substitutes

1. The number of substitutes will be unlimited unless superseded by directives from FIFA, USSF, USYSA and/or AYSA.
2. In any case, a substitute will not enter the field of play until the referee has given him a signal to do so.
3. Players may be substituted at the following times:
 - (a) Prior to a throw-in in your favor;
 - (b) Prior to a goal kick by either team;
 - (c) After a goal by either team;
 - (d) After an injury, when the referee stops play, by either team;
 - (e) At half time;
 - (f) When the referee stops play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted prior to the restart of the game.

3:03:08 Referee's Game Responsibilities

1. Division I and II
 - (a) Center Referee shall verify and record all send-offs on the Game Day Roster and the USSF Referee Report. All referees must complete a USSF Referee Report on the red cards issued. The USSF Referee Reports must be submitted to AYSA office within 48 hours of the completion of the game.

- (b) For every game played referees must sign the bottom of the Game Day Roster;
- (c) The referee will verify the identity of the player/coach/staff with his/her player/coach/staff pass and Team Roster. The referee will collect the passes of all participants for this game. The referee must not allow participation for this game by any player/coach/staff for which he/she has no pass or whose name does not appear on the Team Roster – **Passes must have a photo of the player/coach/staff affixed, include the proper signature and be laminated. NO PASS! NO PLAY!! NO EXCEPTIONS!!!;**
- (d) The AYSA Game Day Roster & Game Report will be completed and signed by each referee at each game. It will include all pertinent game information including send-offs with the respective player's name, jersey number, and Red Card Report;
- (e) Referees will cooperate with the State Administrator on any questions or concerns that the State Administrator may have including but not limited to the reporting of Game Reports.
- (f) **In order for a game to start and continue a team must have a properly registered (with card) adult club representative (club's Director of Coaching, a carded adult properly rostered on the team or another club coach holding a club coach pass) in the Coaching Technical Area. If a team does not have a properly registered adult club representative at all times the game will be declared a forfeit. A maximum of 4 carded staff are authorized in the technical area. If one is not present at game time the game will not begin and a forfeit will be declared after the 15- minute grace period**

2. Division III

- a. Left up to the discretion of the individual leagues.

3. Region III Premier League: Procedures are established by the Region III Premier League Committee.

3:03:09 Game Report

- 1. Division I and II: The winning team is responsible for communicating the score of the game immediately following the game (or within a reasonable time) by following procedures set by ASA. This procedure will also apply to forfeited games
- 2. Division III: Left up to the discretion of the individual leagues.
- 3. Region III Premier League: Procedures are established by the Region III Premier League Committee.

3:03:10 Delaying the Start of the Game

1. Division I and II

- (a) Any team delaying the start of a scheduled game by more than fifteen (15) minutes, without the sanction of the proper authority, will forfeit the game to the opponent by a score of 3-0.
- (b) In the event both teams do not show up for a scheduled game, and the referee rules the ground playable, then both teams will be assessed with a loss by a score of 3-0.

- (c) Referees responsible for a late start of a game may be disciplined by ASA.
- 2. Division III: Left up to the discretion of the individual leagues.
- 3. Region III Premier League: Procedures are established by the Region III Premier League Committee.

3:03:11 Referee's Authority

The referee's judgment with regard to the physical condition of the field and its acceptance for play, to the actual happenings and occurrences related to the conduct of the game, and those prerogatives granted to him/her by the Laws of the Game as published by FIFA will not be challenged.

3:03:12 Send-offs

- 1. Division I and II
 - (a) Send-off of Director of Coaching, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Trainers and Team Managers: Director of Coaching, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Trainers and Team Managers who are sent off from the game are to leave the area of the field before the game will continue. If a coach is sent off, either the team's club Director of Coaching, an adult properly rostered on the team or another club coach holding a club coach pass must take over the coaching responsibilities before the game can continue. Failure to meet this requirement will result in the game ending.
 - (b) Send-off of Players: Players who are sent off from the game are to leave the field of play before the game will continue. The player's pass will be returned to the appropriate team administrator after being noted on the game card. Players sent off may remain in the technical area at the referee's discretion. If the sent off player continues to be disruptive, the referee may ask the player to leave the technical area and the team is responsible for providing adult supervision for minors being punished.
 - (c) Send-offs received in State League for Divisions I and II must be served in State League games, State Cup, President's Cup, or the National Championship Series.
- 2. Division III: Left up to the discretion of the individual leagues. If a Division III player receives a red card send-off while playing with a Division I or II team they will sit out one (1) game with the guest team (Division I and II) and one (1) game with their primary Division III game.
- 3. Region III Premier League: Procedures are established by the Region III Premier League Committee.

Article IV. Punitive Measures

3:04:01 Who is covered

The persons covered in this Article include but are not limited to coaches, other team officials such as assistant coaches, board members, officers of the club, team managers, trainers, players, parents, spectators, and/or participants in AYSA activities who are subject to all misconduct rules and penalties contained herein regardless of whether they had passes or whether the referee displayed a yellow or red card.

3:04:02 How Violations are Reported

Violations contained herein are reported to AYSA through:

- (a) Referee Report; and/or
- (b) Grievance.

3:04:03 Conduct Covered and Punishment

1. In General: Those listed in 3:04:01 above will be punished and/or disciplined for infringement of the Laws of the Game and/or the conduct listed below.
 - (a) Ineligible participant: A participant/player who has been suspended, an ineligible player, overage player, or a non-rostered player. These participants/players shall not participate in any AYSA sanctioned game until the suspension is satisfied. This applies to all AYSA sanctioned games, USSF sanctioned competitions and ODP events;
 - i. Punishment: All games participated in are forfeited under the rules of the individual competition and the team representative and or club shall be subject to further disciplinary actions.
 - (b) Team refusal to play: Any team representative whose team refuses to take the field without cause, refuses to travel to an assigned game site without cause or quits a game prior to its completion shall be reported in writing by the referee;

Punishment - Team forfeits and loses its bond. Should a team forfeit its performance bond, it will not be permitted to resume play until another bond is submitted to AYSA and may be disqualified from the state cup pending a review of circumstances. A forfeiting team must submit a written explanation to the State League Administrator within 48 hours of said forfeit. The explanation will be distributed to the SLC which will make a recommendation to the State Cup Committee as to whether the team committing the infraction should be disqualified from state cup competition. A team forfeiting more than one match in the state league will automatically be disqualified from State Cup without a recommendation from the SLC. The team retains the right to appeal directly to the State Cup Committee.

- (c) Poor Sportsmanship: If an individual engages in prolonged harassment of officials, or

abusive disagreement or interference with officials, the team representative may be asked to control the individual. If the team representative has no control over the individual or situation, the team representative shall not be penalized. Instead, the referee shall take other appropriate action. No coach, assistant coach, team manager, player, substitute, parent, or spectator is to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, players, substitutes, parents, or spectators; use profanity; incite, in any manner, disruptive behavior of any kind.

- i. Punishment:- The referee may suspend play when necessary due to spectator or participant interference until the individual(s) creating the disturbance leaves the playing area to a minimum of 100 yards from the field. Said individual(s) shall remain silent for the duration of the game and take no further part in the game. Failure of said individual(s) to comply with the referee's request within 2 minutes may result in the referee's terminating the game. Such incident may result in forfeiture of the game as well as further disciplinary action. The team is responsible for providing adult supervision for minors being punished.
2. Red Card Send-offs: Individuals sent off from the game as per the Referee Report shall receive the following penalties:
 - (a) Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity:
 - i. Punishment – Minimum one (1) game suspension.
 - (b) Foul and Abusive Language: uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.
 - i. Punishment – Minimum one (1) game suspension;
 - (c) Second Cautionable Offense: Receives a second caution in the same match.
 - i. Punishment – Minimum one (1) game suspension.
 - (d) Serious Foul Play:
 - i. Punishment – Minimum one (1) game suspension.
 - (e) Violent Conduct:
 - i. Punishment – If the Referee Report describes the violent conduct as hitting, punching, or striking, minimum three (3) game suspension, otherwise one (1) game suspension.
 - (f) Spitting
 - i. Punishment – Minimum three (3) game suspension.
 3. Referee Abuse: (Adapted from USSF Policy 531-9 - Misconduct Toward Game Officials)
 - (a) General: Misconduct against referees may occur before, during and after the match, including travel to and from the match. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a game official as a referee.
 - (b) Rule Application

- i. This policy shall supersede any inconsistent rules of Organization Members that pertain to assaults or abuse upon Federation referees, assistant referees, the manner and means of review, appeals, and rehearing in matters pertaining thereto.
 - ii. Nothing in this policy rule shall be construed to restrict or limit any league, event/tournament of Organization Member from applying equal or greater restrictions to anyone not listed in 3:04:01.
 - iii. This policy shall not apply to players, coaches, managers, club officials, or league officials while participating in Professional League Member activities.
- (c) Referee includes the following:
- i. all currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees, 4th officials or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match.
 - ii. any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee (under Rule 3040).
 - iii. any club assistant referee.
- (d) Referee Assault
- i. is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.
 - ii. For purposes of this policy, 'intentional act' shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.
 - iii. Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e., car, equipment, etc.
- (e) Referee Abuse
- i. is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.
 - ii. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee that implies or threatens physical harm; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; or spitting at (but not on) the referee.
 - iii. Physical violence, personal attack, threat of assault by raising a clenched fist or hand holding any object that could be used as a weapon, verbally threatening a referee.
- (f) Punishment -
- i. Assault: The person committing the referee assault must be suspended as follows:
 - A. for a minor or slight touching of the referee or the referee's uniform or personal

property, at least 3 months from the time of the assault;

B. except as provided below, for any other assault, at least 6 months from the time of the assault:

- for an assault committed by an adult and the referee is 17 years of age or younger, at least 3 years; or
- for an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least 5 years.

ii. Abuse: The minimum suspension period for referee abuse shall be at least three (3) scheduled matches. The Organization Member adjudicating the matter may provide a longer period of suspension when circumstances warrant (e.g., habitual offenders).

4. Recruitment of Players for Division I, II, and III. These policies are to be enforced concerning matters of recruitment of players from outside of their club/association. Issues of recruitment of players within an organization are to be handled internally by their board, director of coaching, president, etc.

(a) Illegal Recruiting: Examples

- i. Illegal recruiting is defined as any intentional act whereby an individual contacts a player, outside of their competitive club, that has appropriately executed an AYSA Division I or Division II Player and Parent Commitment Form or registered with another competitive team and invites that player to join his or her team without the current team's coach's/Director of Coaching's permission. Illegal recruitment may include: personal contact, initiating of phone calls, invitations to training/games/team activities, and actual participation in training/games/team activities.
- ii. Recruitment of registered competitive players is only permitted during the designated tryout period as defined by ASA.
- iii. Recruitment of a player that has appropriately executed an AYSA Division I or Division II Player and Parent Commitment Form or has registered with a competitive team is illegal.
- iv. Recruiting or attempting to recruit any player or player's parents or guardians with offers of material goods, gifts, free trips, scholarships or similar benefits are illegal recruiting. Nothing herein shall prohibit teams or clubs from helping players with fees and equipment when documented financial need exists. Each club shall report at the time of registration with ASA, the number of players on full and partial scholarships.

(b) Illegal Recruiting: Exceptions

i. Camp/Clinic Exception Policy:

It is recognized that a number of coaches administer soccer camps and clinics outside of their club commitments. These camps and clinics will be allowed and excluded from illegal recruitment violations if the camps and clinic programs meet the following criteria:

- A. Publicized to the general public via mass marketing means;
- B. Individual players are not specifically targeted. Only addresses and address labels can have individualized information. All information must not be specific to an individual player;
- C. No contact/enticement/information concerning any club/transferring/recruitment is allowed during the camp/clinic.
- D. Staff cannot wear club attire during the camp/clinic. Club information cannot be disseminated during the camp/clinic.

ii. Personal Instruction/Individual Soccer Lessons:

It is recognized coaches may also personally instruct players from outside clubs. Personal instruction/individual soccer lessons will be allowed and excluded from illegal recruitment violations if the coach/instructions meet the following criteria:

- A. If marketing, publicized to the general public via mass marketing means;
- B. Individual players are not specifically targeted. All information must not be specific to an individual player;
- C. Players/parents must make the initial contact to the personal instructor concerning the personal instruction/individual soccer lessons.
- D. No contact/enticement/information concerning any club/transferring/recruitment are allowed during the personal instruction;
- E. Personal instructor cannot wear club attire during the camp/clinic. Club information cannot be disseminated during the personal instruction.

(c) AYSA coaches, administrators, and other official members who represent both an AYSA affiliated organization and a USYS non-affiliated, US Soccer organization, within the same calendar year must abide by the rules regarding illegal recruiting of AYSA players for the purposes of participation in a non-AYSA game, event, or team activities.

In such a case, the coach or administrator interested in a player outside of their AYSA affiliated organization must:

- i. Contact the player's club coach (or director of coaching) to request the player's participation; and,
- ii. Obtain written permission from the player's current club coach (or director of coaching) prior to personal contact, initiating a phone call, invitation to training/games/team activities, and actual participation in training/games/team activities.

This does not limit the player's ability to participate in any USYS non-affiliated, US Soccer organization, and activities.

(d) Punishment:

- i. 1st Offense - A minimum three (3) months ASA suspension for the individual found

guilty of illegal recruitment ; club to be fined \$100.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the review including copying charges, postage, etc.;

- ii. 2nd Offense - A minimum nine (9) months ASA suspension for the individual found guilty of illegal recruitment; club to be fined \$500.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the review including copying charges, postage, etc.;
- iii. 3rd Offense - A minimum twelve (12) months ASA suspension for the individual found guilty of illegal recruitment; club to be fined \$1,000.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the review including copying charges, postage, etc.

5. Punishment, Suspensions and Probation:

- (a) Neither red card send-offs nor the punishments listed in this Article are appealable.
- (b) The above punishments are intended to be minimum. The Discipline and Appeals Committee of ASA may increase the punishment. Only such an increase in punishments may be appealed.
 - i. If the Discipline and Appeals Committee decides that an increase in penalty may be warranted then a review of the incident will be held with as many of the parties involved as the Committee deems necessary, after which the Committee in its sole judgment will determine if an increase in penalty will be assessed and what the increase will be. If the Discipline and Appeals Committee determines that the penalty is to stand with no increase then no review will be held.
- (c) In specific situations the Discipline and Appeals Committee may place an individual on probation in addition to the suspension. The probationary period is to be served immediately following the suspension period and is intended to monitor an individual's degree of reformation. Should an individual on probation be sent off the field of play and shown the red card during the probationary period the matter shall be referred to the Discipline and Appeals Committee for evaluation.
- (d) Serving Suspensions:
 - i. Any mandatory suspension stated in these rules shall commence with the next sanctioned game in which the suspended individual would otherwise be eligible to participate.
 - ii. Any suspension resulting from an increase in penalty under item 3:04:05.5(c) above shall commence with the next sanctioned game in which the penalized individual would otherwise be eligible to participate after the individual is notified of the increase in penalty by the Discipline and Appeals Committee.
 - iii. Players who wish credit for serving a game suspension must conform to the rules established by the competition in which the suspension is served, with the additional requirement that the player must appear on the official roster for the game. If the player is present at the game in which the suspension is served, he or she must be in street clothes. Any participant other than a player who wishes credit for serving a game suspension must be more than 100 yards from the field of play.

- iv. In any game, whether in state or out-of-state that a participant is serving a suspension, it is the responsibility of the coach or team representative to inform the referee of the name of the individual not participating and to provide written evidence for the suspension which satisfies AYSA as to its authenticity. It is not the responsibility of the referee to report a player's or coach's service of a suspension.
 - (e) Carryover of Send-offs: All Red Card Send-offs and Suspensions, from any match, carry over to the next regularly scheduled match. The match must have been scheduled before the Red Card was issued. You cannot schedule a match to 'wipe out' a Red Card Suspension after-the-fact. Send-offs issued during league play carry over into state championships and visa versa.
 - (f) Four (4) Send-offs in One Year: Any participant who is sent off four (4) times during any 365 day period shall be automatically suspended for an additional four (4) games and shall automatically be placed on probation for a period of six (6) months.
 - (g) Misconduct during Probation: If a participant is sent off during a probationary period, the participant shall be required to appear before a meeting of the Discipline and Appeals Committee to determine if further action is required.
 - (h) Cumulative Misconduct: The State Administrator shall retain records of misconduct for Division I & II teams for every send-off earned during any US Youth Soccer sanctioned activity Any team receiving four or more send-offs during a given season will automatically be reviewed by the Discipline and Appeals Committee to determine if further action is required.
 - (i) Misconduct Outside of Alabama: Participants whose misconduct outside of Alabama is reported to AYSA shall be subject to AYSA discipline as though the offense had occurred in Alabama. The written or verbal report must be received by AYSA within 90 days of the date of the misconduct, in order for the participant to be subject to AYSA discipline.
6. Grievances: This is the method whereby someone other than a referee reports a violation to the ASA state office. Filing of Grievances must include the following before it will be considered:
- (a) A fee in accordance with AYSA fee schedule (certified check or money order) sent to ASA to hear the grievance;
 - (b) A clear and concise statement describing the specific grounds for the grievance, the relief or actions sought by the aggrieved party;
 - (c) All other information necessary to make a fair and just decision on the grievance;
 - (d) Three copies of the grievance and all other documents relevant thereto.
7. Misconduct Complaints: This is the method whereby any registered ASA member may bring other suspected incidents of misconduct to the attention of the Board of Directors of ASA. Misconduct complaints may be reviewed or investigated by the Discipline and Appeals Committee or another party designated by the Board of Directors. While it is not obligated to do so, the Board of Directors may use the results of one or more such reviews or investigations to apply any discipline it believes may be appropriate. Misconduct complaints must be presented

in writing and contain clear and concise information regarding the reported misconduct.

Article V. Protest and Appeals Procedure

3:05:01 Protestable or Appealable Actions

Only violations of the Constitution and Bylaws of ASA and the Rules & Regulations of AYSA, misapplication of the 'Laws of the Game', violations of League or Member Organization Rules & Regulations (provided the latter are within the framework of the Constitution and Bylaws of ASA, including State Tournament Rules), and specific actions of AYSA executed under the Rules & Regulations of AYSA or the Constitution and Bylaws of ASA, will be proper subjects to be considered for action.

3:05:02 Protest or Appeal of League, Member Organization or District Matters

1. Jurisdiction: In all league or Member Organization matters, the management within each district will provide procedures for protest and review of an appeal and not until that procedure has been completed and an adverse decision rendered in writing on the matter in question and forwarded to the Discipline and Appeals Committee of ASA. Upon rendering a decision, the member organization or league must forward a copy of its evidence, findings, and decision to the office of AYSA within fourteen (14) days of the league or member organization's decision.
2. Process: An aggrieved party may appeal an adverse decision by the League, Member Organization or district decision to the Discipline & Appeals Committee. The appeal must include the following before it will be considered:
 - (a) A non-refundable fee in accordance with AYSA fee schedule (certified check, or money order), payable to Alabama Youth Soccer;
 - (b) A written statement describing the specific grounds for the appeal;
 - (c) All information necessary to make a fair and just decision on the appeal;
 - (d) A clear and concise statement of the relief or action sought by the appealing party;
 - (e) Five (5) copies of all documents relevant to the appeal.
3. The decision of the Discipline and Appeals Committee of ASA will be communicated in writing and/or e-mail to the party initiating the appeal and a copy of the decision along with all pertinent information and findings will be filed with ASA and the involved league or member organization.

3:05:03 Protest or Appeal of AYSA Actions or Decisions

An aggrieved party may appeal any adverse decision action by AYSA (other than decisions of the Discipline and Appeals Committee) to the Discipline and Appeals Committee. The appeal must include the following before it will be considered:

1. A non-refundable fee in accordance with AYSA fee schedule (certified check, or money order), payable to Alabama Youth Soccer;
2. A written statement describing the specific grounds for the appeal;
3. All information necessary to make a fair and just decision on the appeal, including testimony from eyewitnesses or other relevant parties in person or via sworn affidavit (electronic recordings such as audiotapes or videotapes shall not be permissible as evidence);
4. A clear and concise statement of the relief or action sought by the appealing party;
5. Five (5) copies of all documents relevant to the appeal.

3:05:04. Appeal of Decisions by the Discipline & Appeals Committee

An aggrieved party may appeal any adverse decision by the Discipline and Appeals Committee to the ASA Board of Directors.

1. Such appeal must be postmarked or delivered within forty-eight (48) hours to the office of ASA after receipt of the decision of the Discipline and Appeals Committee of ASA being appealed.
2. A fee in accordance with AYSA fee schedule must accompany each appeal.
3. ASA will set a date, for the matter to be heard before the Board of Directors of ASA, with the concurrence of the President of ASA, such review date will be within forty-five (45) days from the date of the decision rendered by the Discipline and Appeals Committee of ASA.
4. At the review by the Board of Directors of ASA, the Chairman of the Discipline and Appeals Committee of ASA, or his/her designee, will present the findings of the Committee to the Board of Directors of ASA. The parties involved will have the opportunity to present their case. During this presentation, the parties involved may present arguments and evidence to support their grievance, including testimony from eyewitnesses or other relevant parties in person or via sworn affidavit. Electronic recordings such as audiotapes or videotapes shall not be permissible as evidence.
5. Should the parties desire a written record of the review they should provide a court reporter at their own expense.
6. The decision of the Board of Directors of ASA will be conveyed to the parties in writing and/or via e-mail within fifteen (15) days of the decision. A certified notice will follow.

3:05:05. Grievance

This is the method by which a final decision by ASA can be appealed to the regional and/or national level:

1. A fee in accordance with AYSA fee schedule (certified check or money order) sent to ASA to hear the grievance;
2. A clear and concise statement describing the specific grounds for the grievance, the relief or actions sought by the aggrieved party;

3. All other information necessary to make a fair and just decision on the grievance;
4. Three copies of the grievance and all other documents relevant thereto.
5. In this section, 'party' means a Member of AYSA or ASA, official, league, club, team, player, coach, administrator, or referee.
 - (a) If a party brings a grievance against AYSA and/or ASA and does not prevail in the grievance, that party shall be liable to AYSA and/or ASA for expenses incurred by AYSA and/or ASA and its officials and staff in defending the grievance, including the following:
 - i. grievance costs;
 - ii. attorney's fees;
 - iii. reasonable compensation for time spent by AYSA and/or ASA officials and staff in responding to and defending against allegations involved in the grievance, including responses to discovery and appearances regarding the grievance; and
 - iv. travel expenses.
 - (b) If the party fails to pay to AYSA and/or ASA the expenses due under subsection (a) of this section, the party may be suspended or the party's membership or position terminated in AYSA and/or ASA and all of its Members.

3:05:06. *Litigation Prohibition:*

No State Association, District Commissioner, Official, League, Member Organization, Team, Referee, Player, Parent, or Representative thereof, may invoke the aid of the courts of any State of the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within the body of organized soccer (i.e., State Soccer Associations).

Article VI. State League Operation Rules (Division I and II)

3:06:01 General

This section contains competition-specific rules for State League. All AYSA Rules and Regulations apply to State League unless specifically accepted below.

1. Division I and Division II competition shall take place exclusively in State Leagues operated by AYSA in accordance with the requirements established by US Youth Soccer and the rules expressed herein.
2. State League Committee (SLC)
 - (a) Operation of the State League(s) is managed by the State League Committee (SLC). The President of ASA shall appoint the Chairman of the State League Committee (SLC). Jointly the Chairman and the State Director of Coaching shall appoint the members of the SLC from a pool of Directors of Coaching, Club Coaches, State Select Staff and local and State Administrators. The VP of **Competitive** is the board representative.
 - (b) Prior to the start of each state-league season, the State League Committee (SLC) shall meet and using the registration forms on line submitted by the teams assign each team to a division within its appropriate age-level. The SLC shall assign teams based on information supplied by the coach or manager on the on-line registration form. If the coach or manager does not provide the data, it is not the SLC's obligation to seek out information. If no data is provided, a team could be placed in a lower rather than higher division.
 - (c) A team, which disagrees with its state-league placement, may request, at no charge, that the State League Committee review its decision. The decision of the State League Committee is then final and non-appealable.
 - (d) The State League Committee shall recommend teams for Region III Premier League slots for approval and certification by the ASA Board
 - (e) The State League Committee shall meet at such other times as appropriate for efficient and just league operations.
3. State League Division Structures
 - (a) Division I. Division I will provide a highly competitive league environment for players who desire to play at the highest levels within the state of Alabama regardless of match locals. The following age groups may be offered: U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17, U-18, & U-19.

Prior to the start of each state-league season, the State **Administrator and the State Director of Coaching** shall meet and determine which age groups will be offered for that year. All teams will play home and away matches in a set schedule as determined by the State League Committee, **State Administrator and State Director of Coaching**. Prior to the start of each state-league season the **State Administrator and State Director of Coaching** shall determine the number of home and away matches for each age group

offered. Participating teams will provide for and pay all field use fees (rental, maintenance fees and field preparation costs) for all 'home' games. Teams are required to participate in the AYSA state league for the season of registration. Teams are encouraged to participate in State Cup. State Cup is part of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series. Teams that win State Cup **U13-U19** must participate in regional competition as part of the National Championship Series.

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 permitted. Division I is an Inter-Club AYSA administered program in which no rule restricts the manner in which players may be rostered to participating team except as follows:

- i. Rules that define and prohibit unethical recruiting behavior;
- ii. Rules that limit the participation of players previously rostered to another team;
- iii. Rules that define specific age requirements.

Standings will be kept for all brackets and **will be the devise** for determining seeding for the DI State Cup. All **seedings will** be determined by **points only**

If teams play both fall and spring season in state league then the best season will be used to determine points.

Previous years State Champion and finalist will be seeded 1 & 2 provided they meet the requirement for returning team and are playing Region 3 Premier League.

Only previous years semi finalist can request to play up or fill an alternate region 3 slot, provided they meet requirements of a return team.

Region III Premier League see 3:09:02 Registration

Teams **selected** to participate in Region III Premier League (see Article XIV below) **(State Champions & finalists)** will play 4 State League matches during the fall season. **Other teams selected as alternates within Premier League will play a full league schedule.** **Division I teams from the South and South West district who elect to participate in the I-10 league will play 4 State League matches and will be eligible to participate in the State Cup**

- (b) Division II: Division II will provide a competitive league environment for players who desire to play at a high level within the state of Alabama and if number of teams permit, within the Northern or Southern part of the state. The following age groups may be offered: U-11, U-12, U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17, U-18, & U-19.

Prior to the start of each state-league season, the State **Administrator and the State Director of Coaching** shall meet and determine which age groups will be offered for that year. All teams will play home and away matches in a set schedule as determined by the State League Committee, **State Administrator and State Director of Coaching**. Prior to the start of each state-league season the **State Administrator and State Director of Coaching** shall determine the number of home and away matches for each age group

offered. Participating teams will provide for and pay all field use fees (rental, maintenance fees and field preparation costs) for all 'home' games. Teams are required to participate in the AYSA state league for the season of registration.. Teams are encouraged to participate in State Cup. **Teams in ages U13-U17 that win State Cup must participate in Presidents Cup regional competition.**

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 permitted. Division II is an Inter-Club AYSA administered program in which no rule restricts the manner in which players may be rostered to participating team except as follows:

- i. Rules that define and prohibit unethical recruiting behavior;
- ii. Rules that limit the participation of players previously rostered to another team;
- iii. Rules that define specific age requirements.

3:06:02 Registration

1. Only teams in good standing with the state association are permitted to participate in the State Leagues. All league administrative and referee fees for each participating team are due in their entirety before a representative of that team may participate in the scheduling session.
2. Any team may register with AYSA and apply to participate in Division I or Division II. Once all applications for a particular season are received, **the State Administrator and/or the State Director of Coaching** reserves the right to contact teams who have applied for a level of competition **which they** think may be inappropriate.
3. All teams will play in their own age group brackets for DI and DII Cup competitions. **State Cup champions and finalist may play up in state league games. Semi Finalists only** may request to the **State Administrator and/or**-State Director of Coaching for permission to play up in age brackets in State League games.

3:06:03. Performance Bonds

1. All teams playing within the state league are required to submit a performance bond at the time of registration for league play. This bond will be cashed and refunded at the end of the season only if the team does not advance to the US Youth Soccer Southern Regionals and/or National Finals (for Division I teams) or the Region III Presidents Cup (for Division II teams). These teams must meet their obligation of participation in the regional and/or national tournament to be eligible to receive a bond refund.
2. Club Bond Policy

For any ASA sponsored competition which requires the posting of a performance bond for team participation, a club may elect to post a single 'club bond' in the amount of \$5,000 in lieu of individual performance bond postings for each of that club's teams participating in that competition. The club bond will be held by ASA until the end of the seasonal year or the

completion of all phases of the bonded competition (including regional and national tournaments), whichever comes first. When a team from a club has posted a bond and is required to forfeit a bond for any reason defined in ASA's Rules and Regulations, the appropriate performance bond amount will be subtracted from the posted club bond by ASA and the team in question will be prohibited from further participation until the club replenishes the club bond fund to \$5,000. For the club bond only, a club can request in writing to the State Administrator that their club bond roll over to the following year.

3. Refund of Bond

Each team which participated in fall league play must notify AYSA if they do not intend to participate in the subsequent spring league. Teams not returning to State League for the spring will be issued refunds for bond payment at that time only if they complete the bond refund request form (except as noted above, or in the event of bond forfeiture). For teams participating in spring league play, bond payments will be refunded at the end of the spring season (except as noted above, or in the event of bond Forfeiture).

4. State League performance bonds are subject to forfeiture under the following conditions:

- (a) Errors in judgment such as inappropriate cancellations or failure to properly report match scores;
- (b) Disciplinary action against the team (as described in Article IV of these Rules and Regulations);
- (c) Forfeiting a match for any reason which includes late cancellations;
- (d) Refusing to play a scheduled match.

Should a team forfeit its performance bond, it will not be permitted to resume play until another bond is submitted to AYSA and may be disqualified from the state cup pending a review of circumstances. A forfeiting team must submit a written explanation to the State League Administrator within 48 hours of said forfeit. The explanation will be distributed to **the State Cup Committee** as to whether the team committing the infraction should be disqualified from state cup competition. A team forfeiting more than one match in the state league will automatically **be** disqualified from State Cup. **The team retains the right to appeal directly to the AYSA Board of Directors.**

3:06:04 Rules of Play

1. AYSA Game Day Roster and Report
2. Current Player/Coach/Staff passes; passes must have a photo affixed, include the proper signature and be laminated.

NO PASS! NO PLAY!! NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

3. There are no guest players in league play, but teams may utilize the Club Pass System.
4. Score reporting for State League matches is the responsibility of the winning team, or the

home team in the event a match is drawn. Scores must be reported within 24 hours of the completion of each match. The score reporting procedure will be published by AYSA prior to the start of each season.

5. State League standings will follow the following point system:

- (a) 3 points - win
- (b) 1 point- tie
- (c) 0 point - loss
- (d) Tie Breakers:
 - i. Head to Head
 - ii. Goal Differential (maximum of 3 goals)
 - iii. Fewest Goals allowed
 - iv. Most goals scored
 - v. Shoot Out

6. No substitution or re-entry limitations.

7. Player Uniforms: The rules for Division I and II play are:

- (a) Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional.
- (b) Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from all other players and referees.

3:06:05. League Scheduling

1. State Leagues games are scheduled through a participatory scheduling meeting. AYSA will publish the date, time, and location of the scheduling meeting in advance. Each team is responsible for having only one representative per team attend the scheduling meeting.
2. The first and last dates of league play for each season are established by the AYSA Board of Directors as part of the overall AYSA calendar for each seasonal year. The calendar will include a designated rain-out makeup period as required **if possible**. The calendar will also identify the cut-off dates after which match results will not apply to seedings for State Cup.
3. During the scheduling meeting, the team representative will work with one another in a moderated session to schedule their matches for the season. Teams will select suitable dates for matches given the league restrictions of one match per day. DIVISION II U11 – U18 can schedule two matches in one day for the travel teams when outside their travel area with a maximum of two games per weekend. It is the responsibility of each team to coordinate their state league schedule with individuals and team conflicts.

4. Teams may only play one State League match per day. State League games should primarily be played on Saturdays and/or Sundays. Week night games may be scheduled as long as your club approves and has field space availability.
5. Once dates have been selected, games will be stacked to maximize usage of fields and officials. It is the responsibility of each team to verify the location and time of their matches once the schedule is completed as home games may not be scheduled on a team's home field should scheduling warrant. If you have three or more ODP players on the roster you may not reschedule on an ODP date. If you have one or two ODP players on your team you may choose to use an ODP date but may not use your ODP players. Teams that violate this change will be penalized with a forfeit.
6. For U14 and younger, for the Spring season, games that need to be rescheduled due to weather-related issues; teams can apply to the State Administrator for approval to play two games in one day regardless of whether the matches require travel.
7. Teams are responsible for verifying that their agreed schedules are accurately documented. AYSA is not liable for errors in scheduling committed by team representative. Once the team agent submits the team's schedule to AYSA it is final. Any adjustments made in the league schedule after the scheduling meeting will be solely at the discretion of the state administrator. A fee for elected reschedules shall be in accordance with AYSA fee schedule.
8. There will be no league games or tournaments held during State Cup.
9. Reschedules and Weather-Related Cancellations
 - a. Elective reschedules must be identified and presented to the State Administrator by completing the state league game change request form at least two weeks in advance of the original scheduled match. The **State-Administrator** reserves the right to deny requests disruptive to the league or unreasonable in nature. A rescheduling fee in accordance with AYSA fee schedule must be received by the State Office before the date will be placed on the schedule. Suggested reschedule dates must permit 10 days to 2 weeks notice for field and official scheduling.
 - b. Games cancelled due to inclement weather must be arranged between opponents and tentative dates presented to the State Administrator by completing the state league game change request form within two weeks of the original date or game fees will be forfeited. Teams not honoring their selected schedule in manners such as, but not limited to, a late cancellation (see VIII), and no-show; will require a forfeit of the bond, or a portion thereof. The severity of the infraction may warrant further penalties including, but not limited to, team or coach suspension, additional fines, or restriction from the state championships. The team and possibly club will be placed in bad standing with the State association until further notice. Should both teams not be able to come to a reschedule date within the time frame listed above then the rain out game will automatically be scheduled in the rain out week by AYSA and the game must be played. No tournaments should be scheduled within the rain out week.

All rain out games and other AYSA cancelled games will be completed during the week designated by

AYSA calendar and scores will count if made up.

All rain out games and other AYSA cancelled games will be completed during the week designated by AYSA calendar and scores will count if made up. **If one team is refusing to play the match then the match will declared a forfeit by the refusing team and the score will be recorded as a 3-0 loss for the team refusing to play. If both teams have worked to get the game played but have no common date then both teams will receive a 1-1 score.**

Article VII. Local League Operation Rules (Division III)

3:07:01 General

1. This section contains competition-specific rules for Local Leagues. All AYSA Rules and Regulations apply to Local Leagues unless specifically accepted below.
2. Division III competition shall take place in Local Leagues operated by AYSA member organizations known as Local League Administrative Organizations) in accordance with the requirements established by US Youth Soccer and the rules expressed herein.
3. Division III (Recreational, Beginning, or Entry Level) 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. Division III Teams may be formed by evaluation of in-house (Intra-Club) players for the purpose of creating teams of comparably skilled players or to include teams where more than fifty percent (50%) of the players have played together in the preceding year. Each player is required to play at least one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline.
4. Division III will provide a league environment for players who desire to play at a level higher than in-house recreation within their district. The following age groups may be offered: U-9, U-10, U-11, U-12, U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17, U-18, and U-19.
5. For this division the Local League Administrative Organization will administer the league. Prior to the start of each league season, the Local League Administrative Organization shall determine which age groups will be offered for that year. All teams will play home and away matches in a set schedule as determined by the Local League Administrative Organization. Prior to the start of each league season the Local League Administrative Organization shall determine the number of home and away matches for each age group offered. Participating teams will provide for and pay all field use fees (rental, maintenance fees and field preparation costs) for all 'home' games. Teams are encouraged to participate in Governors Cup.
6. Inter-Club Player transfer (Division III)-- A player may be transferred from a DI or DII team to a DIII team out of club for a fee in accordance with AYSA fee schedule. A player may be transferred in club from DI or DII team to a DIII team for a fee in accordance with AYSA fee schedule. Maximum of 5 transfers whether Inter or Intra. Intra-Club transfer (within the same club) from a DIII team to a DIII team can be processed by the Club Registrar

3:07:02 Registration

Only teams registered with and in good standing with the state association are permitted to participate in Local Leagues. League registration, team placement and scheduling policies and practices are established by the Local League Administrative Organization.

3:07:03 Performance Bonds

Performance bond requirements may be established by the Local League.

3:07:04 Rules of Play

1. There are no guest players in Local League play, but teams may utilize the Club Pass system.
2. Score reporting requirements for Local League matches are established by the Local League.
3. No substitution or re-entry limitations. Each player is required to play at least one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline.

3:07:05. League Scheduling

1. Schedules are established by the Local League Administrative Organization.

There will be no league games or tournaments held during State Cup. Division III Leagues are allowed to play weather related make-up games during the first weekend of the State Cup tournament with the stipulation that only Grade 9 referees are used to officiate the games. If a Grade 8 or higher grade referee is used to officiate a game, a \$250 fine will be assessed to the league for each such referee used.

Article VIII. Intramural League Operation Rules (Division IV)

3:08:01 General

1. This section contains competition-specific rules for Intramural Leagues. All AYSA Rules and Regulations apply to Intramural Leagues unless specifically accepted below.
2. Division IV will provide a league environment for players who desire to play at the in-house recreation level. AYSA suggests that the following age groups are offered in accordance with USSF Policy Statements: U6, U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18, and U19. However, the following age groups may be offered if there is a need to split up the groups into single age groups: U-7, U-9, U-11, U-13, U-15, and U-17.
3. Local Clubs will administer their in-house leagues. Teams are encouraged to participate in any state sponsored tournament within their division bracket.

3:08:02 Registration

Only players in good standing with the state association are permitted to participate in Intramural Leagues. League registration, team placement and scheduling policies and practices are established by the Local Club.

3:08:03 Performance Bonds

Performance bond requirements may be established by the Local Club.

3:08:04 Rules of Play

1. There are no guest players in Intramural League play, but teams may utilize the Club Pass system.
2. Score reporting requirements for Intramural League matches are established by the Local Club.
3. No substitution or re-entry limitations. Each player is required to play at least one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline.

3:08:05 League Scheduling

Schedules are established by the Local Club Administrative Organization.

Article IX. Region III Premier League Operation Rules

3:09:01 General

1. This section contains competition-specific rules for Region III Premier League (R3PL) and Southern Regional League (SRL) participation. All AYSA Rules and Regulations apply to R3PL and SRL play unless specifically accepted below.
2. R3PL and SRL are operated by the Premier League Committee (PLC) and (Southern Region League Committee (SRLC) of US Youth Soccer Region III. Alabama is represented on the PLC by the
3. R3PL Administrator, a board member appointed by the the ASA President.
R3PL and SRL age groups are established by the PLC and the SRLC.

3:09:02 Registration

1. Only teams in good standing with the state association are permitted to participate in SRL and R3PL. Registration procedures are established by the SRLC and the PLC. AYSA may impose additional registration procedures as necessary to ensure proper compliance with SRL and PLC requirements. The Division I State Cup Champion and Finalist are automatically eligible to represent Alabama in the next seasonal year's R3PL if they meet the following requirements:
 - (a) The teams' clubs remain in good standing with the PLC and AYSA;
 - (b) The teams retain more than 50% from their previous year's State Cup roster on their roster for the next seasonal year; See PLC Rules for clarification
 - (c) The team is with the same club from the previous seasonal year, or with a club that is the product of a merger with the previous club within the previous seasonal year.
3. Division I State Cup Semi Finalists may apply to participate in SRL and R3PL and may be chosen by the State DOC as a nominee to fill a vacant slot in the Premier League should one become available.

3:09:03 Performance Bonds

Performance bond requirements are established by the PLC.

3:09:04 Rules of Play

1. Guest play and Club Pass rules are established by the PLC.
2. Score reporting requirements for R3PL matches are established by the PLC. In addition to the PLC requirements, all Alabama participants must provide a match report for each match to AYSA.
3. Substitution rules are established by the PLC.
4. League Scheduling is managed by the PLC.

5. The RIII PL Administrator will submit a schedule to ASA's State Administrator immediately to be incorporated into the State League schedule.

Article X. Districts

3:10:01 Definition of Districts

The Board of Directors of AYSA or the Executive Committee may create and/or modify geographical subdivisions within the state. These sub-divisions will be known as Districts.

3:10:02 Current Districts

There are currently five (5) Districts, comprised of the following counties:

1. North District: Blount, Cherokee, Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, Winston
2. North Central District Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Fayette, Jefferson, Lamar, Pickens, Randolph, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega, Tuscaloosa, Walker
3. South Central District Autauga, Bibb, Bullock, Chambers, Chilton, Coosa, Dallas, Elmore, Greene, Hale, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Montgomery, Perry, Russell, Tallapoosa
4. South District Barbour, Butler, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Pike, Sumter
5. South West District Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, Washington, Wilcox

Article XI. Membership

3:11:01 Member Fees

As established by the Board of ASA.

3:11:02 List of Officers & Directors

1. All Member Organizations must keep a list of their officers, directors, employees, etc. current with ASA. This list must be updated once per year at the time of affiliation or re-affiliation.
2. ASA will provide liability insurance for the officers and directors as shown in the above lists.

Article XII. Board of Directors, Executive Committee, & Employees

3:12:01 Duties of Officers

1. **President:** The President will conduct all meetings of the Board or the Executive Committee and will cast a vote only in case of a tie. The President will appoint at the beginning of each seasonal year, or as needed, and subject to the approval of the Board, the Standing Committees and /or the Committee Chairmen and members-at-Large. The President will serve as a member of such committees.
2. **First Vice-President:** In the absence of the President, the First Vice-President will preside at meetings of the Board or the Executive Committee. The First Vice-President will serve as Parliamentarian, chair the Discipline and Appeals Committee, serve as Board Representative to the State League Committee and serve on the Executive Management Committee.
3. **Second Vice-President:** In the absence of the President and the First Vice-President, the Second Vice- President will preside at the meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee. The Second Vice-President shall discharge other responsibilities as determined by the Board and will serve on the Executive Management Committee.
4. **Secretary:** The Secretary will keep an accurate record of all meetings, handle all correspondence, give notice of meetings, and chair the Credentials Committee.
5. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer will give a receipt for all monies, which will be deposited in a recognized bank in the name of ASA. All accounts will be paid by ASA check and will bear two (2) signatures which will be the Treasurer's and/or that of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, or Secretary. The receipt book and vouchers will be produced when required by the Board or Executive Committee, properly balanced according to the bankbook or statement, whichever is up to date. The Treasurer will be responsible also for the preparing of any and all papers pursuant to the Articles of Incorporation and Tax Exemption status of ASA. The Treasurer will be bondable by a reputable Bonding Agency and will serve on the Executive Management Committee.
6. **Registrar:** The Registrar will administer all rules and regulations pertaining to player registration guidelines as set forth by USYSA/USSF. He/she will maintain records and report on the number of player registrations, approve all player transfers, adds and drops, respond to all routine correspondence to the Association pertaining to registration matters and serve as the registrar for all ASA sponsored tournaments.

3:12:02 Duties of District Commissioners

1. The duties and authority of the District Commissioners will include the following:
 - (a) Be thoroughly familiar with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules & Regulations of ASA and the Insurance Programs (when appropriate) for youth soccer, so as to be in a position to

interpret it. Where uncertain of ASA position, the commissioner will obtain a ruling from the President of ASA.

- (b) Report, in writing, to the Board of ASA concerning progress, etc. in the commissioner's district prior to the AGM meeting each year.
 - (c) Be present at all meetings of ASA unless otherwise excused.
 - (d) Be present at the AGM meeting of all member organizations or leagues within the commissioner's district to advise, when requested, on the procedures for the election of member organization or league officers and the proper procedures for the administration of the member organization's or league's business.
 - (e) Verify with the Registrar of Member Organizations or Leagues within the District to insure that all teams are properly registered.
 - (f) Assist Cup Chairman and ODP Administrators in handling Cup Games, Select Team Games, and Inter-District Competitions in their district.
 - (g) Supervise public relations in the district in coordination with the Chairman of Public Relations/Sponsorship Committee.
 - (h) Promote adult interest in the youth soccer program and recruit desirable persons to assist in the development of the game.
2. The commissioner may appoint a representative to represent him/her at meetings of the Board in the event of their absence. The commissioner will submit a list of their assistants to the ASA office.

3:12:03 Duties of Standing Committees

1. Standing Committees may be added, combined, terminated, or have their duties modified by the President upon approval of the Board, by the Board, or the Executive Committee.
 - (a) Discipline and Appeals Committee: Will be responsible for considering and acting on appeals from decisions rendered by affiliated bodies or appeals referred to them by the Board of Directors of ASA. Developing an annual report for the Board to include suggestions for possible changes.
 - (b) State Tournaments (Division I, Division II and Governor's Cup): Will be responsible for establishing the rules and regulations for each of the state sponsored tournaments and cups consistent with the rules of USSF. The Board must approve all rules and regulations. Developing an annual report for the Board, this includes a detailed financial report and recommendations for possible changes.
 - (c) Olympic Develop (ODP) Administration: Will be responsible for supervising the financial aspects of all Olympic Development programs, including the scheduling of games, training camps, etc. Establishing, evaluating, and adopting the policies and procedures established by the National Olympic Development Committee. Establishing standards relating to fiscal, managerial, and other considerations to ensure integrity of the program. Maintaining records

of players participating in ODP. Developing an annual report for the Board, this includes a detailed financial report and recommendations for possible changes.

(d) **Publicity and Promotions Committee:** Will be responsible for seeking sponsorship for all or part of any ASA sponsored program that is identified by the Board. See that all ASA sponsored programs and/or events receive proper and adequate publicity. Be responsible for supplying needed information regarding the USYSA/ASA programs to developing areas in the State as it requested. Developing an annual report for the Board, this includes a detailed financial report and recommendations for possible changes.

(e) **Rules and Regulations Committee:** Will be responsible for reviewing all proposals involving any amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules & Regulations and give due and careful consideration to it before submitting said proposals to the Board with their recommendations. Ensuring that each applicant for membership submits copies of their constitution, bylaws, and rules & regulations for approval. Any subsequent changes, additions, or amendments must be submitted to the Rules and Regulations Committee. Examining all applications for membership in the Association and making recommendations to the Board. Also, ensuring that all Constitutions, Bylaws, and Rules & Regulations of submitting organizations abide by the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules & Regulations of ASA. Developing an annual report for the Board, this includes recommendations for possible changes.

2. The State League Operating Committee may be responsible for one or more of these committee divisions as determined by the President and/or the Board.

3:12:04 Duties of the Office Manager

As established by the Board of ASA

3:12:05 Duties of Executive Secretary

As established by the Board of ASA.

3:12:06 Duties of Coaching Director

As established by the Board of ASA.

3:12:07 Operations of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee

1. Ex-Officio members may be appointed to the Board of Directors or any committee by the President and may meet with the Board or Committee as the President determines. These Ex-Officio members will not have a vote but may enter into discussions.
2. President will appoint tellers for each election.
3. The Board of Directors or the Executive Committee will have the right and the authority to suspend, bar completely, fine, or otherwise discipline any player, coach, assistant coach, team

manager, team assistant, parent, spectator, club, league, member organization, or other organization.

4. The Board of ASA or the Executive Committee will:
 - (a) Interpret and enforce the Constitution, Bylaws, and the Rules & Regulations;
 - (b) Approve registered teams and affiliated leagues;
 - (c) Approve all International Youth Games with registered teams and /or select teams;
 - (d) Approve any Inter-State play;
 - (e) Approve the formation and operation of all Youth Cup Games, Governor's Cup Games, Mickey Holmes Cup, American Festival or Games, or the State League;
 - (f) From time to time make temporary rules or regulations for specific cases or occasions not provided for in the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules & Regulations, but which are deemed necessary to carry out the objectives of ASA;
 - (g) Review and approve the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Rules & Regulations of leagues and member organizations to insure that they are consistent with the ASA Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules & Regulations.

Article XIII. Miscellaneous

3:13:01 Senior Trial Games

1. A youth player shall be permitted to play an unlimited number of amateur (adult) games with USASA affiliated teams without losing youth eligibility, providing that the youth player:
 - (a) obtains written permission from his or her youth coach or team representative;
 - (b) receives written eligibility clearance from ASA.
2. ASSA or another appropriate USSF affiliate has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play amateur games and is responsible for establishing the procedures under which amateur game participation is implemented.
3. If there is a conflict between an amateur (adult) game and a youth game, the youth game shall take precedence.
4. Any player who has signed a "letter of intent" or a professional contract or who has played in a game with professional players or a professional team, without prior written approval of the ASA Board of Directors, shall lose all privileges of youth amateur status. A request for reinstatement shall be considered by the ASA Board of Directors.
5. Youth Team Playing in Adult League: A youth team, with the written permission and mutual consent of both the youth and Amateur National State Association, may play in an amateur sanctioned league and not lose its eligibility to compete in National Youth competitions. If the youth team's players are required to sign an amateur form, the team shall retain its youth eligibility. The youth team will be required to play under the rules of ASA concerning registration, roster rules, transfer rules and any additional rules needed for eligibility for the National Youth competition. The ASA US Youth National Championship committee will decide whether a youth team's playing in an amateur league disqualifies the youth team from entering the US Youth National Championship, on a team-by-team basis.

3:13:02 Playing With Professional Players

1. Any player signing a Letter of Intent, a professional contract, or playing with a professional team without the permission of the Board of Directors of ASA will be declared a professional player and will lose all privileges of youth amateur status.
2. The Board of Directors of ASA may grant youth amateur player's permission to play in benefit or exhibition games only, where professional players are involved. This permission must be requested in writing.

3:13:03 Alcoholic Beverage, Drug and Weapon Prohibition

1. ALCOHOL & DRUG PROHIBITION: The possession, consumption or use of any alcoholic beverage, drug of abuse, or controlled substance at the field area by any player, coach, referee,

team official or spectator prior to, during or after the playing of any ASA activity is prohibited.

2. **WEAPON PROHIBITION:** The possession or use of any weapon at the field area by any player, coach, referee, team official or spectator prior to, during or after the playing of any ASA activity is prohibited.
3. Any individual associated with AYSA who violates these prohibitions shall be subject to disciplinary action by ASA. The disciplinary action may include fines, suspensions, or other penalties as determined by the ASA Disciplinary and Appeals Committee.

3:13:04 Matters Not Provided For

Any matters not provided for in these rules will be determined by the Board of Directors of ASA or the Executive Committee of ASA.

3:13:05 Amendments

1. The ASA office will maintain the official set of the Rules & Regulations for ASA.
2. These Rules and Regulations may be changed or amended by a majority vote of a properly constituted meeting of the General Membership, Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee of ASA.
3. Any changes will be communicated to all member organizations and members of the Board of Directors.

Article XIV. Kidsafe Program

3:14:01 General

Alabama Soccer Association has adopted a Kidsafe program. This program is designed to promote the welfare of youth players and to protect coaches, program administrators and the organization. It is the intent of USYSA and its affiliated organizations to exclude from participation in ASA activities all persons who have been convicted of crimes of violence or crimes against persons. Further, it is the intent of ASA to exclude any one convicted of any other violation of the law that the ASA Risk Management Committee deems detrimental to the health and safety of the players. ASA strongly encourages every affiliate to appoint a Risk Management Coordinator for their organization. All background checks are done on-line at the time each person is assigned to a team roster by a club registrar.

3:14:02 Administrators

1. Every person wishing to apply for a position as a program administrator with Alabama Soccer Association or an affiliate must register with their respective club and complete the on-line registration and background check. Program administrators include state, district, league and club officers, and program directors, team managers, and athletic/medical trainers.. A US Youth Soccer Member pass will not be issued until their completed background check has cleared.
2. Procedures
 - (a) The State Risk Management Coordinator will review the statement.
 - (b) If the statement yields a problem area for the individual, the State Risk Management Coordinator will contact the individual for additional information and a background check will be performed.
 - (c) If the check yields a problem area for the individual, the State Risk Management Coordinator will contact the individual for additional information as it pertains to the evaluation criteria listed below.
 - (d) If an individual is suspended, the State Risk Management Coordinator must inform the individual and the president of the club, league or affiliate suspension has been imposed. The State Risk Management Coordinator shall also notify US YOUTH SOCCER of the suspension for inclusion on the US YOUTH SOCCER Disciplinary and Risk Management Action Report.
 - (e) If an individual is suspended he/she will be given information about their appeal rights and procedures.

3:14:03 Team Roster Personnel

Director of Coaching, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Trainers and Team Managers

1. Every person wishing to be placed on a roster with the Alabama Soccer Association or an affiliate must consent to a background check. Personnel covered include directors of coaching, head coaches, assistant coaches, team trainers and managers. A background check will be performed every two years. A U.S. Youth Soccer Member Pass will not be issued to an individual until this check has been performed and results are satisfactory. In the event that the result is returned with an unsatisfactory result, the club president and affected individual will be informed.
2. Procedures
 - (a) Director of Coaching, Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers must register with their respective club and complete the on-line registration and background check.
 - (b) If the check yields a problem area for the individual, the State Risk Management Coordinator will contact the individual for additional information as it pertains to the evaluation criteria listed below.
 - (c) If an individual is suspended, the State Risk Management Coordinator must inform the individual and the president of the club, league or affiliate suspension has been imposed. The State Risk Management Coordinator shall also notify US YOUTH SOCCER of the suspension for inclusion on the US YOUTH SOCCER Disciplinary and Risk Management Action Report.
 - (d) If an individual is suspended he/she will be given information about their appeal rights and procedures.

3:14:04 Responsibilities

1. State Risk Management Coordinator
 - (a) Ensure all disclosure forms are received, filed, and kept confidential.
 - (b) Ensure all background checks are completed.
 - (c) Investigate any complaints of abuse and report any findings to their Club/Associations President, if action if needed.
 - (d) Ensure that all matters involving a disqualification shall be kept on file for a minimum of three (3) years.
 - (e) Distribute on a periodic basis appropriate education material regarding the ASA Risk Management Program.
2. ASA Director of Coaching
 - (a) Ensure all ASA ODP coaches complete the online background check form.

- (b) Ensure ODP Administrators comply with the Risk Management Requirements.
- (c) Serve as a liaison to the state Risk Management Coordinator for the ODP coaches and administrators.

3:14:05 Evaluation Criteria

1. Some of the factors considered for denial of certification include:
 - (a) The number and nature of the offense(s);
 - (b) Age of the offense or sentence;
 - (c) Age of the offender at the time of the offense(s)
 - (d) Rehabilitative achievements of the offender which indicates that the behavior is unlikely to reoccur;
 - (e) A conviction, or a defendant in litigation in which the allegations are that the person has committed a felony, a crime of violence, or a criminal offense against a child;
 - (f) Any other factor that Alabama Soccer Association Risk Management Coordinator may deem appropriate.
2. ASA's Risk Manager or designee shall conduct a review before allowing membership to any individual who has been disqualified or otherwise disciplined by another State Association for violation of its Risk Management policies. The review shall be limited to whether the conduct giving rise to the Risk Management action taken by the other State Association constitutes a violation of ASA's Risk Management policies.

3:14:06 Suspension because of Litigation (Bylaw 252):

1. Any person participating in an ASA program who becomes a defendant in litigation detrimental to the welfare of youth players or litigation based on activities detrimental to the welfare of youth players, shall be suspended from all soccer-related activities. This suspension shall be determined by ASA's Risk Manager. Matters detrimental to the welfare of youth players shall include but not be limited to crimes of moral turpitude and felonies. The person has a right to appeal the suspension only over whether the matter which is the substance of the accusation, if true, is detrimental to the welfare of youth players.
2. On completion of the litigation, the suspended person may inform Risk Manager or designee that the litigation has been completed and request that the suspension be terminated and the person reinstated. The suspending body may grant the request of the person or, if the decision of the litigation was adverse to the person, may continue the suspension for a period specified by the suspending body, fine the person, terminate all membership of that person with the suspending body and its members, or any combination of those authorized penalties.

3:14:07 Appeal Procedure

1. Any aggrieved party may appeal any adverse decision by following these procedures. No state association, District Commissioner, Official, League, Member Organization, team, referee, Player, Parent, or Representative thereof, may invoke the aid of the courts of any State of the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within the body of organized soccer (i.e. State Soccer Association).
2. Appeals are to be in writing and delivered to the Risk Management Coordinator within seven (7) calendar days (Sundays and Holidays excluded) following the date of the decision being appealed.
3. The proper fee must accompany the written appeal:
 - (a) The appeal fee (See AYSA approved fee schedule)
 - (b) The appeal fee will be returned if the aggrieved party is successful on its appeal.
4. The Risk Management Coordinator will forward all pertinent information on the appeal to the Risk Management Appeals Committee (ASA President, ASA Vice President Youth, and ASA Director of Coaching, ASA State Referee Administrator and the President of the affected club).
 - (a) A meeting must be convened within forty-five (45) days of receipt of appeal.
 - (b) The decision of the Risk Management Appeal Committee of ASA will be conveyed, in writing, to the individual initiating the appeal and a copy of the decision along with all pertinent information and findings will be filed with ASA. This must be done within fifteen (15) days of appeal committee meeting.
 - (c) The decision of the Risk Management Appeals Committee is presumed to be correct. The burden of proof applicable to this review is substantial evidence. The appealing party must prove by substantial evidence that the suspension is incorrect. Substantial evidence is defined as "evidence of such weight and quality that fair-minded persons in the exercise of impartial judgment can reasonably infer the existence of the fact sought to be proved".

3:14:08 Abuse Complaint Procedure

1. The following procedure should be followed to report individuals who may have abused their authority.
 - (a) Complaints against individuals who are alleged to have abused their authority by committing sexual and/or physical abuse are to be reported to the local club/league President and/or the local Risk Management Coordinator.
 - (b) Upon receipt of a complaint, the local Risk Management Coordinator will inform the state Risk Management Coordinator of the complaint and request a background check be conducted if there has not been one obtained within the last 12 months.
 - (c) If an abuse charge is formally lodged against an individual, the said individual may be suspended until the case is resolved (USSF/USYSA Rule 252). At this point the local Risk

Management Coordinator must inform the individual of their status and right in writing.

- (d) Each complaint will be reviewed by the local Risk Management Coordinator to determine the appropriate action.
 - (e) Upon reaching a decision, the individual must be informed and provided information on the appeal process in writing.
 - (f) The state Risk Management Coordinator must be informed in writing as of the action taken on the complaint.
3. In the event your club/league does not have a Risk Coordinator, complaints should be sent to the state Risk Management Coordinator at the following address.

Risk Management Coordinator
Alabama Youth Soccer Association
4678 Valleydale Road Suite 200
Birmingham, AL 35242
Phone: 205-991-9779

Should there be any conflict between AYSA Fee Schedule and any fees posted in these rules, the AYSA Fee Schedule shall take precedence.

Appendix A. Definition of Terms

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (FIFA) - The world governing organization for soccer, headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland is the highest authority for administration of international playing rules, international competitions, and technical and educational development programs. FIFA is sub-administered through six continental associations; Africa, Asia, CONCACAF (North America, Central America and Caribbean), Europe, Oceania and South America.

UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION (U S Soccer) (U S Soccer Federation) (USSF) - The national governing organization for soccer in the United States, headquartered in Chicago, Ill. U S Soccer is affiliated with FIFA and is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee.

UNITED STATES AMATEUR SOCCER ASSOCIATION (USASA) - A National Association of the Federation and a member of the Adult Council, headquartered in North Bergen, NJ.

ALABAMA STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION (ASSA) - The organization that is the State Association Member of the Federation for the Adults in Alabama and is also a member of USASA.

UNITED STATES YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION - (US Youth Soccer) (USYSA) - A National Association of the Federation and a member of the Youth Council, headquartered in Richardson, TX.

ALABAMA SOCCER ASSOCIATION (ASA) - The state association for the Youth Soccer, Amateur Soccer, and the USSF Soccer Referees in Alabama.

ALABAMA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (AYSA) - A division of ASA which administers the Alabama youth soccer programs.

ADULT (SENIOR) SOCCER - All programs, events, competitions, clubs, associations, etc. for players whose age exceeds the limits for youth soccer.

AFFILIATION - The process of associating as members of the successive associations administering soccer programs for U S Soccer, USASA, and/or USYSA. The Alabama affiliates of U S Soccer (ASSA and ASA) are responsible for governing all affiliated soccer programs in the state and for collecting and forwarding national registration fees for all players registered with the leagues/clubs/teams under their jurisdiction.

AGE DIVISION - U S Soccer's method of organizing competition by grouping players by their birth date. The youngest age division in which a team may play is determined by the age of the oldest player on the team as of August 1 of the previous seasonal year.

ASSOCIATION/CLUB - The basic organization for the administration of youth soccer programs and for the registration and development of players and teams in Alabama.

COED TEAM - A coed team shall be considered a male team for placement in any league or other sanctioned competition.

COACH OF RECORD - must be head coach, assistant. Director of Coaching, and/or manager, designated on the team's official state roster.

DISTRICT - Geographical area established to administer league play.

HOME TEAM - First team listed on schedule.

INTER CLUB - adding a player from another club.

INTRA CLUB - adding a player from within the same club.

LEAGUE - A structured group formed to provide play between teams under a common set of administrative and competitive rules.

LEAGUE, INTRAMURAL (Division IV) - A league composed solely of developmental teams.

LEAGUE, INTER-CLUB (Division III) - A league formed each season as needed, composed of developmental teams from 2 or more clubs.

LEAGUE, STATE - A league composed of competitive teams. The league is divided into divisions known as Division I, Division II.

PARTICIPANT - Any player, coach, manager, or any other person associated with a team.

RECRUITING - The process of attracting players to join a team.

RECRUITING, IMPROPER (Poaching) - Any attempt to attract players to join a team using any method, which violates AYSA recruitment rules.

REFEREE & OFFICIALS DEFINITIONS: 'Referee' shall refer only to referees, linesmen, fourth officials, and others duly appointed to assist in officiating a match. 'Officials' shall refer to all officers, employees or appointees of AYSA/USYSA/USSF or affiliated organizations as well as all volunteers working in an official capacity within these organizations and all visiting dignitaries at a sanctioned event.

ROSTER FREEZE DATE - date as defined by ASA Board each season after which no player changes may be made to any team roster regardless of division.

SANCTION - The authorization extended by USSF or one of its affiliates to conduct an official competition and/or travel out of state and/or out of country.

SEASON, LEAGUE - The period of time designated for scheduled competitions of a league.

SEASONAL YEAR - Established by U S Soccer, it extends from September 1 of a given calendar year through August 31 of the following calendar year.

SMALL SIDED GAME - A game where each team is limited to fewer than 11 players.

STATE SELECT or ODP - A program developed and administered by U S Soccer and its affiliates to identify and develop players for participation on state, regional and national teams.

SPECTATOR - Any person present at a youth soccer event who is not a participant or official. Spectators are subject to all AYSA Rules and Procedures applicable to participants.

TEAM COMPETITIVE - A team composed of players selected by a tryout process. Its members may or may not be from a defined geographic area. The team plays in state league.

TEAM, COED - A team composed of male and female players.

TEAM, DEVELOPMENTAL - A team composed of players not selected by a tryout process. Generally formed within defined geographical (neighborhood) areas. Emphasis is on participation by all players and on mini soccer or other small-sided games for younger players. Except for special circumstances, such as disciplinary matters or illness, each member of a team plays at least 50% of each game.

TEAM, RETURNING - A U-13 team and above which returns more than 50% of players within the same club from the previous year's roster.

TEAM, NEW - A team which did not exist the previous year or a U-13 team and above that returns less than 50% of players within the same club from the previous year's roster. For U11 and U12 teams that return less than 8 returning players within the same club from the previous year's roster.

UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (USOC) - The national governing body for selecting and developing Olympic athletes and teams for Olympic competitions.

YOUTH - The term 'youth' as applied to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules & Regulations will mean an amateur player who has not attained his/her nineteenth (19th) birthday prior to August 1 immediately preceding the start of any seasonal year. A player who reaches his/her nineteenth (19th) birthday on or after August 1st of the current seasonal year will be allowed to complete the seasonal year.

YOUTH SOCCER - All programs, events, competitions, clubs, associations, etc. for players who are under the age of 19 as of August 1 of the previous seasonal year.