



FYSA is affiliated with



# **Florida Youth Soccer Association**

## **BYLAWS & RULES**

**2023 - 2024**

# FYSA CODE OF ETHICS

This code of ethics has been developed to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of the sport of soccer.

## Players

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at all times.
- I will remember that soccer is an opportunity to learn and have fun.
- I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol; and expect everyone to refrain from their use at all soccer games.
- I will do the best I can each day, remembering that all players have talents and weaknesses the same as I do.
- I will treat my coaches, other players and coaches, game officials, other administrators, and fans with respect at all times; regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I will concentrate on playing soccer. Always giving my best effort.
- I will play by the rules at all times.
- I will at all times control my temper, resisting the temptation of retaliation.
- I will always exercise self-control.
- My conduct during competition towards play of the game and all officials shall be in accordance with appropriate behavior and in accordance with FIFA's "Laws of the Game," and in adherence to FYSA rules.
- I will not engage in hate speech.
- While traveling, I shall conduct myself so as to bring credit to myself and my team.
- I shall not possess, consume or distribute before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or unauthorized prescription drugs.
- I will never use abusive or insulting language. I will treat everyone with dignity.

## Coaches/Volunteers

- I will never place the value of winning before the safety and welfare of all players.
- I will always show respect for players, other coaches, and game officials.
- I will lead by example, demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship at all times.
- I will demonstrate knowledge of the rules of the game and teach these rules to my players.
- I will never use abusive or insulting language. I will treat everyone with dignity.
- I will not tolerate inappropriate behavior, regardless of the situation.
- I will not allow the use of anabolic agents or stimulants, drugs, tobacco, or alcohol by any of my players.
- I will never knowingly jeopardize the eligibility and participation of a student-athlete.
- Youth have a greater need for example than criticism. I will be the primary soccer role model.
- I will at all times conduct myself in a positive manner.
- Coaching is motivating players to produce their best effort, inspiring players to learn, and encouraging players to be winners.
- My actions on sidelines during games shall be in the spirit of "good sportsmanship" at all times. Profanity, profane gestures, arguing, inciting disruptive behavior by spectators and/or players, or any conduct not in the spirit of good sportsmanship, shall require disciplinary action from the affiliate.

- I will not engage in hate speech.
- I shall not possess, consume or distribute before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or unauthorized prescription drugs.
- I will refrain from any activity or conduct that may be detrimental or reflect adversely upon FYSA, its members or its programs.
- I will accurately and completely complete the coach/volunteer application form and by application attest to the accuracy of the information submitted.

### *Parents/Spectators*

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, game officials, and administrators at all times.
- I will place the emotional and physical wellbeing of all players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will support the coaches, officials, and administrators working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- I will remember that the game is for the players, not for the adults.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, game officials, administrators, and fans with respect.
- I will always be positive.
- I will always allow the coach to be the only coach.
- I will not get into arguments with the opposing team's parents, players, or coaches.
- I will not come onto the field for any reason during the game.
- I will not criticize game officials.
- I shall not possess, consume or distribute before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or unauthorized prescription drugs.
- I will refrain from any activity or conduct that may be detrimental or reflect adversely upon FYSA, its members or its programs.
- I will not engage in hate speech.

Failure to comply with any part of the above Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA) Code of Ethics may result in ethics charges being filed and may result in suspension from participation in FYSA sanctioned events, for the following periods:

**1<sup>st</sup> offense -- suspension for a minimum of thirty (30) days to a maximum of five (5) years.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> offense -- suspension for a minimum of one (1) year to a maximum of ten (10) years.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> offense -- suspension for a minimum of five (5) years to a maximum of fifty (50) years.**

**NOTE: Allegations of a violation of the FYSA Code of Ethics shall afford the individual due process as defined in FYSA's Rule Section 600 before the implementation of any suspension. Suspensions arising from Code of Ethics violations are to be imposed from the decision of the hearing panel, not retroactive.**

**Code of Ethics violations are separate and apart from game suspensions assessed by the referee for caution, ejection/send off, or post-game reports.**

# ABBREVIATIONS

Please note the following are abbreviations as defined and used in this document:

- ADA Americans with Disability Act
- AGM FYSA Annual General Meeting
- ARA Area Referee Administrator
- BOD Board of Directors of FYSA
- COE FYSA Code of Ethics
- COS Change of Status
- DOB Date of Birth
- DRA District Referee Administrator
- ED Executive Director
- FIFA Federation Internationale de Football
- FSR Florida State Referees
- FYSA Florida Youth Soccer Association
- NGS Not in Good Standing
- RB Regional Boards of FYSA
- RC Regional Commissioner of FYSA
- RMC Risk Management Committee
- RVP Regional Vice President of FYSA
- SRA State Referee Administrator
- SYRA State Youth Referee Administrator
- USSF United States Soccer Federation
- USYS US Youth Soccer

# FYSA Bylaws

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# **1. ASSOCIATION IDENTIFICATION AND AFFILIATION**

## **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

The Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA, hereafter) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida. This organization's purpose is to develop and implement a statewide youth soccer program education and training as well as provide oversight, administration, and assistance to its soccer affiliates.

## **1.2 COLORS**

The colors of FYSA shall be red, white, and blue and they will be used in all official emblems or other insignia used to promote or identify FYSA.

## **1.3 MEMBERSHIP**

In keeping with its purpose to provide overall guidance and leadership for the advancement of youth soccer, FYSA shall offer membership to those clubs, leagues, and organizations interested in the responsibility for the administration of programs and services.

Membership in FYSA and its affiliate members shall be open to soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials not subject to suspension. FYSA shall follow the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYS, hereafter) membership rules, USYS Bylaw Article IV Section 1. Any suspension imposed by USYS or the United States Soccer Federation (USSF, hereafter), including but not limited to USSF Bylaw 241, will apply in full force to membership in FYSA. FYSA will not discriminate based on race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin in granting membership.

Any acceptance of membership in FYSA is an agreement to comply with all FYSA bylaws, rules and policies that may now be in effect or may be instituted in the future.

### **1.3.1 MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

FYSA shall have the following membership categories:

- A. **Affiliate:** Affiliates are member organizations of FYSA who are domiciled and operating within the legal boundaries of the State of Florida. Only soccer clubs or associations that directly register players and coaches, form teams, and coordinate competition between teams are eligible. A full affiliate shall be defined as either a recreational affiliate or a full affiliate. A recreational affiliate may NOT register competitive players or develop a competitive program.
- B. **Associate:** To qualify for associate membership, an organization shall be formed to advance a particular aspect of soccer to develop or implement programs, or both, but are not responsible for recruiting, training, fielding, and registering of players and coaches. Associate affiliates shall be defined as either a league whose sole purpose is to facilitate inter-affiliate competitions or a tournament hosting organization.
- C. **Individual Member:** An individual member of FYSA is:
  1. An elected officer or member of the board of directors,
  2. A member of the FYSA Hall of Fame,
  3. A Past President of FYSA,
  4. An individual who occupies an unpaid administrative position within FYSA, or
  5. A committee member of FYSA.

Affiliate and Associate Affiliate membership and registration requirements shall be enumerated within the rules.



### **1.3.2 PROHIBITION ON TRANSFERRING MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in FYSA is not transferable. Membership terminates when FYSA dissolves, the affiliated member dissolves or the individual or sustaining member dies or dissolves.

### **1.4 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

The official offices of FYSA shall be located in Central Florida as designated by the BOD. The official records of FYSA shall be maintained at the State office of FYSA.

### **1.5 NATIONAL AFFILIATION**

FYSA is an affiliate of USSF and USYS. This affiliation is based on the shared goal of promoting youth soccer in the United States. The bylaws, rules, decisions, and policies of USSF and USYS supersede the governing documents and decisions of FYSA. FYSA and its members will comply with the bylaws, rules, decisions, and policies of USSF and USYS.

#### **1.5.1 NATIONAL REGISTRATION**

FYSA shall register all of its players, coaches, teams, and administrators with USSF at least once each year and pay all dues and fees to USSF in a timely manner.

### **1.6 RULES OF PLAY**

The rules of play shall be the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA, hereafter) “Laws of the Game,” except as specifically modified in the FYSA Rules. FYSA competitions shall comply with all rules mandated by USYS and USSF. Recommended rules of play from USYS and USSF shall be adopted in the FYSA rules by majority votes of affiliates. Any changes in the rules of play take effect in the next seasonal year.

### **1.7 PLAYER/COACH/VOLUNTEER DATA**

Player, coach, and volunteer data are the property of FYSA. The sole purpose of this information is to assist FYSA in accomplishing its goals and objectives leading to the advancement of youth soccer and is not for personal gain.

## **2. ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS**

### **2.1 ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF FYSA**

FYSA is an incorporated, non-profit association in the State of Florida and shall be governed by its Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules, under the leadership of a BOD, pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida and the United States.

### **2.2 ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY**

The administrative authority to represent and conduct the business of FYSA is vested in the BOD. The BOD is responsible for implementation of policies and procedures and shall delegate to its Officers, day to day management of the Association.

### **2.3 OFFICERS**

The administrative organization of FYSA shall be identified as that of a BOD. All Officers shall be elected at the AGM by an open and democratic election process. RCs shall be elected at the local level by an open and democratic election process.

### **2.4 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

The Administrative Officers of FYSA are the President, Vice President of Player/Coaching Development, Secretary, and Treasurer.

## **2.5 TERM OF OFFICE (ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS)**

1. President: The term of office shall be two (2) years. Elections will be held in the "even" year at the AGM. The President may not serve more than four (4) fully elected consecutive terms.
2. Vice President of Player/Coaching Development. The term of office shall be two (2) years. Elections will be held in the "odd" year at the AGM. The Vice President of Player/Coaching Development may not serve more than four (4) fully elected consecutive terms.
3. Secretary: The term of office shall be two (2) years. Elections will be held in the "odd" year at the AGM. The Secretary may not serve more than four (4) fully elected consecutive terms.
4. Treasurer: The term of office shall be two (2) years. Elections will be held in the "even" year at the AGM. The Treasurer may not serve more than four (4) fully elected consecutive terms.

## **3. OFFICERS, TERMS OF OFFICE AND AUTHORITY**

### **3.1 BOD**

The BOD shall be established and composed of the President, Vice President of Player/Coaching Development, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Region Vice-Presidents, Vice President of Administration and Communication, Vice President of Competition and the two (2) elected RC's from each Region. The terms of office for members of the BOD shall be two (2) years, elected at the AGM and assuming the position at the close of business. This shall be accomplished by alternating election years as established within the Rules 3009.

### **3.2 AUTHORITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

Of the BOD, the following officers, President, Vice President of Player/Coaching Development, Secretary, and Treasurer will have sole authority for the following:

- A. Any two (2) of the above must sign any bank drafts of the Association.
- B. Any two (2) of the above are required for any binding contract, agreement, partnership or sponsorship upon FYSA, with the exception of those listed in Rule 3012.2 and the FYSA Financial Policy.

### **3.3 POLICY STATEMENT ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In order for FYSA to complete its mission(s) in the education, administration, and development of soccer in addition to public service with unquestionable credibility, it is mandatory that its elected and appointed officers, office staff, state staff coaches, designated committee or task force chairpersons, and consultants ("Officers and Staff") maintain the highest levels of integrity and credibility in the performance of their duties and responsibilities. Therefore, it is the purpose of this policy to ensure integrity and objectivity and to provide an understanding and awareness of conflicts of interests, whether real or perceived. An FYSA BOD member shall be considered to have a conflict of interest if (a) such BOD member has existing or potential financial or other interests which impair or might reasonably appear to impair such BOD member's independent, unbiased judgment in the discharge of his/her responsibilities to FYSA, or (b) such BOD member is aware that a member of his/her family (which for purposes of this paragraph shall be a spouse, parents, sibling, children and any other relative) or any organization in which such BOD Member (or member of his/her family) is an officer, director, employee, member, partner, BOD member, or controlling stockholder, has such existing or potential financial or other interests. All BOD members shall disclose to the Board any possible conflict of interest at the earliest practicable time. No BOD member shall vote on any matter under consideration at a Board or committee meeting, in which such BOD member has a conflict of interest. The minutes of such meeting shall reflect that a disclosure was made and that the BOD member having a conflict of interest abstained from voting. Any BOD member who is uncertain whether a conflict of interest may exist in any matter may request the Board or committee to resolve the questions by majority vote.

#### **4. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

##### **4.1 PRESIDENT**

The President is the Chief Operating Officer. The President:

1. Conducts all meetings of the BOD.
2. Serves on Committees as ex-officio member.
3. Gives opening remarks at AGM.
4. Serves as liaison between FYSA and all other soccer organizations.
5. Represents FYSA at all National Meetings or send a designee from the BOD if needed.
6. Should attend FYSA sponsored tournaments.

NOTE: The immediate two (2) Past-Presidents shall remain ex-officio members of the BOD.

##### **4.2 VICE PRESIDENT PLAYER/COACHING DEVELOPMENT**

The V.P. Player/Coaching Development:

1. Has programmatic authority for the operation and management of all programs and services related to the development of players and coaches.
2. Provides oversight of the Olympic Development Program and Coaching Education.
3. Oversees the programs, serves as a member of Committees and recommends to the President the chair of that committee of the following Committees:
  - TOPSoccer
  - Recreational
  - Tournament and Travel.
4. Should attend FYSA state sponsored tournaments.

##### **4.3 SECRETARY**

The Secretary:

1. Records and reports on all official actions of FYSA to be maintained at the FYSA State Office.
2. Is the recipient of such mail in voting as prescribed in the Bylaws and the Rules.
3. Serves as Chairperson of the Personnel and Credentials Committee.
4. Receives, sends, and reports correspondence pertaining to the business of FYSA and as directed by the BOD.
5. Should attend FYSA state sponsored tournaments.

##### **4.4 TREASURER**

The Treasurer:

1. Oversees the maintenance of all records and receipts on all funds received, obligated, and expended or held in trust or savings deposit.
2. Reports on the financial status of FYSA as specified in the Rules.
3. Serves as Chairperson of the Budget Committee.
4. Compiles an annual proposed budget, in conjunction with the Budget Committee, for presentation at the AGM.
5. Submits financial procedures and recommends policies in accordance with the Bylaws and Rules of FYSA.
6. Should attend FYSA state sponsored tournaments.

#### **5. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOD**

The term of office, duties and responsibilities of the BOD, are further enumerated within the Rules (3000). They shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Interpret and enforce the FYSA Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules.
2. Reprimand, suspend, bar completely or otherwise discipline any player, coach, team manager, assistant, referee or any affiliated club or league for violation of the FYSA Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and

Rules.

3. Review all new prospective affiliate applications.
4. Budget for and administer the funds of FYSA within the established Rules.
5. Review, approve, and require amendments to the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules to assure conformity to and with FYSA requirements.
6. Approve inter-district, region, inter-state and foreign youth games between and among member or select teams.
7. Review and sanction the formation and operation of youth tournaments or cup competitions within the jurisdiction of FYSA.
8. Create new/or redefine Regions as deemed necessary to the continued administrative and programmatic oversight and growth of FYSA.
9. Adopt temporary Rules for circumstances not provided for by the existing Rules and to address those issues deemed necessary and desirable in serving the best interest of FYSA.
10. Employ and supervise the Executive Director his/her function, along with other salaried persons employed by FYSA.
11. Appoint an SYRA in cooperation with the SRA.
12. Affirm nomination of SRA.
13. Affirm FYSA's representatives on the State Referee Committee

## **6. ABSENCE/REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

### **6.1 ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT**

In the event of the absence of the President as the presiding officer at any meeting, the Vice President of Player/Coaching Development shall assume the duties of the President.

In the absence of the President or Vice President of Player/Coaching Development, the Vice President of Administration and Communication, Secretary followed by the Treasurer shall conduct the business of FYSA.

### **6.2 ADVERSE CONDUCT OF OFFICERS**

The Officers of FYSA shall adhere to the highest levels of moral and personal conduct both in the performance of their duties and/or actions which reflect upon or represent the Association. Allegations of misconduct shall be submitted to the Committee on Review and Discipline for investigation. Upon completion of the investigation, the Committee will submit its findings and recommendations to the BOD for action pursuant to Bylaw 6.3.

### **6.3 IMPEACHMENT/RESIGNATION/EXPULSIONS (REMOVAL)**

Any officer or any other member of this organization may resign from their position or from this organization, upon either their own initiative or upon written request from the BOD. Any officer or member may be removed from office, disciplined, or expelled from this organization in the manner outlined below. In the case of an officer of FYSA, this shall be the only procedure permitted for removal or suspension from office, or imposition of any kind relating to their position as an officer; any rule conflicting with this section shall be null and void to the extent of the conflict. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit normal discipline of any officer in their capacity as coach, player, spectator or referee, except that any such discipline imposed in their capacity as a player, coach, spectator or referee shall not affect their ability to participate as an officer.

1. Three-fourths (3/4) vote of all members of the BOD.
2. At regular or special called meetings held for the express purpose of removing/expelling any Officer or member for conduct unbecoming or prejudicial to the stated aims/purposes of this Corporation.
3. Notice of any Board meeting at which such an item shall be on the agenda must be sent by first class mail, priority mail, or email not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date set for such meeting. Certificates of mailing shall be obtained by the person mailing such notice and made available for inspection by any member of the BOD. Said certificates shall be retained in the State office for a period of one (1) year after said meeting. The notice of the meeting shall contain all of the charges of

misconduct lodged against the person charged.

4. Any Officer who is impeached, resigns, or otherwise becomes unable to perform his/her duties on a permanent basis shall be replaced according to this section of the Bylaws and Rules Section 3011.
5. At any meeting under this section, the accused member shall be permitted to present such evidence and witnesses in defense of the charges as they deem appropriate and shall have the right to be present during any proceedings except the deliberations.
6. At any meeting under this section, the punishment imposed may be any sanction, up to and including removal from office.

#### **6.4 UPON REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

Any officer who for sufficient cause shall be removed from office, shall immediately vacate that office. The person so removed shall have access to the process of Protest and Appeal to the BOD.

### **7. STATE, REGIONAL MEETINGS**

#### **7.1 MEETINGS**

FYSA shall hold such State and Regional meetings as are necessary to the timely conduct of its business at all levels of Association activities in support of the advancement of soccer.

##### **7.1.1 AGM**

FYSA shall convene an AGM for the purpose of an annual report on the status of the activities of the Association, election of Officers and such other agenda items determined necessary to the conduct of its business and according to the following:

1. The President, with the concurrence of the BOD, shall call for an AGM to be held no later than August 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. Notification of the time and place of the meeting shall be provided to all affiliated clubs and leagues at least ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled date of the AGM.
3. Actions and policies adopted by the BOD and all proposed changes in the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations shall be reported to its membership, or their authorized representatives, at least once each year at the AGM, with notice and agenda of the meeting at least thirty-(30) days in advance of the AGM. Bylaws and Rules and shall be provided to the membership for review at least thirty (30) days prior to their consideration at the AGM.
4. Provision shall be made to assure that those Affiliates choosing to cast their votes by absentee ballot have access and instructions to a system to so cast their votes.
5. The Credentials Committee shall be the final authority on the votes that an Affiliate is eligible to cast.
6. Procedures for casting absentee votes by a designated representative or through the FYSA Secretary shall be outlined in the Bylaws.
7. The order of business for the AGM shall provide for such reports and general business as determined necessary to the conduct of business.
8. FYSA shall provide to the Secretary General of the Federation an annual report on the activities of the Association and the most current annual financial statements within 90 days after the start of the Federation's seasonal year.
9. FYSA will (A) provide copies of its constitution, bylaws, rules, and other governing documents, (B) submit changes to the above for approval not later than 90 days after adoption, to the Federation, and (C) annually make copies of those documents available to its members.

##### **7.1.2 REGIONAL MEETINGS**

Regional Vice-Presidents shall provide meetings of Affiliates as defined within the position descriptions of their offices.

##### **7.1.3 MEETINGS OF THE REGIONAL BOARD (RB)**

The RB shall meet a minimum of four (4) times a year, at least two weeks prior to scheduled BOD meetings. Telephonic conference calls shall be an acceptable meeting format. Voting by proxy is not permitted at this meeting.

#### **7.1.4 MEETINGS OF THE BOD**

The BOD shall meet a minimum of four (4) times a year. One of the four (4) meetings may be at the AGM. Telephonic conference calls shall be an acceptable meeting format. Voting by proxy is not permitted at this meeting.

#### **7.1.5 SPECIAL CALLED MEETINGS**

The President may call for special meetings of the BOD at his/her discretion. Special called meetings may also be convened by written request of a minimum of three (3) BOD members. In the event of a special called meeting, the President may limit the agenda for the purpose of addressing specific items. Voting by proxy is permitted in accordance with Bylaw 8.6.

### **7.2 QUORUM**

#### **7.2.1 CONDUCTING BUSINESS**

A quorum must be present at the beginning and throughout a meeting for business to be conducted. Proxies shall be counted to constitute a quorum. As a point of order, should it be noted that a quorum no longer exists; the meeting may be recessed in order to obtain a quorum. If a quorum cannot be reestablished, the meeting shall be adjourned.

#### **7.2.2 SPECIFIC MEETING QUORUM REQUIREMENTS**

1. BOD Meeting: shall be a minimum of eleven (11) voting members present.
2. AGM: shall be a minimum of twenty-five (25) percent affiliated members present.

### **8. VOTING PROCEDURES - AGM, BOD, ETC.**

No member is entitled to more than one vote, even though he/she could claim participation in more than one of the below categories. Any other votes shall be removed from the total available votes.

#### **8.1 OFFICERS - ALL MEETINGS**

The Officers shall have one (1) vote.

#### **8.2 PAST PRESIDENTS – AGM ONLY**

Past Presidents shall be entitled to all privileges of this Association, excluding only the right to vote, with the exception of the immediate Past President, present at any meeting of this Association, be entitled to cast one (1) vote only at the AGM. All Past Presidents may make and second motions.

#### **8.3 AFFILIATES - REGIONAL AND STATE AGM ONLY**

1. Each affiliate shall have one (1) vote for every fifteen (15) players registered with FYSA. The criteria for determining the number of votes for which the affiliate is eligible shall be that the affiliate is in good standing and all fees paid.
2. The FYSA Registrar shall certify each affiliate's votes as of registrations processed by July 1st of each year. The affiliate will be notified as to their number of available votes. July 1st shall be the final date registrations will be considered for calculation of affiliate votes in either Regional elections or for the AGM. An affiliate shall have fifteen (15) days from receipt of notification to file any protest in writing with the FYSA Secretary as to the number of available votes. The FYSA Secretary shall within seven (7) days of receipt of any protest, in writing, provide a ruling as to the validity of the protest.
3. In the event that the dispute is unresolved, the affiliate may file an appeal of the FYSA Secretary's decision to the BOD. The appeal must be filed at least seven (7) days before the AGM.
4. The BOD shall render an opinion prior to the close of credentials at the AGM. The decision of the BOD shall be based on the FYSA official affiliate registration printout and shall be final.

#### **8.4 ASSOCIATE AFFILIATE – STATE AGM**

Each Associate Affiliate shall have one (1) vote.

## **8.5 HALL OF FAME – AGM ONLY**

Hall of Fame members shall be entitled to all privileges of this Association, including the right to make and second motions. HOF members are entitled to one (1) vote each, subject to Bylaw 8.0.

## **8.6 VOTING METHODS**

Affiliates may cast their votes in any one of the following methods. Votes cast by one process cannot be duplicated by any other process.

1. The Agent of Record OR one of the other two designated Agents is authorized to cast the affiliate's vote at the AGM.
2. Affiliates may authorize a representative to be present and cast their vote at the AGM. This must be done ONLY by the affiliate's Agent of Record, who will issue a proxy in accordance with Bylaw 8.7.
3. The affiliate may file their votes with the FYSA Secretary who shall cast the ballots as directed and signed by the affiliate's Agent of Record in accordance with Bylaw 8.7.
4. Associate affiliates may cast their votes in the same manner as described above.

## **8.7 PROXY**

Voting by proxy is not permitted at Board of Directors Meetings and Regional Board Meetings.

Voting by proxy is permitted at special Board of Directors Meetings and as follows at the Annual General Meeting:

- a. Affiliate Member may designate on the electronic proxy form any party to which the affiliate wants to designate as its proxy for all matters before the AGM. This proxy must be submitted by the Agent of Record or President.
- b. Associate Affiliate Member may designate on the electronic proxy form any party to which the associate affiliate wants to designate as its proxy for all matters before the AGM. This proxy must be submitted by the Agent of Record or President.
- c. Individual Members may designate on the electronic proxy form any party to which the individual member wants to designate as its proxy for all matters before the AGM. This proxy must be submitted directly by the Individual Member.

Any challenge to the validity of a proxy must be made during the roll call by the FYSA Secretary. Once the roll call is completed, the proxy shall be considered valid.

## **9. STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **9.1 ESTABLISHING COMMITTEES**

The President with ratification by the BOD shall establish such standing and/or special Committees deemed necessary to conduct the business of FYSA. Further, the President is authorized to select the Chairperson of Committees, with ratification by the BOD. The Chairperson of each Committee shall select the Committee members with ratification by the BOD.

### **9.2 TERM**

The Standing Committee and Chairpersons shall serve for a period of one (1) year, ending at the AGM, except if the Chairperson is an elected official, who shall remain the Chairperson until their term is over. The President may re-appoint the same Chairpersons at the AGM at his/her discretion.

### **9.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The duties and responsibilities of Standing Committees shall be defined by the BOD, within the Standing Committee section of the Rules, and who shall give to the Committees specific authority for the development of policies and procedures. These policies and/or procedures shall become part of the FYSA Rules, subject to ratification by the BOD. Modification, changes, deletions, or additions to policies and/or procedures shall be within the authority of the Committees, requiring approval of the BOD.

**9.4 AUTHORIZED STANDING COMMITTEES**

The following Committees are authorized but not limited to:

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Audit                       | 9. Recognition            |
| 2. Competition                 | 10. Registration          |
| 3. Credentials                 | 11. Review and Discipline |
| 4. Finance                     | 12. Rules and Revision    |
| 5. Hall of Fame                | 13. Tournament and Travel |
| 6. Player/Coaching Development | 14. TOPSoccer             |
| 7. Personnel                   | 15. Recreational          |
| 8. Protest and Appeals         |                           |

**10. SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND AUTHORITY**

The BOD may establish the necessary programs and services to provide for the purposes of this organization. Such programs and services shall be enumerated within the rules and shall include, but not be limited to:

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Accidental Medical and Liability Insurance | 5. Coaching and Player Development |
| 2. Registration Procedures                    | 6. Olympic Development Programs    |
| 3. Travel Authorization and Procedures        | 7. Risk Management Program         |
| 4. Age Groupings for Competition              |                                    |

**10.1 RESERVATION OF AUTHORITY**

The authority to revise, delete or expand the Rules is within the responsibility of the BOD as referred and recommended by the Rules and Revisions Committee and requiring ratification by the BOD. At no time may the Bylaws be suspended, revised, deleted or expanded unless necessary to comply with USSF or USYS Bylaw/Rule changes. For amending Bylaws, see Bylaw 13.1.

**10.2 DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY**

Reference anywhere in these Bylaws or the Rules to actions which may be taken in an "emergency" shall only be taken by the declaration of an emergency. An emergency may be declared by the President with the concurrence of a majority of the BOD.

**10.3 EMERGENCY RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

Upon the recommendation of the RMC, the BOD of FYSA may temporarily remove the privilege of any player, coach, volunteer or referee to participate in FYSA sanctioned events for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days.



## **11. PROTESTS, HEARINGS, APPEALS AND DISCIPLINE**

### **11.1 AUTHORITY**

The BOD, in keeping with the Rules and Regulations of USSF, USYS and FYSA, has the responsibility of establishing such rules as deemed necessary to ensure that all members of FYSA shall have access to a process of protest and appeal concerning actions determined to be contrary to the rules of USSF, USYS and FYSA.

### **11.2 INTENT**

The intent of this policy is to ensure that any athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official affiliated with FYSA shall have the opportunity to protest actions and appeal decisions affecting their status or ability to participate and compete in soccer. Further, it is the intent of FYSA to ensure that any person affiliated with FYSA shall have a hearing prior to any decision affecting their status or ability to participate or compete in soccer. FYSA shall not institute any policy or rule that would preclude any member from appealing any decision relating to their right to participate and compete in activities sponsored by USSF to the USSF Appeals Committee that shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify or reverse a decision. Red card offenses with minimum disciplines and referee judgment calls shall not be cause for protest and/or appeal.

### **11.3 SCOPE**

FYSA shall make provisions for hearing appeals concerning decisions of lower reviewing authorities only in those cases where the issue pertains to the application and/or interpretation of the Rules. The appeal must be based upon the failure of the lower reviewing authority to adhere to proper policies and procedures as prescribed in the Rules of FYSA. It is necessary to ensure that Rules and procedures for protest, hearings, findings and discipline are strictly followed at the entry level of the protest procedure.

### **11.4 RESPONSIBILITY OF AFFILIATE MEMBERS**

1. Provide procedures for fair and impartial hearings on any charges prior to imposing discipline or sanctions. Further, their protest and appeal procedures must be in conformity with those of FYSA. Acknowledgment of this responsibility shall be part of the requirements for affiliate membership.
2. Affiliates have authority to discipline its members for misconduct and/or conduct contrary to the Rules of the Affiliate's organization. To that end, all affiliates members shall provide for the timely hearing of all protests and appeals prior to rendering a decision and/or imposing discipline or sanctions. The affiliate shall be responsible for documenting its actions and for advising all participants of their right to appeal to a higher level and the correct process for doing so. A copy of the hearing record and final decision shall be sent to FYSA if the sanction extends beyond the jurisdiction and authority of the affiliate. For any sanction to extend beyond the authority and jurisdiction of the affiliate, all FYSA and USSF requirements as to due process must be met.

### **11.5 FYSA AUTHORITY TO DISCIPLINE**

FYSA reserves the right to review administrative and programmatic organization and the performance of its Affiliates to assure compliance with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules. When the Affiliate is found to be in violation of such, FYSA shall have authority to require appropriate corrective action, discipline and/or sanctions. Specific procedures for intervention, review, investigation, and disposition as well as disciplinary actions, penalties, fines and restrictions shall be established within the Rules.

### **11.6 LEVELS OF PROTEST AND APPEALS**

In order to expedite resolution of issues which may impact upon the standing of an Affiliate individual, team, club or league, matters of concern may be raised. Specific procedures for these actions shall be enumerated within the Rules and will be the basis for any formal submission and processing of the levels

of protest and appeal. Matters of concern may be raised using any of the following methods:

- A. Protest
- B. Appeal
- C. Request for Intervention
- D. FYSA Intervention

#### **11.7 RESOLUTION AND TIMELY DISPOSITION**

FYSA shall establish entry levels for resolution and timely disposition of protest and appeals beginning at the club/league level. Entry level reviewing authorities shall resolve issues in a fair, timely and impartial manner. FYSA Officers when necessary, in accordance with the Rules, shall expeditiously address and attempt to resolve all protests and appeals as part of the primary responsibility of their office.

#### **12. FYSA PUBLICATIONS**

FYSA shall publish educational, informational, guidance, and oversight materials for the advancement of soccer within the state. The BOD shall establish a publishing budget and retain authority over all publications. The VP of Administration and Communication shall oversee the management of such publications, as necessary.

#### **13. AMENDMENTS**

##### **13.1 BYLAWS**

Bylaws may be amended annually at the AGM by a two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote of the members present, including proxies, and verified by the FYSA Credentials Committee. *See rules section on Submission of Amendments.*

##### **13.2 RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The FYSA rules may be amended annually at the AGM by a majority vote of the members present as verified by the FYSA Credentials Committee. FYSA rules may be suspended or amended during any regular or special meeting of the BOD then must be ratified by the general membership at the AGM. *See rules section on Submission of Amendments.*

#### **14. FEES AND FINES**

FYSA shall have the authority to establish necessary fees in order to properly finance its programs and conduct business. Fees shall be established by the BOD but may not be implemented without the approval of the membership at the AGM. Fines may be established by the BOD as deemed necessary.

#### **15. VIOLATIONS OF BYLAWS/RULES AND REGULATIONS**

All Bylaws and Rules as published in this text, regardless of how sectioned, formatted or titled shall be considered the Rules of this organization and shall be binding on all Officers, Board Members Affiliate members and anyone involved with the affiliate organization. A plea of ignorance to these Rules and the requirements herein is not sufficient excuse to avoid fees, fines and/or discipline. Violators shall expect immediate and appropriate action in such cases as cited by the Association's BOD.

#### **16. FISCAL/SEASONAL YEAR**

The fiscal and seasonal years are concurrent. The fiscal year is September 1 through August 31, as is the seasonal year.

#### **17. FYSA EVENTS**

FYSA cup championships will be held at the Lake Myrtle Complex in Auburndale, Florida. FYSA's AGM shall be located in the Central Florida area within sixty (60) miles of FYSA's State Office.

**18. TIME PERIODS**

Time periods covered in this text are in calendar days unless explicitly mentioned as business days.

**19. PROVISIONS NOT COVERED**

Where provisions are not covered by this text, the policies and procedures of USSF and US Youth Soccer, shall apply. The BOD shall have the authority to act in matters not covered within the Bylaws or Rules on an emergency basis in order to maintain the purpose and objectives of this organization.

# FYSA Rules

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## **100. AFFILIATION**

### **101. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY**

- 101.1** Authority to establish policies and procedures by FYSA, for its affiliate members to ensure their proper organization and administration as requirements for membership shall be herein established. Affiliates have the responsibility to exercise administrative and programmatic oversight in the conduct of their business.
- 101.2** Rules and Regulations of FYSA shall take precedence over the rules and procedures of Affiliates when there is conflict within their rules or in the absence of such rules.
- 101.3** More stringent rules may be enacted by an Affiliate, but in no instance may they be less stringent. Rules not in compliance with FYSA must be submitted for review. No entity within FYSA can impose rules on an Affiliate or its members contrary to FYSA, US Youth Soccer or USSF Bylaws, policies, or rules.
- 101.4** Governance and administration of their organization is the responsibility of the Affiliate including the actions and personal conduct of all those associated with their organization. This includes team managers, coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, parents, and spectators. The Affiliates shall ensure that the conduct of its members on and off the field does not bring discredit to the Affiliate or FYSA.
- 101.5** It is recommended that each Affiliate develops and adopts their own Constitution, Bylaws and/or Rules in order to properly administer and govern their organization.
- 101.6** Elected or appointed representatives of the Affiliate must be on file with FYSA. This includes the Executive Board President, VP, and Treasurer. Affiliates may appoint up to three (3) persons to act as their official representatives with FYSA as supported by an official action of their organization. One of those representatives must include the President of the affiliate. Should the names that appear on the Affiliation form change during the seasonal year, those changes must be submitted to FYSA within 30 days.

Within two (2) business days of the receipt of a properly submitted change in Affiliate status, FYSA will recognize the new officers as the official representatives of that Affiliate. FYSA will notify the Affiliate that it has received and updated the change in Affiliate status. FYSA will update any applicable contact information for that Affiliate on any internal documents within that two (2) business day window.

The Agent of Record and/or the President are the primary official representative regarding all issues and transactions with FYSA. No other member in an affiliate may override a decision authorized by the Agent of Record.

The Agent of Record and/or the President are the only member of an affiliate authorized to:

- Complete the online affiliation form and
- Sign a proxy for credentials at the AGM.

The Agent of Record and/or the President's duties shall include, but not be limited to:

- Conducting business with the FYSA office,
- Authorizing entry into FYSA-sponsored events,
- Collection of credentials at the AGM, and
- Requesting, in writing, affiliation changes.

Any change of representatives requested by an Agent who is not the Agent of Record and/or the President will be forwarded to the Agent of Record and the President, as well as the RVP. The transaction will become official if not challenged within two (2) business days.

Representatives listed on this form must be currently registered with FYSA.

- 101.7** Affiliate responsibility in appointing all team staff shall be to screen and approve the selection of persons with influence over players and to establish criteria to assure the highest principles and adherence to the Rules.
- 101.8** Referees and/or game officials for any FYSA sanctioned games must be assigned by currently certified referee assignors as defined by USSF.
- 101.9** Organizations may apply to FYSA for affiliation as either an affiliate or an associate affiliate as defined in Bylaw 1.3.1.
1. A full affiliate shall be restricted to a limited location(s) and field(s) that shall be defined in the application to FYSA. Any change to the location(s) and field(s) must be approved by FYSA's BOD. A full affiliate may also sanction recreational play and tournaments within the scope of their affiliation.
  2. A league shall define its scope and purpose in its original affiliation application. Any variation of this must be approved by FYSA's BOD. Leagues may not conduct invitational tournaments outside the scope of their affiliation approval.
  3. A tournament hosting organization may sanction tournaments if approved by the BOD as outlined and defined in the application for affiliation. Any variance from this application must be approved by FYSA's BOD.
  4. No league or tournament hosting organization may register any player and/or coach.

## **102. AFFILIATION PROCEDURES**

- 102.1** Affiliate Membership requires an application to be submitted by every Affiliate, full, *recreational*, or associate, annually for review and approval.

By application for affiliation with FYSA, each applicant hereby agrees:

1. The affiliate will maintain a BOD, or governing authority, that is independent from any other sports organization.
2. The affiliate will maintain its own bank accounts (i.e., Checking and savings) or has direct control over its finances. Except where evidence is provided that the sponsoring entity by ordinance, statute, charter, or policy prohibits the applicant from having direct control over its finances (i.e., governmental sponsored organizations). The applicant shall attach to the application evidence to support the request for waiver of this requirement.
3. It is the intent of the organization by application that if granted affiliation, the member will register 100% of all players, coaches, administrators, and volunteers (who will have direct interface with its players) each year with FYSA.
4. Will have all administrative officers/personnel complete the FYSA Risk Management.
5. Must have a certified referee assignor who also must complete FYSA Risk Management.

## 102.2 INITIAL AFFILIATION

Affiliation must be for the good of soccer in the Region, and State of Florida. All new full affiliates must affiliate within the region where they physically reside, or in the region in which the majority of its players reside and/or physically play the majority of their home games.

**102.3** The completed affiliation application packet, items 1-15, shall be submitted to FYSA's State Office not later than sixty (60) days prior to the date of a scheduled meeting of the BOD. FYSA will verify that the application is complete, and all necessary documentation is present. For any affiliation application not completed by sixty (60) days prior to the date of a scheduled BOD meeting, all documentation and/or fees will be returned to the applicant for re-filing at a later date. FYSA will then forward a copy of all documentation regarding the new affiliation to the Vice President of Administration and Communication. FYSA's Vice President of Administration and Communication will notify the RVP in the region in which the new affiliation would reside. FYSA's Vice President of Administration and Communication shall only present the completed applications at the BOD meeting. The complete packet will consist of:

1. Completed affiliation application form.
2. Affiliate fee. New affiliates will pay an affiliation fee for the first two (2) years in the amount of \$5000.00 to be utilized as follows: Affiliation fee of \$2,000.00, prepaid registration fees in the amount of \$3000.00 (Any unused registration fees not utilized in the first two years will be carried forward to the third-year affiliation. At the end of the third year, all unused registration fees will revert to FYSA's general fund.)
  - A. A waiver to Rule 102.3 (2) (the additional \$3,000.00) may be granted if it is in the best interest of FYSA.
  - B. A written request for waiver must be submitted with the application for affiliation. This request for waiver must be approved by the RVP, and the BOD of FYSA. The decision of the BOD is final, binding and not appealable by any of the parties.
3. Playing field availability (1 – 11v11 and 1 – 9v9); written proof of playing field availability from the owner.
4. List of BOD members – must have at least four (4) different and distinct board members.
5. Documentation that all BOD members have submitted and satisfied all requirements of the FYSA Risk Management Policy and have no recent documented violations of the FYSA Risk Management Policy.
6. A copy of the affiliate's bylaws and rules.
7. Documentation that the affiliate is a registered business with the State of Florida. Acceptable forms of proof include the following (the affiliates name must be listed):
  - Tax Id Documentation
  - State/Federal Tax Returns
  - Business license
  - Other official government documentation related to the transaction of business
8. Documentation of licensed and qualified coaches:
  - Full affiliate – one (1) USSF National D licensed (or equivalent) coach
  - Recreation affiliate – one (1) USSF grassroots licensed coach
9. Documentation that affiliate has at least four (4) total teams participating in four (4) different age groups.
10. Documentation from a league in which your affiliate's teams will be scheduled.
11. Confirmation from the FYSA office of agreement to attend at least one (1) registrar training (live or via conference call).
12. Documentation showing grassroots offerings in the community – to include any of the following:
  - TOPSoccer program; OR
  - Recreational program; OR
  - Referee development program to add new certified and licensed referees by FSR and US Soccer, in addition to a program to support early, entry young referees between the ages of 11-14.

**102.4** FYSA will notify all members within 15-miles of a prospective affiliate's home field, at least 30 days prior to the BOD meeting in which the application will be considered.

Existing members may file an objection to the prospective affiliate's acceptance, based on the requirements found in Rule 102.3. The objection must be a formal letter to the FYSA Board of Directors explaining why the application should NOT be accepted. The letter must be sent to FYSA Board of Directors (care of the State Office) no less than seven (7) days before the application for affiliation is considered by the Board of Directors.

An objection does not automatically exclude the prospective affiliate from membership in FYSA. The Board of Directors will consider objections when evaluating prospective affiliate applications.

**102.5** A new affiliate, once approved, will be placed on a three-year probation. If the affiliate does not follow all the FYSA Bylaws and Rules during this time, the affiliation may be revoked by the BOD. If at the end of the three years, there have been no issues, the affiliate must submit a letter with their affiliation form requesting full membership. The request for full membership is neither automatic nor guaranteed.

**102.6** Mergers - The completed merger affiliation application packet shall be submitted not later than thirty (30) days prior to scheduled meeting of the BOD. The merger application packet will consist of:

1. Completed merger application form
2. Letter signed by the current President and Secretary of each existing affiliate.
3. Must furnish to FYSA a copy of the merged affiliates bylaws and rules.
4. For recreational-to-recreational mergers will require BOD approval; for full affiliate to full affiliate will require BOD approval.
5. For recreational to full affiliate and/or full affiliate to recreational will affiliate at the approved site of the existing full affiliate and will require BOD approval.

**102.7** Name Changes – An existing FYSA affiliate requesting a name change shall submit the request not later than 30 days prior to a scheduled meeting of the BOD. The affiliate must submit the following when requesting a name change:

1. Letter signed by the current Board of Directors of the affiliate.
2. Proof that a DBA, legal name change, and/or registration of a fictitious name has been filed with the State of Florida.

## **103. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

**103.1** Associate Membership in FYSA may be granted to any soccer-related organization whose intent is to develop and/or implement soccer programs within the State of Florida. Associate must be for the good of soccer in the Region and State of Florida. Organizations seeking Associate Membership shall include but not be limited to leagues, tournament hosting organizations or other organizations as deemed appropriate by the BOD.

**103.2** Procedure for requesting Associate Membership

1. Application must be submitted utilizing FYSA's application for Associate Membership.
2. Review and approval shall be vested to the BOD of FYSA. Renewal is neither automatic nor guaranteed.
3. The decision of the BOD is final and binding upon all parties.
4. Application fee as defined in Section 303 must be submitted.

**103.3** League Affiliation

1. Any league, by application, agrees that 100% of all teams participating in that FYSA sanctioned league shall be properly registered with FYSA or US Youth Soccer.
2. All leagues will be designated as competitive unless approved for recreational or academy designation

by FYSA's Vice President of Player and Coaching Development or his designee.

3. Shall ensure that red card summary reports along with copies of the game and supplemental referee reports for major infractions are submitted monthly to the FYSA office. The report must be typed, or computer generated. (No handwritten reports will be accepted.)
4. Will assist member clubs to establish a referee development program in adding new certified and licensed referees by FSR and US Soccer, and if appropriate, a program to support early youth referees.

**103.4** Under no circumstances shall any Associate Member be permitted to register any player or coach. Associate Members must register staff and volunteers with FYSA via the Risk Management application form. These members will not have a pass.

**103.5** Associate Members shall have one (1) vote in the region that they are affiliated in regional elections to match the voting rights currently allowed at the state AGM.

**103.6** All Associate Members shall be bound by all Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of FYSA, US Youth Soccer and USSF.

#### **104. ANNUAL AFFILIATION RENEWALS**

**104.1** An affiliate who fails to affiliate for a seasonal year must reapply as a first-time affiliate and meet all requirements as set forth under Rule 102.2 (full) or Rule 103 (associate).

**104.2** Any full affiliate who in the preceding seasonal year fails to register fifty (50) players shall submit to the FYSA office a detailed explanation as to justification for re-affiliation and/or a plan to increase membership in the following seasonal year. This explanation must be received no later than 30 days prior to the AGM of FYSA. Any affiliate who fails to register 50 players in two consecutive seasonal years must submit to the BOD a petition listing the reason (s) the application should be approved. The application for renewal may be denied by the BOD.

**104.3** Each affiliate, full and associate, shall complete an annual affiliation form, as approved by the BOD of FYSA, no later than July 1 of the current seasonal year. The annual affiliation form is electronic and may only be submitted by the Agent of Record. The annual affiliation fee, as listed in FYSA Rule 303, is due at the time of re-affiliation. No player or coach may be registered for the current seasonal year until the affiliate's annual affiliation form has been completed, filed and accepted by the FYSA office. All fields used by the affiliate for games, practices or training must be declared annually. Any changes to these fields must be submitted to the FYSA office within ten (10) days for approval by the BOD within forty-eight (48) hours period. No Associate Affiliate may hold any sanctioned event until the member's annual affiliation form has been completed, filed and accepted by the FYSA office. On a date set annually by the BOD, the FYSA office will process those renewal applications submitted for affiliates and associate affiliates who:

1. Are in good standing
2. Have no unresolved challenges to their affiliation on file.
3. Have, as a full affiliate, registered more than 50 players in the preceding seasonal year.
4. Have all administrative officers/personnel complete the FYSA Risk Management.
5. Must have a certified assignor who also must complete FYSA Risk Management.
6. Must show that they have assisted the member clubs in establishing a referee development program to add new certified and licensed referees by FSR and US Soccer, and a referee program to support early, entry of youth referees.
7. If unforeseen situations arise which are out of the control of the affiliate, they may petition the FYSA BOD for an exception to rule 104.3

**104.4** Annual approval of the Affiliate may be denied by FYSA's BOD if:

1. the Affiliate is or has been NGS during the previous year; or

2. the Affiliate has proven to be in violation of FYSA, US Youth Soccer, USSF or the Affiliate's Bylaws and/or Rules; or
3. the Affiliate has not paid any and all fees assessed and is not in compliance with FYSA Rule 302.2; or
4. the Affiliate has failed to exercise supervisory control and oversight of its membership.

#### **104.5 CHALLENGE PROCEDURES: AFFILIATIONS**

The only entity within FYSA that can rule on affiliations and re-affiliations is the BOD of FYSA. RVPs shall report in writing excessive affiliate complaints to the BOD for consideration as to renewal of affiliation

In order to contest a re-affiliation, it is necessary that all parties be afforded due process prior to a decision being rendered by the BOD.

The entry point for the filing of charges or grievances for consideration by the BOD is with the VP of Administration and Communication via the FYSA office.

1. Charges or grievances must be filed in writing with all supporting documentation attached.
2. Charges must include specific violations of either USSF, US Youth Soccer or FYSA rules.
3. All charges and documentation must be received in the FYSA office not less than thirty (30) days prior to a scheduled BOD meeting.
4. The office shall forward the document(s) to the VP of Administration and Communication.
5. Upon receipt of the charging documents, the VP of Administration and Communication shall inform the charged affiliate, in writing, that there is a filed challenge to its re-affiliation to be heard by the BOD at the next regularly scheduled BOD meeting, providing the date and time of that meeting.
6. The VP of Administration and Communication shall notify the President of the challenge /grievance for inclusion on the agenda of the next BOD meeting.
7. The FYSA office shall forward to the charged affiliate a copy of the charge/grievance with all supporting documentation attached.
8. The charged affiliate shall then have ten (10) days to respond to the VP of Administration and Communication with a written rebuttal to the charge/grievance and to supply any and all documents that the affiliate desires the BOD to consider.
9. Upon receipt of this rebuttal, if any, the office shall send copies of all documents to all the members of the BOD at least Seven (7) days prior to the BOD meeting in order to afford the BOD time to study the documents.
10. Both parties will be afforded the opportunity to address the BOD, subject to an equally imposed time limit for each side, if either party so desires to exercise this right.
11. The BOD then will adjourn to an "executive session" for discussion and the rendering of a decision in the matter.
12. The VP of Administration and Communication shall then provide a written opinion of the BOD's decision to each party within ten (10) days.

#### **105. RISK MANAGEMENT**

##### **105.1 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT**

The Risk Management Program shall govern the administration and implementation of FYSA's risk management program to be consistent with USSF Bylaw 213(1)(a)(2) and comply with US Youth Soccer Bylaw 501 Section (1)(13).

USSF Bylaw 213(1)(a)(2) provide as follows:

##### **Bylaw 213. STATE ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES**

Section l(a)(2). The State Association will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex or national origin (effective 10-8-00).

US Youth Soccer and each National State Association is responsible for establishing and monitoring a Risk Management Program within its assigned territory, at a minimum this program must include:

(1) Use of an employment/volunteer disclosure statement for all volunteers, employees, coaches and program administrators who are involved with any sanctioned or sponsored program of the affiliated organization; and

(2) Identification of a State Risk Management Coordinator (SRMC) and an alternate for the position.

## **105.2 RISK MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY**

The overall responsibility for the administration of the FYSA Risk Management Program shall vest with the President who, with the Vice President of Administration and Communication, (“RMC”) shall be responsible for the implementation and management of FYSA’s risk management policy. FYSA’s Executive Director shall assist the RMC.

## **105.3 OVERVIEW**

**105.3.1** FYSA has adopted USSF Bylaw 213 and it is the intent of FYSA to exclude from participation, at a minimum, all persons who engage in discriminatory conduct, have been convicted of or adjudicated guilty of crimes of violence, crimes against persons, crimes against property or felonies. FYSA will comply with all USSF and US Youth Soccer guidelines and procedures.

**105.3.2** US Youth Soccer and FYSA have placed as a condition of registration the requirement for all coaches/volunteers to complete the FYSA Risk Management form electronically. Only persons who comply with this condition shall be registered as a coach/volunteer by FYSA.

**105.3.3** Coaches/volunteers are defined as: members of the FYSA BOD; education staff; ODP coaches and scouts; region, league and club officers; and program directors, team managers, team or individual trainers, coaches, assistant coaches and substitute coaches, and anyone else who may have interaction or who at any time could be expected in the performance of their duties to be alone with any registered youth player/referee under the umbrella of FYSA

**105.3.4** Referees, assistant referees, fourth officials and anyone defined as a member of the National Referee Development Program (USSF Policy 531.11) shall be subject to all provisions contained in FYSA Rule 105.

**105.3.5** It is the policy of FYSA that every reasonable effort will be taken to exclude from program responsibilities (not to be confused with parental responsibilities affecting their own children) any adult or minor with a documented history of child molestation (e.g., a criminal record) that would bring any unnecessary risk to the health and safety of FYSA's soccer program participants.

**105.3.6** Coaches/volunteers shall, by application, agree to be subject to a legally sensitive criminal history check (which may require fingerprinting) before or during their participation in the FYSA soccer program.

## **105.4 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

**105.4.1** The authority to deny acceptance or suspend from any official capacity any coaches/volunteers for risk management concerns as established by the FYSA BOD vests with the RMC. In the event the Chairman and Vice Chairman disagree, the matter shall be adjudicated by the BOD. Either the President or the Vice President of Administration & Communication has the authority to summarily deny or summarily suspend any applicant's privileges pursuant to FYSA Rule 105.5.2.

**105.4.2** The RMC shall be responsible for monitoring compliance of the FYSA Risk Management Policy that includes, but is not limited to:

- Ensuring and documenting league/club compliance;
- Review of Disclosure Forms;
- Coordination of criminal history checks (as necessary);
- Administrative notification of exclusion to those applicants (whether new applicants or returning members) who fail to meet the standards of the program as defined by FYSA.

**105.4.3** Registration for coaches/volunteers shall be conducted on a year round basis.

## **105.5 DENIAL, SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF ADMINISTRATOR PRIVILEGES**

**105.5.1** The RMC, with specific BOD approval, has the authority to deny, suspend, or revoke any applicant's privileges as a coach/volunteer for risk management concerns as established by the FYSA BOD. Once the BOD has approved the authority of the RMC to deny, suspend or revoke a Program Administrator's privileges, the decision may not be overruled except as set forth in the appeals process in Rule.105.7 and Rule 105.8.

**105.5.2** The RMC has the authority to summarily deny or summarily suspend any applicant's privileges of serving as a coach/volunteer for risk management concerns, provided the denial or summary suspension is submitted to the BOD within sixty (60) days of the date of the denial or summary suspension.

**105.5.3** An affiliate of FYSA may, upon written request, petition FYSA to deny, suspend or revoke the privileges of a coach/volunteer or applicant for risk management concerns. The written request shall be submitted to the FYSA Executive Director for the RMC in care of the FYSA State Office. The RMC shall investigate the request and reply in writing to the affiliate within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the request.

**105.5.4** FYSA has adopted the following grounds for exclusion from serving as a coach/volunteer:

- Any conviction or adjudication of guilt (misdemeanor or felony) for a crime of violence, a crime against a person, or a criminal history that is determined to be detrimental to the welfare of FYSA's players, subject to mitigation.
- Any report of child abuse appearing on the Child Abuse Index, subject to mitigation.
- Any record of sexual offense and/or sexual misconduct (felony or misdemeanor), subject to mitigation.
- Admitted use of/ or conviction for use of illegal drugs, within the last ten years, subject to mitigation.
- Documented history of repeated abuse of alcohol and/or illegal/prescription drugs (e.g., two (2) or more DUI's or any conviction for the manufacture/sale of illegal drugs within the last ten (10) years, subject to mitigation.
- Submitting incomplete or inaccurate information, on the Coach/Volunteer Application will result in a suspension for ninety (90) days from the time of submission. Additional charges may be filed under FYSA's COE, FYSA Rule 505.4 and or FYSA Rule 501.13. The above guidelines do not relieve the applicant's obligation to disclose convictions to FYSA that may fall out outside of the aforementioned parameters.
- Refusal to fully complete the Risk Management Disclosure Form.
- Refusal to submit fingerprints when required to under this program.
- Any conduct that discriminates against any individual on the basis of race, color, ancestry, national



origin, religion, age, marital status, sex, and sexual orientation. This may also include sexual harassment, which may consist of a request for sexual favors; unwanted sexual advances or propositions; verbal, physical and visual harassment; stalking; and unwanted sexual contact.

- Any other information that casts serious doubt on the applicant's ability to be entrusted with the supervision, guidance and care of minors. (Note: Misdemeanor convictions in the past seven years that “may indicate a lack of integrity or character” may be grounds for disqualification.)

**105.5.5** Any person participating in a sanctioned or sponsored program of FYSA who becomes involved as 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 by the RMC from all soccer-related activities until completion of the litigation. Upon written request of the suspended person, the status of such person shall be reviewed by the RMC at the completion of the litigation. 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 whether the matter that is the substance of the accusation, if true, is detrimental to the welfare of youth players. Privileges may be reinstated at the conclusion of the litigation process by the RMC.

**105.5.6** Any action pursuant to Rule 105.5 is subject to the appeal procedures set forth in Rule 105.7 or 105.8.

#### **105.6 PROVISIONAL AND CONDITIONAL ADMINISTRATOR PRIVILEGES**

The RMC may jointly approve issuance of provisional privileges for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days. Such provisional privileges shall expire upon the ninetieth day of issuance.

#### **105.7 APPEAL PROCEDURES ARISING FROM BACKGROUND CHECK DISQUALIFICATIONS**

**105.7.1** FYSA’s Protest & Appeals Committee shall hear appeals arising from risk management denials, suspensions or revocations by the RMC based on the results of a criminal background check. Persons involved in the decision to deny, suspend or revoke shall not sit on the three-person appeal board. The decisions of this Appeal Board may be appealed to the FYSA BOD and then to USSF pursuant to USSF Rule 705. The RMC shall serve as the presenter of the case to the BOD. All appeals shall be subject to FYSA’s normal appeal fees as defined under FYSA Rule 300.

**105.7.2** Upon receipt of the notice of denial, suspension or revocation, the applicant has fifteen (15) business days to notify the FYSA Office of their intention to appeal such action. This notification shall be in writing and sent to the RMC in care of the State Office. A person (appellant) suspended pursuant to Rule 105.5.5 may seek reinstatement any time following the conclusion of the litigation process.

**105.7.3** The appellant will be notified, in writing, of the time, date and place of the appeal hearing. Such notification shall be sent by both regular and certified mail, e-mail or via facsimile transmission.

**105.7.4** At the time of the hearing, all evidence on behalf of the RMC shall be presented to the appeal committee by the RMC. The appellant may present any supporting documentation for the appeal.

## **105.8 APPEAL PROCEDURES ARISING FROM NON-BACKGROUND CHECK DISQUALIFICATIONS**

**105.8.1** FYSA's Risk Management Appeals Committee shall hear appeals arising from risk management denials, suspensions or revocations by the RMC that were NOT based on the results of a criminal background check (i.e. civil case, criminal case, newly filed criminal charges, SafeSport Complaint, etc.). Persons involved in the decision to deny, suspend or revoke shall not sit on the Risk Management Appeals Committee. The decisions of this appeals committee may be appealed to USSF pursuant to USSF Rule 705. The RMC or ED shall serve as the presenter of the case to the Risk Management Appeals Committee. All appeals shall be subject to FYSA's normal appeal fees as defined under FYSA Rule 300.

### **105.8.2 FYSA's Risk Management Appeals Committee shall consist of:**

- Two appointed representatives from each FYSA region (appointed annually by the RVP).
- For a given hearing the Risk Management Appeals Committee shall have 3-5 members.
- Appeal Committee Panelists shall be selected by the FYSA Secretary with preference given to members NOT from the FYSA Region where the disqualified individual is registered.

**105.8.3** When information is received by FYSA that brings to question an individual's ability to be a coach/volunteer (information not contained in a background check) the following process shall apply:

a) The ED has the authority to summarily deny or summarily suspend any applicant's privileges of serving as a member of FYSA for risk management concerns due to actions not contained in an individual's background check.

b) The ED furnishes the accused individual a copy of the report/information, copying the RMC.

c) The accused shall have seven (7) business days to submit any evidence to refute the report/information used to deny/suspend.

d) The ED shall forward any evidence submitted by the accused to the RMC. If no evidence is submitted, the ED shall forward only the information used to deny/suspend.

**105.8.4** The RMC will review the documentation submitted by the accused and ED and can rule in one of the following manners:

- a) Rule in favor of the accused and immediately lift the denial/suspension.
- b) Affirm the suspension of the accused and supply appeal information for the FYSA Risk Management Appeals Committee. The party shall remain suspended until the time of his appeal with the FYSA Risk Management Appeals Committee.
- c) Should there be a pending matter (i.e. civil case, criminal case, newly filed criminal charges, SafeSport Complaint, etc.) the RMC is permitted to extend the suspension and delay the Risk Management Appeal Hearing until a determination is rendered from the appropriate body.

**105.8.5** Upon receipt of the notice of affirmed denial, suspension or revocation, from the RMC, the applicant has fifteen (15) business days to notify the FYSA Office of their intention to appeal to the Risk Management Appeals Committee and submit the appeal fee. This notification shall be in writing and sent to the Risk Management Appeals Committee in care of the State Office.

**105.8.6** The appellant will be notified, in writing, of the time, date and place of the Risk Management Appeal

Hearing. Virtual hearings will be encouraged. Such notification shall be sent by both regular and certified mail, e-mail or via facsimile transmission.

**105.8.7** At the time of the hearing, all evidence on behalf of the RMC shall be presented to the Risk Management Appeal Committee by the RMC or ED. The appellant may present any supporting documentation for the appeal.

**105.8.8** Risk Management Appeal Hearings shall be held in accordance with FYSA Rule 611.3 for Formal hearings.

#### **105.8.9 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES**

Notification of risk management actions shall be communicated to the principle parties at the same time and method and shall be accomplished by one of the following:

- Certified mail,
- Regular or express mail,
- Facsimile,
- Personally upon the witness or complaining party, and
- In the case of a minor, the minor's parent, guardian, or other responsible party for the minor.
- Email/Electronic media

### **106. SAFESPORT**

**106.1** As a covered organization under the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, FYSA shall adhere to the polices developed by the US Center for SafeSport to prevent the emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of amateur athletes.

**106.2** SafeSport amendments/updates:

**106.2.1** FYSA shall adhere to all policies, procedures, trainings, guidelines, etc. mandated by the Center for SafeSport immediately upon implementation. FYSA Rule 106 (or any other portion of these Bylaws and Rules) shall not supersede the obligations of FYSA in accordance with the most recent Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, the most current SafeSport Code, Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP), S. 534, or any mandate by the Center for SafeSport.

### **200. REGISTRATION**

#### **201. GENERAL PROVISIONS/DEFINITIONS**

Administration and oversight of registration is the duty of the FYSA Registrar and Registration Committee.

**201.1** Registration of players and coaching staff is required for competition on the Club, League, State, National and International level for any FYSA sanctioned or sponsored events. Jurisdiction shall be with FYSA over all players/coaches registered with this organization. All registered players/coaches must comply with applicable rules, policies and procedures and remain "in good standing" to be eligible to compete.

**201.2** Affiliates MUST register all players, coaches, team and club officials prior to any participation in the game of soccer, this includes but is not limited to practice, scrimmages, and all competitions in which the player or coach participates. This requirement does not include properly announced tryouts. This requirement for registration shall in no way be construed as an extension to/or waiver of any date requirement for submission of any documents as may be required by the rules of specific competitions (i.e., roster freeze dates).

**201.3** Specific procedures are enumerated within the policies and procedures of FYSA which shall be published

and revised as necessary and shall be posted on the website. It shall include the procedures for registration, directions for proper completion of forms, the current fee schedule, time requirements and any other directions necessary for implementing the registration process.

When any procedure is modified, it shall be posted on the website and distributed to the affiliates within 30 days.

For any conflict between the Policies and Procedures and the Rules, Bylaws of FYSA, the Bylaws and Rules of FYSA shall take precedent. Rules of specific competitions sanctioned by FYSA may be more stringent than these rules.

- 201.4** Proof of registration in the form of a either laminated current pass (permanent, or Florida,) with picture attached, or an official FYSA generated roster shall be required for any FYSA sanctioned out of region play, tournament (competitive) or Cup play. This shall include all non-league games (including scrimmages) that involve teams from other regions as well as tournaments (competitive) sanctioned within the State. State Cup, President's Cup and Commissioner's Cup competitions reserve the right to limit the use of rosters. Teams participating in a league (recreational or competitive) shall be bound by the rules and requirements of said league.
- 201.5** Registration fees must be submitted in a timely fashion according to FYSA rules. Payments must be submitted within thirty (30) days from receiving the invoice from FYSA. Failure to do so will place the club in NGS. Further registration(s), or other registration related transactions, may not be processed until all required payments have been rendered.  
For fee/fine structure, refer to FYSA Rule 303.
- 201.6** Affiliates in compliance with Rule 104 (in good standing) may begin to register players, coaches and other members for the upcoming seasonal year on June 10<sup>th</sup> with an effective date of August 1 or on a date set by the BOD.
- A. For all players electronically registered with FYSA, the affiliate will maintain on file, for a minimum of two (2) years, plus current seasonal year a copy of the FYSA registration form signed by the parent or legal guardian. If the affiliate wishes to use an alternative document for registration, permission must be obtained from the FYSA Registrar, each seasonal year, prior to using the form.
- 201.7** Document Submission:
- A. Affiliates submitting electronic transactions shall maintain, for a period of not less than two (2) years plus the current season, original signed documents and will submit these to FYSA upon request within two (2) business days. These shall include, but not be limited to, player registration forms, coach registration forms, passes for suspended players and coaches, transfer/release requests, and supporting documents for members placed in "Not in Good Standing". Failure to submit documentation requested by FYSA to include, but not be limited to, player registration forms, coach registration forms, passes for suspended players and coaches, and transfer/release requests will be grounds for the ~~EC and/or the~~ BOD to place the Affiliate in NGS until such time as the request has been complied with.
- B. Any submission of altered or false birth documents shall be subject to sanctions as described under FYSA Rule 505.4.
- 201.8** Players or teams who participate with unregistered players or engage in unsanctioned play shall have NO benefits of membership with FYSA including, but not limited to, risk management, disciplinary or insurance protection while playing with unregistered players or in unsanctioned play. This shall in no way be construed as a denial of the right to participate only to clarify that protections under FYSA may not be extended to the participants or to the event.

## **201.9 PLAYER CLASSES**

**201.9.1** Competitive Player: Shall be defined as a player who has been selected, registered and rostered to a competitive team and will receive a US Youth Soccer pass when verified. All players will be considered competitive except those as outlined below.

**201.9.2** Recreational Player: Shall be defined as a player who is registered and rostered to a recreation team as defined by US Youth Soccer, FYSA (see Glossary) and participating in an in-house or FYSA-approved recreational league as defined in Rule 103.3 (2).

### **201.9.3 TOPSoccer Programs**

**TOPSoccer Player:** Shall be defined as a player who is registered to a club with a TOPSoccer Program, as defined by US Youth Soccer. FYSA will register all TOPSoccer players at no cost to the club.

## **201.10 DEFINITIONS**

**Club Pass Play:** Shall be defined as the act of participating with a FYSA team in a FYSA and/or USYSA sanctioned events by an age eligible player rostered to another team in the same affiliate.

**Secondary Rostering:** Shall be defined as the action of being rostered between two affiliates simultaneously.

**Guest Playing:** Shall be defined as the act of participating in an FYSA sanctioned event, a player who appears on the Official Roster of another team.

**Registration:** Shall be defined as the act of registering a player/coach with FYSA.

### **Release:**

A. **Voluntary release** shall be defined as the process of removing a player/coach from a team's roster at the written request of the player/coach.

B. **Involuntary release** shall be defined as the process of removing a player/coach without written permission of the player/coach.

**Rostering:** Shall be defined as the act of placing a registered player/coach on a team roster as may be defined by the rules of competition for a FYSA sanctioned competition or event.

**Transfer/ Previously Rostered:** Shall be defined as a player/coach who is released from an affiliate and is rostered to another team of a second affiliate in a seasonal year.

## **202. PLAYER/COACH PASSES**

**202.1** Player/Coaches passes remain the property of FYSA and/or US Youth Soccer. No affiliate, coach, assistant coach or team staff can refuse to relinquish the pass to US Youth Soccer or FYSA, immediately upon request. Failure to do so may subject the party to sanctions as described under FYSA Rule 501.13.

**202.1.1** Players/coaches may not have in their possession passes for players/coaches who have been released. Any affiliate who releases a player and does not retrieve the pass will be held accountable to all provisions of 207.4.

## **202.2 PASS CLASSIFICATION**

### **A. US Youth Soccer Pass (Permanent Pass)**

A US Youth Soccer Pass will be available online with the US Youth Soccer logo to verified competitive players and shall require the following:

1. Signature of the issuing registrar.
2. A current photo taken within six months of pass issuance affixed to the pass.
3. Lamination with a clear plastic material permanently affixing player's picture to the pass.
4. Pass is valid only for FYSA and US Youth Soccer sanctioned events.

### **B. Coach/Volunteer Pass**

A US Youth Soccer (Permanent) Pass will be available online with the US Youth Soccer logo to all registered coaches/volunteers and shall require the following:

1. Signature of the issuing registrar.
2. Will be team specific.
3. A current photo taken within six months of pass issuance affixed to the pass.
4. Lamination with a clear plastic material permanently affixing coach's/volunteer's picture to the pass.
5. Pass is valid only for FYSA and US Youth Soccer sanctioned events.
6. A Coach/Volunteer Pass is issued subject to review as it relates to FYSA's Risk Management Program. The privilege to participate in FYSA sanctioned activities may be revoked as per the terms and conditions of FYSA Rule 105. A coach/volunteer shall immediately surrender his/her pass upon request and notification from FYSA's RMC.

## **203. PLAYER REGISTRATION**

A competitive and or recreational player is obligated to his/her team for the seasonal year from the time he/she signs a contract or is rostered to a team until the end of the current seasonal year.

**203.1** A player is considered registered when the player has an active competition level set on or after June 10<sup>th</sup> for the upcoming seasonal year.

1. Player contracts or registrations for returning players may be affected on or after June 10<sup>th</sup>.
2. A contract or registration for a non-returning player may be revoked prior to June 10<sup>th</sup> by notification in writing to the affiliate. Any matter as to the refund of registration fees paid shall be governed under the terms and conditions of the contract for registration.
3. Any dispute over a player's registration status will be determined by the registration committee.

**203.2** Players must register in the state in which he or she resides with his or her parent(s) or guardian(s), or in the case of a student in residence at a boarding school, college or university, the player may register in the state in which the boarding school, college, or division of the college or university is located. Any other question of residency may be determined by the state in which the player registered to vote or holds a current driver's license

**203.3** Any Youth player wishing to play on a team of a member of a State Association other than the State Association where the player is registered must receive written permission from:

- A. The State Association where the player is registered;
- B. The State Association of the team on which the player wishes to play;
- C. Permission must be obtained each seasonal year

## **203.4 FOREIGN AND OUT-OF-STATE PLAYERS**

A player twelve (12) years or older registering with FYSA for the first time must comply with the following:

All players coming from another Youth or Adult State Association or foreign country and seeking a current year transfer must have clearance papers or a release signed by the official registration chairman or secretary of the foreign association, out-of-state association, or inter-state release before they are allowed to register

with FYSA. Players born in or having previously resided in a foreign country must comply with USSF Policy 601.6 (quoted below).

*“For a player who comes to the United States on or after the player is 12 years of age, the player must request and receive an international clearance from the Federation. However, an international clearance is not required of a player who is 12, 13, 14, 15, or 16 years of age if the player and the player’s parent or guardian signs a statement that the player has not signed a professional contract or received money from any team for playing soccer.”*

**203.5** In order to be considered properly birth-verified, player registrations shall include authentic verification of date and place of birth via a “State Certification of Live Birth” affixed with a State Seal or Certification. (See FYSA birth verification procedures for alternative documents in the absence of a state-certified birth certificate.) Interrupted registrants may reinstate using their original verified registration. (verified status)

### **203.6 PLAYERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

No player shall be allowed to play down (play below the player's age group) except for TOPSoccer competition or if an age variance is granted by a majority of the members of the FYSA Registration Committee. Age variances can only be granted when a physical or mental disability exists (as outlined by the ADA and supported with documentation).

### **204. COACH/VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION**

Coaches/volunteers may be registered to more than one affiliate, providing that proper permission has been obtained. Coaches/volunteers are obligated to the registering affiliate for the complete seasonal year defined as September 1 through August 31. Agreement by contract between the parties may shorten or lengthen this period.

**204.1** Coaches/volunteer can be rostered to an unlimited number of teams (within the same affiliate) at no additional charge.

**204.2** Initial coach’s/volunteer registration must be submitted properly and accurately subject to FYSA Coach Registration Procedures *located in the FYSA Procedures Manual for Affiliates*.

**204.3** All Coaches and/or volunteers registering with FYSA will be subject to a background check through any organization that FYSA may be deemed appropriate. Any individual who has been charged and found guilty of violating any provision of Florida Statutes Section 435.04 may be denied participation in FYSA sanctioned events

**204.4** Coaches are responsible for notifying FYSA of any event that may affect their risk management status. Failure to notify FYSA may result in the revocation of the individual’s privilege to participate in FYSA sanctioned events.

### **205. ROSTERING**

**205.1** All players must be rostered to a team in order to compete in any FYSA sanctioned event. Any player competing in any competition shall be considered immediately rostered to said team. Note: Rostered players may guest play with proper permission in any FYSA sanctioned event, if allowed by the rules of competition, and not affect their original rostered status

**205.2** An official FYSA roster is the roster generated by the current FYSA registration system. The Official FYSA Roster must include the picture of the player and coach. A player is rostered to a team when the rostering process is completed or as defined under FYSA Rule 205.1. All matters of dispute shall be governed by the official state roster. A copy of the official roster is valid for all events requiring a roster.

- 205.3** Club pass is permitted, and a player may be rostered to multiple teams within the same affiliate at one time during a seasonal year. FYSA sanctioned competitions (league play and tournaments) may adopt rules to allow the use of Club Pass players up to the maximum roster size:
- A. 13U – 19U teams – Total roster size, including club pass players, is capped at twenty-two ( 22). Teams shall name eighteen (18) eligible players for each game.
  - B. 11U – 12U teams – Total roster size, including club pass players, is capped at sixteen (16).
  - C. Club pass players may only participate with one (1) team per day. (Player may play more than one (1) game per day in the competition with the same team, but not with two different teams in the same day.)
- 205.4** Leagues and tournaments may create internal event roster forms allowing properly FYSA registered players to participate within their rules of competition without changing the Official FYSA Roster. These event rosters must list the players full name, pass number, rostered team, DOB and birth verification status. Prior to the use of these internal event rosters, for all inter-club games, leagues and tournaments must have on file the team’s official FYSA roster with appropriate guest player forms or FYSA Event Rosters, as verification of players’ credentials and that guest players have proper permission to participate.
- 205.5** Secondary Rostering is permitted, and a player may be rostered to multiple teams across two different affiliates at one time during a seasonal year. Regulations concerning secondary rosters are as follows:
- A. Player's Cup eligibility is the player's primary team. A player’s primary team shall be the first team to which the player is rostered.
  - B. Release from the primary team in no way transfers primary status to the secondary team. To transfer primary status requires a completed transfer. This player will then be considered a previously rostered player if not registered to a team within the same affiliate.
  - C. Primary team schedules will take precedence in all issues or conflicts. If player is registered to two (2) affiliates, all matters regarding registration will be decided by the primary team's affiliate.
- 205.6** Rosters for all competitions leading to the determination of President's Cup and Commissioner’s Cup participants shall be the official state roster as generated by the FYSA State Office or the Commissioner’s Cup Committee.

**205.7** State Cup and President’s/Commissioner’s/Recreational Cup rosters simultaneously is not permitted.

**206. ELIGIBILITY**

- 206.1** Player Eligibility to compete shall be determined as follows:
- A. Registration with FYSA has been completed and is accurate.
  - B. Proper birth documentation has been provided, for players registered as verified.
  - C. Player is properly rostered (as per the rules of competition) to the team with which he/she intends to compete.
  - D. Affiliate requirements for registration have been met.
  - E. Status is "in Good standing" with the Affiliate and FYSA.
  - F. Remains on team, or with the affiliate, to which he/she is registered/rostered for the seasonal year unless properly released or transferred (Sept 1st through Aug 31st).
- 206.2** Team eligibility to compete is determined by the following:
- A. All players properly registered with FYSA.
  - B. All Players are properly rostered to the team as may be defined by the rules of competition.
  - C. Coaches properly registered with FYSA and rostered to the team as may be defined by the rules of competition.
  - D. Associated with an affiliate, and must continue that association for the seasonal year, including that no team in its entirety or majority may move to another Affiliate during the seasonal year.
  - E. Adhere to proper age grouping.
  - F. Improper registration of any team member shall result in the team forfeiting all games the improperly registered player(s) took part in. An improperly registered player is a player who is over-age, not



registered to FYSA and/or improperly entered on the team's roster.

- 206.3** FYSA recognizes two types of team genders, girls, and boys. Team gender is determined by the following:
- A. Teams with females only are girls teams.
  - B. All other teams are boys teams.

**207. TRANSFERS/RELEASES**

Soccer is a team sport; a player makes a commitment to the team at initial registration, as well as to the affiliate for the seasonal year.

- 207.1** Players, or their parents for players under the age of 18, may request in writing to be removed from a team's roster or from the affiliate. The affiliate may grant the request.

- 207.2** Players shall not be removed from a team's roster or released by the affiliate under any circumstances if the player is:

- Rostered to a team currently subject to roster freeze or
- Is serving a suspension (red card).

- 207.3** There shall be no limit to the number of removals per team unless prohibited by special rules of competition (i.e., State Cup).

- 207.4** Released players **ARE NOT ELIGIBLE** to compete or participate in any FYSA sanctioned or sponsored event. **IN NO CASE IS A RELEASED PLAYER ENTITLED TO A PASS. NO RELEASED PLAYER SHALL HAVE IN HIS/HER POSSESSION ANY FYSA/US YOUTH SOCCER PASS.** Any player/coach found to participate with a pass of a released player/coach may have the releasing affiliate charged a fine as per Rule 303.

- 207.5** Players released during the seasonal year may be transferred to any affiliate (subject to the restrictions of Rules 207.10 and 208F.) for the remainder of the seasonal year, without notice to the original affiliate. Players once released may not be placed in NGS (Not in Good Standing) by the original affiliate. In the event of a returned check for payment to the club, submission of a copy of the returned check to FYSA will be sufficient evidence to place a member into NGS immediately. **RELEASED PLAYERS MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY SANCTIONED EVENT.**

- 207.6** Should the affiliate deny the request, a reason must be given. Affiliates have the right to deny any release or transfer request for the following reasons:

- The player has guest played with the affiliate during the current seasonal year (FYSA Rule 209).
- The coach or team staff member is the player's ODP coach (FYSA Rule 208).
- There is a financial obligation to the affiliate.
- The request is received by the affiliate after December 1<sup>st</sup> of the seasonal year.
- Other contractual obligations to the affiliate.

- 207.7** Players who have relocated their primary residence by more than 100 miles are entitled to a transfer to an affiliate located near their residence. Should any affiliate deny the transfer of a player who has moved 100 miles, the Registration Committee will make the determination as to the validity of the request. The judgment of the Registration Committee is final and will be based upon the documentation requested and received.

- 207.8** A player may be removed from an affiliate involuntarily for the following reasons only, subject to approval from the FYSA registration committee after submission of the involuntary release form:

- A. The player has violated the rules of USSF, FYSA or US Youth Soccer and is currently under suspension (non-red card or game related suspensions.) All rights to due process must have been complied with as defined under FYSA Rule 600.

- B. The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance. Determination of what constitutes a reasonable travel distance shall be solely determined by the FYSA Registration Committee.
- C. A player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the seasonal year.
- D. A player who contests the action of involuntary release within ten (10) days shall be able to appeal to the registration committee. This action may over-roster the team resulting in sanctions based on the rules of the particular competition or may cause a team to be disqualified from a competition by violating roster freeze rules.

**207.9 OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (“ODP”)**

Players who have registered in the current seasonal year and have participated in the ODP may not transfer or be added to any team that their ODP coach or assistant coach participated with for the remainder of the current seasonal year and all of the following seasonal year. Unless permission is granted in writing by the original registering affiliate. [Intra-club (within the same club) are exempted from this exclusion.

**208. GUEST PLAYING**

FYSA teams may include guest players, if allowed by the rules of a specific competition. These guest players must be registered with FYSA or another US Youth Soccer affiliate organization. FYSA players may be allowed to guest play with another FYSA team or with another US Youth Soccer affiliate, if proper permission is granted by that player’s original registering club.

- A. Permission of the player's current primary affiliate must be granted in writing by use of the FYSA guest player form.
- B. In order for a player to play up more than one birth year, the procedure in rule 211.3 must be followed. Permission must be obtained for each event (i.e., tournaments and league play).
- C. Permission to guest play may be denied by the affiliate at its discretion.
- D. Coaches desiring a player to guest play must obtain permission from the registering affiliate's agent of record, or designee, prior to contacting the player. Failure to obtain permission prior to contact shall be evidence of poaching as defined under Rule 401.5.
- E. The guest player request form shall specify the dates and competition to which permission is granted. If the request is intra-club no special permission is required.
- F. Players who guest play shall not be allowed to transfer to the team or affiliate with whom he/she has been a guest player for the remainder of the seasonal year unless written permission is granted by the original affiliate. (Intra-club transfers are exempted with permission of the affiliate.)
- G. Playing a "guest player" without proper permission may result in a charge of playing an ineligible player under Rule 401.3 and/or falsification of a roster as defined under Rule 505.4.

**209. SPECIAL COMPETITION REGISTRATION**

STATE CUP (US Youth Soccer’s National Championship Competitions): A player must register in the state in which he or she resides with his or her parents(s), or guardian(s) or in the case of a student in residence at any academically accredited boarding school or college or university, the player may register in the state in which the boarding school, college, or division of the college or university is located. Any other question of residency may be determined by the Florida State Cup Committee.

**210. YOUTH PLAYERS PLAYING AMATEUR**

For youth teams and or youth players competing with or against amateur (senior teams, all requirements of Section 210.1 must be completed prior to the competition. Applications must be submitted for each seasonal year.

A registered youth player, sixteen (16) years or older, will be permitted to play an unlimited number of amateur games without losing his or her youth eligibility provided:

- 1. The youth player must obtain written permission from his or her parent and his/her youth coach or other authorized affiliate official. The youth coach or other authorized team official shall, in writing or by form, request eligibility clearance from FYSA.

2. When the above clearance and permissions have been granted, the State Amateur Association has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play amateur games and will be responsible for establishing the procedures under which this will be implemented.
3. In the event of a conflict between an amateur game and a youth game, the youth game shall take precedence.
4. A youth player who is required to sign an amateur form shall retain youth eligibility, providing the above has been completed prior to signing the amateur form. Failure to comply with the above will result in the player forfeiting his/her youth eligibility to compete in FYSA sanctioned events for the remainder of the current seasonal year or a period of not less than thirty (30) day subject to: Any period longer than thirty (30) days shall require a hearing as defined under FSYA Rules Section 600 for determination as to length of the waiting period.
5. A player who desires to reinstate his/her youth eligibility for the current seasonal year and is sixteen (16) years of age or older may apply for the reinstatement by submitting a written request for reinstatement. The date of receipt of the form and request by the FYSA office shall be the sole determination as to the starting date for sanctions as described in (4).
6. Any player who participated in any an amateur level game prior to his/her sixteenth birthday is not eligible to apply for reinstatement.
7. During this waiting period players will not be able to compete in FYSA sanctioned events but may participate in try-outs and/or team practices.
8. A player's youth eligibility shall automatically be restored at the end of the current seasonal year.

## **211. AGE**

**211.1** Age groupings shall be established by FYSA for all levels of play. Players under 12 years of age will play soccer in accordance with the rules of USYS Development Player Program - Modified Playing Rules for Under 12, Under 10, Under 8, and Under 6 unless these recommendations are formally adopted and agreed to by a majority of the affiliates at an AGM.

### **A. AGE GROUPS**

- 8U and below – no more than 4 v 4 with no goalkeeper.
- 9U & 10U – 7 v 7 including a goalkeeper.
- 11U & 12U -- 9 v 9 including a goalkeeper.
- 13U and above -- 11 v 11 including a goalkeeper.

### **B. PLAYING FORMATS**

- Playing formats: A festival format shall be used for players U8 and below.
- A festival format is recommended for U10 players.
- Follow US Youth Soccer requirements for field size, ball size, etc.

**211.2** A player must have attained his/her third (3<sup>rd</sup>) birthday in order to register with FYSA.

**211.3** Playing up (above a player's normal age group):

It is FYSA's policy that all players compete at a level they are capable of both physically and developmentally.

(1) Players up to 8U age groups will be allowed to roster up two (2) years provided they have parent permission and approved by the Club Board of Directors.

(2) Players in the 9U to 14U age groups will be allowed to roster up to two (2) years

(3) Player in the 15U and older age groups will be allowed to roster up to any older age groups.

There will not be an approval process in place and no exceptions to the above guidelines will be granted. Roster rules will be set in FYSA's registration system to permit clubs to roster players that meet these

guidelines.

Failure to obtain proper permissions may result in the player being removed from the team's roster and sanctions against the team/club.

#### **211.4 HEADING RULE**

Deliberate or accidental heading is not allowed in 11U and below games. If a player deliberately or accidentally heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate or accidental header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the offense occurred. (1) Heading is allowed in games 12U and older without limitations. For players in 12U and 13U, heading training should be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers per player, per week. (2) Heading is only allowed by players that have turned 11-years-old. If a 10-year-old is playing in a game, he is not allowed to head the ball, and it is the responsibility of the coaches and club to make sure this is clearly communicated prior to each game.

#### **300. FEES**

##### **301. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**301.1** Fees shall be established by FYSA to provide sufficient income to support its programs and services to players, coaches, affiliates, and associate affiliates and to support the administration of its organization. Fines and penalties may also be levied.

**301.2** Registration fees shall be required for every player/coach that registers to participate in any FYSA sanctioned event or competition. Registration fees shall be divided into two portions:

- A. Fixed cost shall include player insurance; US Youth Soccer player/coach fee; USSF player/coach fee.
- B. Administrative costs.

Adjustments to the fixed cost portion of the registration fee shall be set and communicated annually by the Board of Director with 10 business days of receipt of player insurance quotes or notice of changes to US Youth Soccer or USSF fees, but not later than July 10th of each year to be effective with the next seasonal year.

Administrative costs shall be set annually at the AGM. A proposed increase in administrative cost requires that it not become effective for the seasonally year immediately following the AGM but for the year after

**301.3** Insurance fees shall be determined by the cost of the policy as required by the carrier. The fee for insurance shall be included in the registration fee and may not be paid separately.

**301.4** Payment of registration and affiliation fees are due at the time of submitting anything that requires a fee as specified by FYSA and shall be by bank check, certified check, money order, credit card or electronic payment. No cash payments can be accepted. Fees shall be made payable to FYSA and submitted to the FYSA office.

**301.5** Monthly statements shall be sent electronically to affiliates from the State Office.

**301.5.1** Fees and registration must be submitted via the FYSA online system within thirty (30) days from when the Affiliate accepts registration or prior to first competition in order for the player's insurance coverage to become effective. (See Rules 201.5.)

**301.5.2** All other fees will be submitted as directed (i.e., Protest and Appeal fees and entry fees for State Cup,

President's Cup, ODP, etc.)

- 302.** All Fees due to FYSA shall be considered delinquent if not paid, in cleared funds, within 30 days of invoice. Invoice shall be defined as either the date a registration batch is transmitted to FYSA or other charges billed through invoices generated by FYSA from their online system. Affiliates will be placed not in good standing (NGS) by the FYSA Treasurer when fees are not paid in a timely manner. Notification of all affiliates placed in NGS will be sent to all BOD members. Governmental-run programs which require an invoice will be granted a time extension to comply with Rule 301.5.1 if necessary or up to thirty (30) days after receiving an invoice from FYSA's office.
- 302.1** Suspension from all *FYSA SANCTIONED* events for all member of the affiliate shall occur if an affiliate is placed in NGS. Participation cannot resume until all fees are paid in full.
- 302.2** All Affiliate voting rights may be suspended by the BOD when an affiliate's account is in arrears by two hundred dollars (\$200.) or five percent (5%) of their amount due for the seasonal year, whichever is greater. Upon payment of the Delinquency amounts all voting rights will be restored.
- 302.3** A debt between a player/coach and an affiliate is a civil matter between the parties. Currently, registered/rostered players/coaches may be placed in NGS (NGS) via the procedures outlined in the FYSA Procedures Manual for Affiliates. This COS must be submitted no later than 5:00 P.M. on the Friday before Memorial Day of the current seasonal year or within thirty (30) days of the date the debt was incurred, whichever is later. The affiliate shall supply all documentation regarding the debt to include, but not be limited to, the basis of the debt and documentation as to the affiliate's actions taken to resolve or collect this alleged debt. Failure of the affiliate to submit this documentation via the procedure outlined in the FYSA Procedures Manual for Affiliates within two (2) business days of the original NGS transactions shall negate the action against the player/coach. It shall be the affiliate's responsibility to immediately notify FYSA of any change in status of the player/coach. Failure to do so may impact the affiliate's ability to place future members in NGS.

Upon receipt, the FYSA office will notify, in writing, the player/coach or the parents of any minor player/coach, copying the affiliate and appropriate RVP by e-mail. The parties will have fourteen (14) calendar days to challenge this status in writing to FYSA's State Office. The FYSA office shall forward all documentation to the Vice President of Administration and Communication for a ruling as to the validity of the action; this ruling shall be final and binding on all parties.

In the event of a returned check for payment to the club for a NGS issue, submission of a copy of the returned check to FYSA will be sufficient evidence to place a member back into NGS immediately.

**The affiliate will be billed the normal COS fee (\$25) for this service.**

- 302.4** A schedule of fees shall be provided herein for all fees, costs for services, fines, penalties, and dates for submission. This schedule shall be updated annually by the Budget Committee and approved by the Affiliates at the AGM.

### 303. FEE / FINE STRUCTURE

<b>Fee Required For:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Date Due</b>
Affiliation	\$135.00	July 1
First-time affiliation see Rule 102.2	\$5000.00	Upon Acceptance
Affiliation Surcharge (except new affiliate)	\$5.00	Per./mo.after 8/1
Associate Membership	\$135.00	Application
Coaching Courses and Clinics	Set annually	Application
	<u>at the AGM</u>	
	<u>to take effect</u>	
	<u>the following</u>	
	<u>seasonal year</u>	
Convention / AGM	Set annually	Application
Cup, President's	Set annually	Entry
Cup, Commissioner's	Set by Region	Entry
Cup, State	Set annually	Entry
Insurance Certificate	\$12.00	When Requested
<b>Protest / Appeals</b>		
from C/L to Protest/Appeals	\$400.00	Submission
from SQL/SC game to Protest/Appeals	\$400.00	Submission
<b><u>PLAYERS:</u></b>		
Recreation Players	\$13.00	When Direct Registered
Competitive Players	\$25.00	When Direct Registered
TOPSoccer Players	NO CHARGE	
<b><u>COACHES:</u></b>		
New or Returning Coaches Pass	\$0.00	Per Coach
<b><u>COS FEES:</u></b>		
Intra-Club Transfer (Club Pass) – Recreation to Recreation	NO CHARGE	
Intra-Club Transfer (Club Pass) – Competitive to Competitive	NO CHARGE	
Intra-Club Transfer (Club Pass) – Recreation to Competitive	\$12.00	Per Player
Inter-Club Transfer (Dual Roster) – Recreation or Competitive	\$25.00	Per Player
<b><u>FINES:</u></b>		
Affiliate Fine for Released Player/Coach Participating	\$500	First Offense
Affiliate Fine for Released Player/Coach Participating	\$1000	Second Offense
Registering/Playing Overage Player	\$500	First Offense
Registering/Playing Overage Player	\$2000	Second Offense
Affiliate Fine for Allowing a Non-Registered Coach to Participate	\$1000	Per Offense

**Note: All fees set annually will be set no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> and communicated to all affiliates. In order to qualify for the recreational rates, the team must meet all requirements of a recreational team as defined by US Youth Soccer.**

**Tournament and Travel fees are defined in Section 905**

**ALL FEES, OTHER THAN REGISTRATION FEES, ARE SUBJECT TO FINAL REVIEW AT THE OCTOBER BOD MEETING.**

**303.1** A late fee in the maximum amount permitted under Florida Statutes (currently 1 1/2% per month (18% annual APR)) will be added to any balance due if more than thirty (30) days delinquent.

**400. PLAYERS, COACHES, TEAM STAFF, PARENTS, SPECTATORS  
CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**401. COACHES/TEAM STAFF CONDUCT/RESPONSIBILITIES**

**401.1** Registration of all coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, trainers etc. shall be mandatory with FYSA and shall be consistent with Rule 204. Providing inaccurate information may result in disciplines/sanctions under Rule 505.4.

**401.2** Adherence to the Rules shall be the responsibility of all team staff and ignorance of the Rules shall not relieve them of this responsibility.

Any member found guilty shall be suspended for the remainder of the current seasonal year, plus the next seasonal year.

**401.3** Coach's responsibility for player's registration shall include proper and complete registering, rostering and age verification for any players, guest players or transfers to their team.

Any member found guilty shall be suspended for the remainder of the current seasonal year, plus the next seasonal year.

**401.4** A team who submits an electronic registration for, or plays an overage player may have its privileges to participate in FYSA-sanctioned games or events suspended for the remainder of the seasonal year. For the purposes of this rule only, team shall be defined as a specific group of players. A team which changes its code is still the same team.

**401.5 POACHING**

There is to be NO improper contact between the prospective team and the player/parents of currently registered and/or rostered players. Any coach or member of a team having contact with a player after a player is registered and/or rostered, without first obtaining written permission from that player's coach, will be construed as having had improper contact with a player, and such action can result in a charge of poaching.

1. Improper contact is defined as any communication with a player other than the most casual, cordial communication necessary such as congratulations at the end of a match or similar such conversations. This contact specifically includes, but is not limited to, players participating in practices, training sessions, scrimmages, or other soccer-related functions.
2. Improper contact shall also include, but is not limited to, meetings with players/parents, attendance at team social functions when the player is not registered to that team, etc.
3. Any such improper contact, no matter how generated, is prohibited without prior written notification and written consent of the player's current head coach, the club director of coaching and/or players, or the Agent of Record of the club to which the player is currently registered and/or rostered. A coach/volunteer or member of a team having contact with a player is charged with the knowledge of that player's registration and/or roster status and shall be held accountable for any

unauthorized contact with any player currently not rostered to his team, regardless of how that contact is initiated or by whom.

- A. No coach, assistant coach, trainer, team representative, registered player, parent or advertisement may offer any kind of inducement to recruit a player and/or to transfer from his/her respective team, during the seasonal year as defined September 1 through August 31.

Inducing a player includes, but is not limited solicitation to leave the current affiliate, offering a currently rostered player a roster spot on an existing team, or a roster spot for the next seasonal year. Coaches are responsible for the actions of the all of the above listed participants of their team.

B. Players:

Players shall be allowed to attend publicly announced tryouts held in accordance with Rule 401.6 for the next seasonal year of any FYSA affiliated club. Players will not be required to obtain written permission from their current affiliate.

All currently registered players shall become free agents at the completion of FYSA's State Cup Final Four or elimination from National Championship Competitions (whichever is later) or at a date as may be set by the BOD.

At this time, all restrictions as to guest playing and contact between parties shall be lifted until such time as the player (and parent) executes a contract or registration for the next seasonal year.

C. Coach:

All coaches are obligated to the registering affiliate for the complete seasonal year defined as September 1 through August 31. Agreement by contract between the parties may shorten or lengthen this period. A coach shall be bound by the following conditions:

1. For an affiliate to recruit the services of a registered coach, the requesting affiliate must first notify in writing the agent of record of the coach's current club. There shall be no contact with any currently registered coach prior to March 1st, unless permission is granted in writing by the affiliate's agent of record, or designee.
2. A currently registered coach may not contact a prospective club prior to March 1st, without written permission of their currently registered affiliate's agent of record, or designee. After March 1st contact may be affected with written notification to the current affiliate. Once tryouts have commenced, coaches are bound to the affiliate.
3. A currently registered coach who decide during a seasonal year to change clubs shall not solicit, entice, or induce in any manner players they are currently coaching to move to his/her new club until after the completion of State Cup Finals or further National Championship competitions.
4. Violation of any of the above standards is tantamount to poaching.

D. Disciplinary Sanctions

Minimum disciplinary actions/sanctions to be taken against any coach or member of a team found guilty of the violation of any of the above conditions shall be:

- 1st Offense-- One (1) year suspension: club to be fined \$2500 paid within two (2) months. Failure to remit payment in the timeframe will place the club Not in Good Standing.
- 2nd Offense -- Minimum three (3) year suspension; club to be fined \$5000.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the hearing including copying charges, postage, etc. paid within two (2) months. Failure to remit payment in the timeframe the club will be placed Not in Good Standing.



The RVP, upon receipt of notification of a conviction for poaching, shall empanel a committee of not less than three (3) neutral members that shall request from the convicted party(s) and the affected affiliate a brief in mitigation as to:

1. Should the team be permitted to continue to compete in FYSA sponsored events for the remainder of the seasonal year.
2. And/or should the player(s) subject of the charges be permitted to participate in FYSA sponsored events with said team for the remainder of the seasonal year.
3. The committee's decision in this matter shall be final and binding.

Conviction of a poaching charge by any member of a team may cause the team to which that player/coach is registered to forfeit its privilege to participate in any and all FYSA-sponsored events (i.e., State Cup, President's Cup, League play etc.) for the remainder of the seasonal year. The team sanctioning will apply only to the team that is involved in the poaching incident, not multiple teams if the player/coach or team member is registered to more than one team.

#### **401.6 TRY-OUTS**

Organizations affiliated with FYSA may hold any try-out, player identification, or player assessment activity, related to the formation of teams for the next seasonal year involving players IN ALL AGE GROUPS on or after the date set by the BOD. The statewide try-out date shall be set by the BOD no later than March 1 of the current year. The statewide try-out date shall be no earlier than the first Monday in May, nor later than the Tuesday following Memorial Day.

Based on the date set by the FYSA BOD, each of the 4 regions will meet and decide if that date works for their affiliates, or if they wish to set a different date that will supersede the statewide date and apply to all affiliates in their Region. No Region may set the try-out date outside the dates mentioned above. Regardless of the date chosen, the following guidelines are to be met:

- Tryouts, player identification or player assessment are publicly advertised and open to all age-appropriate players.
- The name of the club/affiliate must be clearly stated, as well as its business address, and telephone number.
- No language can be incorporated which would deny the right or ability of any youth soccer player of the correct age to participate; or which would restrict eligibility for the team to any arbitrary prerequisites such as particular school, church, housing, subdivision, etc., nor can the advertisement serve in any way, directly or indirectly, to coerce or threaten players to try out for a particular member affiliate's team versus another.
- Players remain bound to their existing club for the current seasonal year pursuant to provisions contained in Rule 207.6.
- The poaching rule remains in effect. Contact outside of the context of tryouts and follow-ups to tryouts could be deemed poaching.
- Violations will result in the Club's affiliation with FYSA being reviewed, and re-affiliation may be denied by the BOD.

#### **402. PLAYER CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**402.1** Player's conduct, in keeping with the belief that they are the primary representatives of their team, club, league and FYSA, shall be exemplary of "good sportsmanship", character, and adherence to the Rules, bringing positive attention to themselves and their team. They shall also comply with the following:

1. Verification of age and DOB shall be true and correct as submitted by themselves or their parent or guardian.
2. Falsification of birth documentation shall result in suspension subject to the provisions under Rule 505.4.
3. Time requirements shall be met in the proper registration, payments of fees and accurate filing of all

forms and applications.

4. Failure of parent/guardian to assist the player in their administrative, programmatic and financial obligations shall not be grounds for waiving or failing to comply with the rules.

**402.2** Player equipment shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Affiliate, FYSA and FIFA rules. Additionally:

- a.) Screw in cleats are permitted; however, judgment as to their safety is at the discretion of the referee.
- b.) Orthopedic casts can be worn at any sanctioned FYSA tournament with written approval from a doctor and written permission from a tournament official, final judgement as to its safety is at the discretion of the referee.
- c.) Soft braces can be worn with written approval from a doctor, and judgement as to safety is at the discretion of the referee.
- d.) Shin guards must comply with FIFA Law 4:
  - 1) Shin guards are covered entirely by the stockings.
  - 2) Shin guards are made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic, or similar substances).
  - 3) Shin guards must PROVIDE A REASONABLE DEGREE OF PROTECTION.
  - 4) Shin guards are required for any FYSA event for the Safety of the players.

### **402.3 JEWELRY**

It is the policy of FYSA that no player be allowed to wear ANY jewelry while participating in any FYSA sanctioned match. The only exception that may be allowed is a medical alert bracelet or necklace when taped to the body. The referee shall make the decision as to the safety of the player and the referee's decision is final. (The taping of any earring shall not be permitted under any circumstances.) If the referee notices a player wearing jewelry while the match is under way at the next stoppage of play, the referee will instruct the player to remove the item. If the referee deems the jewelry to be dangerous to any player, the referee must stop the match to correct the situation

### **402.4 PLAYER HYDRATION/WATER BREAKS**

In any FYSA sanctioned match a break will be given at the midpoint of each half of regulation time and at the end of each overtime period (if played) for player hydration. This break will be given at a normal stoppage of play and it is mandatory for any FYSA sanctioned match during which the air temperature is or is expected to reach eighty-five (85) degrees. This break will be a maximum of one (1) to two (2) minutes of time.

Violation may result in charges under FYSA's COE.

### **403. PARENT/SPECTATORS CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITY**

**403.1** Parent responsibility shall include meeting the required administrative and programmatic rules, if in some cases it is not within the player's ability to do so. This shall include providing correct and completed registration, necessary applications and/or entry forms and applicable fees.

**403.2** Falsification of documentation shall result in the suspension and/or sanction of the player whose documents are altered by their parent as described under Rule 505.4.

**403.3** Parent/Spectator conduct during games is the responsibility of the coach who may be disciplined for such conduct. The Affiliate is ultimately responsible for misconduct of the parent/spectator and shall take disciplinary action to maintain control and orderly completion of games against the parent/spectator, coach, coaching staff, or the team.

Any other individuals who may be reasonable construed as being associated with a team such as relatives and spectators shall also be subject to the jurisdiction and authority of this Association. Any coach or team official shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual(s) at any match that, in the opinion of the

referee, is a supporter of that team.

- 403.4** Entering the playing field during the game is not permitted for any reason other than to assist in an injury and only then if requested to do so. Entering the playing field can result in the Site Director requiring the offender to leave the soccer site and/or further disciplinary action.

#### **404. REFEREE AND REFEREE ASSIGNOR PROCEDURES AND POLICIES**

- 404.1** Any referee or referee assignor who officiates any FYSA-sanctioned match must be registered with FL Soccer SRC Inc. dba Florida Soccer Referees (FSR) and complete a background check with FYSA. This is in addition to and not a replacement for referee registration and/or re-certification with USSF through FSR. FYSA shall establish procedures and policies for referees who desire to officiate FYSA-sanctioned matches.

Guest referees, out-of-state or international, traveling with proper permission may be granted a limited exemption. This limited exemption shall be approved by FYSA in writing and will only be granted for a specific event, such as a tournament. The guest referees or out-of-state or international granted a limited exception must still register as a guest in FSR's referee database/ system. The tournament may request exemption for guest referee(s) by application to FYSA not less than thirty (30) days prior to the event. This exemption is not intended for league play and shall be for a limited term.

All Assignors who assign any FYSA-sanctioned match must be registered through FSR and shall complete a coach/volunteer background check. If the assignor is also a registered referee and currently registered with FYSA and FSR, they shall so indicate on the application.

- 404.2** FYSA will accept background checks conducted by FSR for any referee eighteen (18) years of age or older. This background check shall be repeated every year or intervals as deemed appropriate by FYSA.
- 404.3** The referee or referee assignor, upon request, must furnish evidence of current referee or referee assignor certification with USSF by presenting either a current year's badge, evidence from-FSR or USSF as to current registration.
- 404.4** All referees/administrators and referee assignors contracted by an FYSA affiliate agrees to be bound by the COE of FSR and USSF. Failure to comply may result in the revocation, subject to due process of FSR and USSF, of the referee/administrator's privilege to referee or administered FYSA sanctioned event/matches.
- 404.5** A referee or referee assignor shall NOT be permitted to officiate any FYSA sanctioned match during the term of any suspension imposed by FYSA or FSR. This shall include but not be limited to "red card suspensions."

#### **500. DISCIPLINES AND SANCTIONS**

##### **501. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 501.1** Discipline and sanctions may be imposed by FYSA and its Affiliates upon anyone for either misconduct during FYSA activities (games, practices, etc.) or infraction of administrative rules.
- 501.2** Discipline during games refers to both players and non-players and shall include pre-game, game and post-game misconduct. Such disciplines may be imposed as a result of a referee caution, ejection/sendoff or post game report or site directors or other administrator reports.

- 501.3** Administrative disciplines and/or sanctions refer to infractions of FYSA and/or Affiliate rules and guidelines.
- 501.4** Players are those youth registered to FYSA, who may be assigned to a team and are involved in the pre-game, game, and post-game activities (on or off the field, in or out of uniform).
- 501.5** Non-players shall include coaches, assistant coaches, other team staff and spectators involved in the pre-game, game, or post-game activities (on or off the field).
- 501.6** Any suspension assessed against any FYSA member (player, coach, administrator, etc.) as the result of charges filed and heard by a Regional or BOD hearing panel where the suspension exceeds 6 months shall be submitted to USSF along with a request for all USSF-affiliated organizations to honor said suspension. The request to USSF will be made automatically once the timeframe for an appeal has expired or an appeal has been filed and found not in favor of the appellant.

**501.7 SUSPENSION BECAUSE OF LITIGATION**

1. Any person participating in a US Youth Soccer program, or in a program of a State Association or a program of a member of a State Association, 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. Suspensions under this rule shall be determined by the appropriate State Association or the State Association's Board of Directors. Matters detrimental to the welfare of youth players shall include 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 the body suspending the person under section 1 of this rule 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.

**501.8** Due process shall be guaranteed to any individual or group disciplined or sanctioned by anybody within the jurisdiction of FYSA. Failure to provide due process shall result in the suspension of the discipline imposed and sanction against the body failing to provide due process. Upon determining due process has not been provided, the disciplining body may or may not be required by FYSA to re-institute proceedings according to the Rules

**501.9** Individual rights to a hearing before the imposition of any discipline or sanction more severe than the minimums required shall be guaranteed by the Affiliate to any individuals involved in their organization.

**501.10** Severity of discipline and/or sanctions shall be consistent with the severity of misconduct and/or infraction as defined in Sections 502, 503, and 400 of the FYSA administrative rulebook.

**501.11** Affiliate rights to a hearing on any issue determined to impact their ability participate in soccer competition, shall be guaranteed by the Rules of FYSA. Hearings shall be conducted in a fair, timely and impartial manner.

**501.12** Eligibility to participate remains terminated until any discipline, suspension, or sanction has been completed, or a decision has been rendered on an appeal. If a timely hearing is not provided, the person may participate after the minimum sanctions have been fulfilled

**501.13** Any individual whose privilege to participate in FYSA-sanctioned events as a coach/volunteer is removed as a result of any background check shall not participate in any referee program sanctioned by FYSA. This shall include, but not be limited to, acting as a referee, assignor, assessor, or instructor at or during any FYSA-sanctioned event. Such restriction shall remain in effect until said coach/volunteer is reinstated by FYSA.

**501.14** Anyone who obstructs an investigation of a rule violation may be charged under FYSA Rules 503, 505 and/or FYSA's COE. Obstruction of an investigation may be defined, but is not limited to, failure to provide state, league, club or game officials information about an incident or person involved that they should reasonably be able to provide, failing to give accurate information on any form, or interfering with any disciplinary proceeding. This shall include, but not be limited to, threatening or intimidating witnesses, or requesting potential witnesses to give inaccurate information. The charge filed must define the infraction being investigated and clearly define how the investigation was obstructed.

## **502. DISCIPLINE - GAME CONDUCT**

When Discipline/Sanctions are imposed, they must meet the required minimums as specified by FYSA and/or USSF. The Disciplining body must evaluate the incident as to intent, severity, and past misconduct to determine the appropriate disciplines/sanctions. More severe disciplines/sanctions shall be imposed for multiple red cards during a season and for misconduct directed towards officials or administrators.

### **502.1 One Game Suspension:**

1. Resulting from a second caution; (i.e., persistent infringement or dissent by word or action).
2. Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area).
3. Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving toward the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick.
4. Serious Foul Play is defined as using disproportionate and unnecessary strength in a manner likely to hurt or injure an opponent; any tackle from behind which endangers the safety of an opponent.

### **502.2 Offensive, Insulting or Abusive language:**

- 1 One (1) game suspension -- Offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures not directed.
2. Three (3) game suspension -- Offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures directed toward a player, referee, assistant referee, administrator, spectator or game and /or tournament official.
3. Six (6) game suspension -- Adult directed to a youth referee.
4. If the offensive, insulting, or abusive language is reported to be hate speech the penalty shall be increased by two (2) games

### **502.3 Violent Conduct:**

1. One (1) game suspension (minor infractions) -- dead-ball foul that is neither violent or with intent to harm or injure; attempting to strike, hit or punch.
2. Two (2) game suspension (minor infractions) -- is defined as the aggression of a player towards an opponent with clearly no intent to play or fight for the ball; threatening gestures.
3. Four (4) game suspension (major infractions) -- striking with the intent to injure; fighting; any intentional exposure of the anatomy considered lewd and lascivious; all gestures with any part of the body which implies visual profanity.
4. Six (6) game suspension (major infraction) -- Entering a fight in progress or action resulting in law enforcement being called; entering the field of play and committing any additional offense (e.g., violent conduct, foul or abusive language; this will be in addition to the sanction for the subsequent violation).

### **502.4 Spitting - 4 (four) game suspension:**

Spitting is defined as spitting on or at an opponent or another person as well as spitting onto their own hand prior to shaking hands with their opponent and/or the referees or other game officials.

**502.5** FYSA affiliates shall notify the FYSA Office within seven (7) days of any player or coach red card/ejection for violent conduct (major infraction), foul and/or abusive language/gestures directed, spitting, or referee abuse. If the player or coach has two such ejections during a seasonal year or a third within two seasonal years, the matter will be turned over to the FYSA Review and Discipline committee to affirm if additional sanctions should be assessed for a possible additional suspension for thirteen (13) games or six (6) months, whichever is longer. Multiple offenses relating to the same red card/ejection will qualify under this rule. If affirmed by the FYSA Review and Discipline Committee, the action may be appealed to the FYSA Protest and Appeals Committee.

**502.5.1** Any player who attempts to conceal their identity either before, during or post game, shall be suspended for a minimum of sixty (60) days or eight (8) games whichever is longer.

**502.6 GAME OFFICIALS AND NON-GAME OFFICIALS**

Misconduct toward a officials and non-game officials may include, but is not limited to, all registered referees, assistant referees, forth officials or other duly appointed to assist. It also includes any unlicensed or unregistered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee under USSF Policy 531, Section 2 and any club assistant referees.

Misconduct toward a non-game official may include, but is not limited to, any affiliate member, league/tournament official, FYSA staff or board member or any other person acting in an official capacity at any FYSA-sanctioned event.

Any act committed before, during, or after a match, even at later times if it is match related, such as at work or at home, may constitute misconduct.

**502.6.1 ABUSE OF A REFEREE OR NON-GAME OFFICIAL**

Abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact that implies or threatens physical harm to a person or the person's property or equipment.

Abuse includes, but is not limited to, the following acts committed upon a person: using foul or abusive language toward a person (must imply a threat of physical harm), spewing any beverage on a person's personal property; spitting at (but not on) the person; verbally threatening a person with remarks that carry or imply direct threats of physical harm.

Such remarks as "I'll get you after the game." or "You won't get out of here in one piece." shall be deemed abuse.

Discipline: Minimum sanctions

- a. Six (6) games or three (3) month suspension, whichever is longer;
- b. Spitting at a referee or game official, six (6) games or six (6) month suspension, whichever is longer;  
OR
- c. An adult upon a youth referee, minimum of one (1) year suspension; OR
- d. a monetary fine established by FYSA which will be designated and provided to FSR to fund an FSR referee development program, awareness campaign and/or scholarship.

**502.6.2 ASSAULT UPON A REFEREE OR NON-GAME OFFICIAL**

Referee Assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a person committed before, during or after a match. For the purpose of this rule, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result that will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the actions are irrelevant. Assault includes, but is not limited to, the following act committed upon a person: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into

a person; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a person that could inflict injury; damaging the person's uniform or personal property (i.e., car, equipment, etc.).

The player, coach, manager, spectator or official committing the assault is automatically suspended until a hearing is held on the assault.

Discipline: Minimum sanctions

- a. For a minor or slight touching of a person or the person's uniform or personal property, at least six (6) months from the time of the assault;
- b. Except as provided in above, for any other assault, at least twelve (12) months from the time of the assault;
- c. For an assault committed by an adult and the referee is seventeen (17) years of age or younger, at least three (3) years; or
- d. For an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least five (5) years.

**502.6.3. PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING ABUSE OR ASSAULT COMMITTED BY A REFEREE, ASSIGNOR, REF MENTOR, REF COACH, OR A NON-GAME OFFICIAL**

**502.6.3.1** Misconduct, charges or allegations committed by Referees, assistant referees, fourth officials and anyone defined as a member of the National Referee Development Program (USSF Policy 531.11) shall be filed immediately with the Site Director or Official in charge of the competition and the competition's assignor. The complaint shall also be filed in writing to the Local Assistant Referee Administrator ("ARA") with copies addressed to the Chair of FSR's "Ethics and Grievance Committee" and the State Youth Referee Administrator ("SYRA") within forty-eight (48) hours of identifying the offense. Hearings may be held as specified by the SRA or their designees.

**502.6.3.2** Failure to act by any Local, Regional or State Referee organization gives jurisdiction to FYSA to conduct hearings, discipline and/or sanction any Referee found to be in violation of FYSA Rules or for any misconduct at any FYSA sanctioned event..

**502.7 PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING ABUSE OR ASSAULT UPON A REFEREE OR A NON-GAME OFFICIAL**

**Section 1: *Procedures to be followed for any alleged incident of assault or abuse for any FYSA sanctioned event upon a referee or a non-game official.***

The referee, a member of the referee crew or a non-game official will report any incident of alleged assault or abuse to the FYSA State Office and the State Referee Administrator within forty-eight (48) hours of the incident (unless there is a valid reason for late reporting as determined by the Chairperson of the FYSA Review and Discipline Committee). The written report submitted must be transmitted within forty-eight (48) hours of the incident (excluding legal holidays) and must include the official game report, supplemental referee reports, any other information the parties want to submit, and the FYSA/US Youth Soccer pass of the player/coach/manager (if available) or the name of the non-player under investigation (if known). If the incident involves a referee, FYSA will in turn notify the SYRA within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the report. For tournaments or special events, the referee shall transmit a written report to the tournament director on the day of the incident and to his home state SRA within 10 days of the incident.

Upon receipt at the FYSA office, an electronic file will be created, and all documentation forwarded to the Review and Discipline Committee. The Review and Discipline Committee will make a determination within seven (7) days of receipt of the report as to one of the following: (i) possible assault did occur; (ii) possible abuse did occur; or (iii) documentation provided did not warrant a determination of either assault or abuse.

FYSA will immediately notify the applicable RVP with the direction to schedule and hold a hearing on the

matter within thirty (30) days.

If the RVP does not hold a hearing on the matter within that period of time, original jurisdiction shall immediately vest in the USSF Appeals Committee to hear the matter (USSF Policy 531-9).

Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension for abuse or assault.

At the completion of the hearing, the RVP will forward a copy of the findings to the FYSA office, and the FYSA office will notify the accused in writing of the findings of the hearing panel. If the incident involved a referee, FYSA will inform the SYRA of the results of the hearing. The FYSA office, upon verification that all requirements of Rule 600 have been complied with, will send a copy of the decision to the Review & Discipline Committee in order that its file may be also closed.

If the accused is found guilty, notification will include information as to the next level of appeal, as per USSF Bylaw 705, which is directly to the USSF Appeals Committee.

In the event that the Review and Discipline Committee determines that neither assault nor abuse occurred, the Committee will notify the FYSA office of such. FYSA will immediately return the player/coach/manager's pass to the appropriate club/league (if applicable). If sanctions are required as a result of actions not determined to be that of assault or abuse, the club/league will handle these separately and according to FYSA and/or club/league rules.

If an allegation of referee assault/abuse occurs during a tournament under sanction of FYSA the followings actions are to be completed:

***Section 2: Procedures to be followed for any alleged incident of referee assault or abuse for any FYSA Event/Tournament, not covered above***

**A. For players/coaches not registered to FYSA:**

In the event assault on or abuse of a referee occurs in a tournament/event outside the alleged offender's home state or from a soccer organization not under the authority of FYSA, the referee shall: (A) immediately notify the Event/Tournament Chairman and assignor and (B) forward a copy of the game report, supplemental referee reports, and their comments on the incident to the Event/Tournament Chairman and assignor.

The Event/Tournament Chairmen shall have the right to immediately convene a hearing at the site of the Event/Tournament at which the alleged offender, the coach of the alleged offender when the offender is a player, and the game official should be present. If the game official is a minor, the game official shall be accompanied by a legal guardian, to be part of the on-site hearing.

Information presented at this hearing shall promptly be relayed to the alleged offender's National State Association by the Event/Tournament Chairman, both orally and in writing; however, failure to provide written information shall not restrict the offender's home National State Association from taking action with regard to any referee abuse or assault. The Event/Tournament Chairman shall also, within seventy-two (72) hours of the incident, notify FYSA in writing, by fax, of the incident with copies of all game reports, supplemental reports, and findings as to any hearing held at the Event/Tournament. (FYSA will copy the SYRA on all reports concerning this incident.)

**B. For players/coaches registered to FYSA:**

For players/coaches under FYSA's jurisdiction, the Event/Tournament will retain the player/coach pass to be forwarded to the FYSA State Office along with copies of all game reports, supplemental reports, and any other information concerning this incident within twenty-four (24) hours of the completion of



the Tournament/Event. The review process of the incident will then follow the procedures as outline in Section 1 above.

### **503. ADMINISTRATIVE GAME CONDUCT**

**503.1** Coach /Manager who sends a player onto the playing field with the intent to participate in the game, any youth who is not registered, is suspended, or is not a rostered member of the teams playing. Coach/Manager who sends a coach/volunteer to the sideline with the intent to participate in the match, any coach/volunteer who is not registered, is suspended, or is not a rostered member of the teams playing. **DISCIPLINE:** Suspended the remainder of the seasonal year PLUS one (1) year.

**503.2** Player who knowingly enters a game that is not registered/rostered to either of the teams.  
**DISCIPLINE:** Suspended the remainder of the seasonal year.

**503.3** Coach or player who participates in a game before completion of suspension.  
**DISCIPLINE:** Suspended the remainder of the seasonal year PLUS one (1) year.

**503.4** A coach/manager who removes his/her team from the field during play may be subject to discipline by the sanctioning body of the match. Any coach who removes his/her team from the field of play must within forty-eight (48) hours, file a written report with the sanctioning body as to justification for his/her actions. Failure to do so may result in sanctions against the coach.

**503.5** Coach/manager who knowingly sends a player onto the playing field with the intent to participate in the game, any youth who is overage.  
**DISCIPLINE:** Suspended a minimum of three (3) years.

### **503.6 INJURED PLAYERS**

When an injured player (inclusive of the goalkeeper) is attended to on the field of play, the player must leave the field of play for treatment and evaluation. A substitution may be made for the injured player. If the team plays short, the injured player will not be allowed back onto the field of play without the permission of the referee. The injured player may re-enter the field from any point on the boundary lines if the ball is out of play; if the ball is in play the player may re-enter only from the touch line. The trainer or coach shall not enter the field of play without the approval of the referee. (Note: If removing the player from the field will cause the number of player on the field to fall below the minimum required, the referee will allow a reasonable time for the injured player to be treated before allowing the match to continue.)

### **504. COMPLETING GAME SUSPENSIONS**

**504.1** Red card suspension or send off suspensions can only be served with the team with which the suspension was earned in games played by their team. Until the suspension is served the player/coach is suspended from any other team(s) to which the player/coach may be registered. Games may not be scheduled to “work off” suspension. Players may not serve suspensions as “guest players” nor may they “guest play” with any other team(s) until such time as the original suspension is served.

1. Issued during league play must be worked off during remainder of the competition or during the next scheduled FYSA-sanctioned match(es) (league, Cup, or tournament game(s), whichever comes first). If no more competition remains in the current season, the suspension must be served during the next scheduled FYSA-sanctioned match(es) (league, Cup, or tournament game(s), whichever comes first). Local club/league may issue additional discipline to be served in other than league games.

2. Issued during President's Cup or Commissioner's Cup, they must be worked off during remainder of the competition. If no competition remains in the current season, suspension must be worked off in next

scheduled FYSA-sanctioned match(es) (league, Cup, or tournament game(s), whichever comes first).

3. Issued during Tournament Play: must be worked off during remainder of the competition. If no more competition remains, the suspension must be served during the next scheduled FYSA-sanctioned match(es) (league, Cup, or tournament game(s), whichever comes first). Tournament Red Card Report must be filed along with game reports as required by Post-Tournament rules.
4. Issued during "friendly games" must be worked off during the next scheduled FYSA-sanctioned match(es) (league, Cup, or tournament game(s), whichever comes first). "Friendly games" may not be scheduled to work off game suspensions nor if previously scheduled, used to work off suspension given during league, cup or tournament games.
5. Issued during the US Youth National Championship (State Cup), at any level, shall not be allowed to participate in the next immediately following National Championship (State Cup) game played by the player's team. A player may receive more than one (1) game suspension. Local club/league may issue additional discipline to be served in other than National Championship (State Cup) games.
6. A red card suspension issued during a small-sided tournament which cannot be served during the event shall be served during the player/coach's next scheduled club, league, or cup game(s). For a suspension issued during a normal league/cup game, the player must sit out the first game of any small-sided tournament previously entered. The player shall then be able to compete in the remainder of the tournament. The player shall not receive credit for the small-sided game(s) against the original suspension.

**504.2** Red card suspensions received as a "guest player" may only be served with the player's primary team. If the player's primary team is not active in competition, with the permission of the RVP, the player may serve the suspension with a secondary team if dual rostered. Suspension received as a guest player may carry forward to the player's primary team during the next seasonal year the player is registered.

**505. DISCIPLINE - ADMINISTRATIVE CONDUCT**

**505.1** Offenses related to Administrative misconduct are as follows:

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| A. Affiliation               | failure to comply with Affiliation procedures per Rule 102                       |
| B. Registration:             | failure to register players/coaches per Rule Section 200 and 400                 |
| C. Fees:                     | failure to pay required fees or fines according to Rule Section 300              |
| D. Discipline and Sanctions: | failure to comply with or administer Rule Section 500                            |
| E. Protest and Appeals       | failure to provide due process according to Rule Section 600                     |
| F. Mis-Feasance:             | Failure to perform duties and responsibilities according to the Rules            |
| Mal-Feasance:                | Failure to perform duties and responsibilities intending to circumvent the Rules |
| Non-Feasance:                | Failure to perform duties and responsibilities.                                  |
| G. Unauthorized Disclosure   | Failure to protect personal data   |

**505.2** Discipline for any of the previous offenses shall be as herein described and levied against an Affiliate, Player or FYSA Official:

<b><u>Offense</u></b>	<b><u>Charged</u></b>	<b><u>Discipline</u></b>
A. Affiliation	Affiliate	Warning; affiliation withheld
B. Registration	Affiliate Player	Game Forfeit; suspension One (1) year for each year played under infraction

	FYSA Official	Per Review/Discipline Recommendations
C. Fees	Affiliate Player	Placed NGS Registration Withheld
D. Discipline/Sanction	Affiliate FYSA Official	Sanction Per Review /Discipline Recommendations
E. Protest and Appeal	Affiliate FYSA Official	Sanction Per Review/Discipline Recommendations
F. Mis/Mal/Non/Feasance	Affiliate FYSA Official	Sanction Per Review/Discipline Recommendations
G. Unauthorized Disclosure	Affiliate FYSA Official	Sanction Per Review/Discipline Recommendations

- 505.3** Violation of any provision of FYSA Rules Section 505.2 shall carry a sanction of suspension for not less than 30 days to a maximum of five (5) years.
- 505.4** Falsification of documentation is defined as the knowingly submission to any authority a document(s) that have been altered or are deceptive. This shall include but not be limited to player registration cards, birth certificates, rosters and player passes. Violation shall result in suspension of not less than three (3) years to a maximum of fifty (50) years.
- 505.5** Any player who is found to have been registered using birth documentation found to be materially inaccurate or altered shall be removed from the roster and denied participation from all FYSA sanctioned events for a period of a minimum of one (1) year by FYSA’s Registrar.  
This administrative action may be appealed to FYSA’s Registration Committee by written notification of appeal within seven (7) days of receipt of the Registrar’s decision.
- 505.6** All players registered to the affected team must present original birth documentation to FYSA or its designee within fifteen (15) days. Failure to do so will result in the player(s) being placed in unverified status until such time as FYSA has received sufficient documentation of the actual date of birth.
- 505.7** Inaccurate birth documentation shall include but not be limited to actual birth certificates issued by governmental authorities, in which the issuing agency has recorded an incorrect date of birth. If the player has knowingly participated as an overage player, he/she shall be subject to all provisions of FYSA Rule 505.4. This action may be appealed to the FYSA Protest and Appeals Committee.
- 505.8** Any entity (affiliate or person) found guilty of documentation falsification (FYSA Rule 505.4) shall be held liable for all expenses borne by FYSA. These expenses shall include, but not be limited to, travel for FYSA officers, staff and witnesses; costs associated with hearing location; copying; and travel expenses borne by the panel members. Failure to pay these expenses within thirty (30) days of invoice shall be grounds for being placed in “Not in Good Standing” with FYSA.

**506. DISCIPLINE- CODE OF ETHICS**

- 506.1** Allegations of a violation of the FYSA Code of Ethics shall afford the individual due process as defined in FYSA’s Rule Section 600 before the implementation of any suspension. Suspensions arising from Code of Ethics violations are to be imposed from the date of the decision of the hearing panel, not retroactively.

Code of Ethics violations are separate and apart from game suspensions assessed by the referee for caution, ejection/ send-off, or post-game reports.

- 506.2** Failure to comply with any part of the FYSA Code of Ethics may result in ethics charges being filed and may result in suspension from participation in FYSA sanctioned events for the following periods:
- 1st offense – suspension for a minimum of thirty (30) days to a maximum of five (5) years.
  - 2nd offense – suspension for a minimum of one (1) year to a maximum of ten (10) years.
  - 3rd offense – suspension for a minimum of five (5) years to a maximum of fifty (50) years.

**600. CHARGES, PROTEST, APPEALS, INTERVENTION, GRIEVANCES, and HEARING REQUIREMENTS**

**601. DEFINITIONS**

- 601.1** Due Process shall be defined as the procedures contained within this section and shall guarantee any individual, affiliate, player, coach, official or administrator of FYSA or any affiliate the right to exercise these procedures. Due process includes the right to know what charges have been made against a person and the right to a hearing before the imposition of any sanction whatsoever, including suspension, for any

period of time. Exceptions to the hearing requirement are:

1. Assault on a referee or non-game official for which a suspension may be imposed immediately until a hearing can be held;
2. Arrest or charges for any felony or any other crime involving moral turpitude for which a suspension may be imposed until resolution of all criminal charges; and
3. Red Card suspension which is no greater than the minimum required under USSF and FYSA Rules.

**601.2** Informal Hearing is defined as a process with less notification procedures and less strict procedural rules that may be held in cases involving minor infractions in which the penalty imposed shall not exceed five (5) games. Notifications may be done by telephone or in person and conduct of the hearing shall be informal so long as the interested parties are notified and have the opportunity to present evidence before a decision is made.

**601.3** Formal Hearing is defined as any other hearing that must be held. The procedures for holding a formal hearing are set forth in FYSA Rule 611.

**601.4** Protest is defined as a formal method that challenges the results of an event. It may be filed by any individual, club, league, officer, administrator, or affiliate whose interest is affected by the ruling or decision being protested.

**601.5** Appeal is defined as a formal method of requesting a reversal of a decision or ruling made by an authority within FYSA. It may be filed by any individual, club, league, officer, administrator, or affiliate who has been directly affected by that ruling and which person affected believes is contrary to the Constitution, Bylaws or Rules of FYSA, US Youth Soccer, USSF or FIFA. Appeals must be filed by the person against whom a decision has been made.

**601.6** Charges is defined as a formal method of filing charges against an individual, affiliate, or BOD member of FYSA regarding the violation of any FYSA, US Youth Soccer or USSF bylaw, rule or policy.

**601.7** Grievances among affiliated members of FYSA is defined as a complaint by one Affiliate against another Affiliate that alleges that the affiliate has failed to comply with its membership requirements or with its membership requirements with FYSA.

**602. GENERAL PROVISIONS: PROTEST, APPEALS, REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION, GRIEVANCE AMONG MEMBERS**

**602.1** Objectives for FYSA establishing these guidelines are to provide for fair, equitable, timely and uniformly applied procedures for reviewing the conduct of FYSA Affiliates, supporting their rights, insuring adherence to the Rules and applying discipline based on a system of protest and appeal.

**602.2** Due process shall be guaranteed to any individual or group disciplined or sanctioned by anybody within the jurisdiction of FYSA. Failure to provide due process shall result in the suspension of the discipline imposed and sanction against the body failing to provide due process. Upon determining due process has not been provided, the disciplining body may or may not be required by FYSA to re-institute proceedings according to the Rules.

**602.3** Uniform rules shall be established and consistently applied to ensure that Affiliates have every opportunity to file protests and appeal decisions that affect their participation in soccer.

**602.4** These rules shall apply to all individuals, affiliates, players, coaches, officials and administrators of any Affiliate. Discipline of any officer or director shall only be in accordance with Bylaws 6.2 and 6.3.

**602.5** Protest, appeals, request for intervention and intervention policies shall be as set forth in these rules and in such policies as may be established by the Review and Discipline Committee and the Protest and Appeals Committee, as approved by the BOD and must be in keeping with the policies of USSF and US Youth

Soccer.

**602.6** Methods for informal requests for rule clarification that affect the Affiliates' administrative, programmatic and procedural relationship with FYSA shall be established.

**602.7** Compliance with FYSA Rules and Bylaws is required when an Affiliate constructs their own guidelines for protest and appeal procedures. They must ensure the right to a fair, impartial and timely hearing, protest or appeal process.

**602.8** Entry levels for protesting any discipline or sanction shall herein be defined and the ability to appeal the action of the entry-level body can only be based on the failure at the entry level of not following proper procedures.

### **603. FILING OF CHARGES**

**603.1** An individual, affiliate, or RB/BOD member of FYSA may be charged with the violation of any FYSA, US Youth Soccer or USSF rule, policy or bylaw. All charges filed that are outside the authority and jurisdiction of the affiliate shall be initially filed with FYSA's Review and Discipline Committee. The initial charging letter describing the offense, with specific reference to the Rule that has been violated, copies of confirming documentation, and accompanied by a filing fee of \$100.00 (unless filed by an FYSA official or FYSA committee) shall be filed with FYSA's Review and Discipline Committee within ninety (90) days of discovery of the infraction (with the exception of a charge of referee abuse or assault that must follow the guidelines stated in FYSA Rule 502.7). The Review and Discipline Committee shall have sole authority to determine if there is sufficient evidence to warrant a hearing in the matter. If it is so determined, a hearing must be scheduled by the lowest authority possible within thirty days (30) of notification by the Review and Discipline Committee. Once the hearing has been held, the hearing panel must send a copy of the hearing record and decision letter to the FYSA office and a copy of the decision letter to the Review and Discipline Committee. The hearing rules and procedures will follow FYSA Rule 611.

**603.2** Failure of any elected FYSA officer or member of the BOD to comply with or properly administer the bylaws and rules of FYSA, US Youth Soccer, or USSF may result in charges of misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance as outlined in FYSA Rule Section 505 (Discipline - Administrative Conduct). All charges shall be filed pursuant to the provisions laid out in FYSA Rule 603.1. Upon determination by the FYSA Review and Discipline Committee that sufficient evidence exists to proceed with a formal hearing, the FYSA President shall empanel a hearing panel of not less than three (3) non- Board members with the President being the facilitator of the hearing. In the event that charges are brought against the President of FYSA, the FYSA Secretary shall empanel the hearing panel and will serve as facilitator of the hearing. Any decision resulting from the hearing may be appealed to the FYSA Protest and Appeals Committee.

**603.3** Filing a charge(s) guarantees any Affiliate or its members the right to a hearing, subject to Review and Discipline's determination as long as the affiliate has followed all club rules and bylaws for hearings/discipline first.

### **604. PROTEST**

**604.1** Filing a protest guarantees any Affiliate or its members the right to a hearing. The Affiliate must follow the entry levels described, beginning at the lowest appropriate level. No level can be skipped if the Affiliate wishes to continue the protest process.

**604.2** Entry levels for filing a protest (In all levels, the individual shall follow the procedures below.):

1. Team/individual to the Affiliated Club.
2. Team/Club to the Affiliated League, if applicable.
3. Team/Club/League to Protest and Appeals.

**604.3** Procedures for filing a protest:

1. Entry level of protest as listed above must be followed.
2. Basis for the protest must be clear, specifically described and include all pertinent information.
3. Violated rules must be specifically referenced in writing.
4. Persons involved must be identified along with their address and phone number, including those with information but who may not be directly involved.
5. Documentation that should be submitted includes, but is not limited to, signed and certified statements, game reports, rosters, and/or other pertinent information.
6. Fees, as set by FYSA, shall be included. (See Fee Structure - Rule 303)
7. The time requirements for filing a protest must be within seven (7) days of the occurrence, and the protest must be submitted in writing.
8. The Protest and Appeals Committee may prescribe standard forms for use in filing all protest and appeals within the state.

**604.4** For failure to meet requirements for filing a protest, the reviewing authority may:

1. Refuse to hear protest and return it to the person(s) filing protest.
2. Return protest to the appropriate entry level for review and reconsideration.
3. Deny protest as not having been correctly filed and/or submitted.

**604.5** Timeline for Submission of a Protest to FYSA

1. Upon a decision against an Individual/Team/Affiliate/Associate Affiliate, they shall have 14 days from receipt of the decision to file their protest to FYSA Protest and Appeals Committee.
2. Upon acceptance of the protest, the FYSA Protest and Appeals Committee shall deliver the decision of the committee within 21 days.

Reasonable variations of this timeline for legitimate reasons may be considered by the FYSA Protest and Appeals Committee.

When a decision about a protest is made, the lower authority that initially made the allegations against any FYSA member, player and/or coach shall be notified within the timelines as specified above.

## **605. APPEALS**

**605.1** Filing an appeal guarantees any Affiliate or its members the right to appeal any decision impacting their ability to participate in soccer or deemed to be contrary to FYSA Rules or the rules of the Affiliate organization. (NOTE: No decision of a lower hearing authority that arises out of the application of the rules of the competition that is made in the course of the competition and has no consequence beyond the competition may be appealed.)

**605.2** Levels of Appeals are:

1. To the Protest and Appeals Committee of a decision reached at a lower authority.
2. As defined under FYSA Rule 606.

**605.3** Procedures for filing an Appeal:

1. Level of appeal as listed previously has been followed.
2. Documentation and all pertinent information is submitted in writing including, but not limited to, the original decision of the lower authority.
3. The appellant shall furnish to all previous parties to the decision, by certified mail or other means where delivery can be verified, a copy of the appeal and all attachments referenced in the appeal.
4. Upon receipt of an appeal, the hearing body shall notify all parties to the action of the pending appeal and timelines for submission of arguments and rebuttals. This notice shall be by means where

notification can be verified.

5. Time requirements are met following the protest decision.
6. Fees, as set by FYSA, shall be included. (See Fee Structure - Rule 303)

**605.4** Criteria for filing an Appeal are:

1. Basis for the appeal is clear evidence that the lower authority failed to follow established procedures during original review.
2. Excessive disciplines and/or sanctions were imposed by the lower authority than is customarily required for the offense.
3. Authority not within the Rules of FYSA for the alleged offense.
4. Time requirements were not met by the lower-level authority.

**605.5** Denial of an Appeal shall be based on:

1. Basis of the appeal is not the failure of the lower level of authority to meet the rules.
2. Member filing appeal is not the person(s) or body that originally filed the protest.
3. The status of the person(s) filing the appeal is NGS.
4. Different basis or intent, in part or wholly, of the original appeal.
5. Established rules have not been followed.

**605.6** Timeline for Submission of Appeal to FYSA

1. Upon a decision against an Individual/ Team/ Affiliate/ Associate Affiliate, they shall have 14 days from receipt of the decision to file their appeal to FYSA Protest and Appeals Committee.
2. Upon acceptance of the appeal, the FYSA Protest and Appeals Committee shall deliver the decision of the committee to the appellant within 21 days.

Reasonable variations of this timeline for legitimate reasons may be considered by the FYSA Protest and Appeals Committee.

**605.7** Access to pertinent information in order for a party to file an appeal cannot be denied. Neither an Affiliate nor FYSA shall deny access to any information that could apply to the appeal.

**606. APPEAL BEYOND FYSA**

1. If jurisdiction does not vest with USSF, a decision rendered by FYSA's Protest and Appeals Committee may be appealed to FYSA's BOD. All conditions as contained under FYSA Rule 605.3 must be followed for an appeal to the BOD. A fee for this appeal may be set by FYSA's BOD.
2. Appeal of a conviction of referee assault shall vest immediately with the USSF Appeal Committee.
3. As otherwise described in USSF Bylaws 702 and/or 705.

**607 LITIGATION**

**607.1** Seeking the aid of the courts may not be pursued before exhausting all available remedies within the established channels of organized soccer including but not limited to FYSA and US Youth Soccer, or USSF as may be applicable.

**607.2** Should an Affiliate or a member of an Affiliate cause FYSA to become involved in litigation as a defendant, either by the Affiliate or its members invoking the court action against FYSA or by rendering a decision contrary to the FYSA Rules that then causes FYSA to be also named in a suit, or any court action causing FYSA to act contrary to its' Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, shall result in the Affiliate/member being subject to suspension and fines.

- 607.2.1** The Affiliate/member shall be liable for any and all costs to FYSA to include, but not be limited to, the following:
- a. Court costs and attorney fees.
  - b. Reasonable compensation for time spent by FYSA officials and/or employees in responding to and



- defending against allegations in the action including response to discovery and court appearances.
- c. Travel, per diem expenses, and expenses for copying, reproducing or meeting requirements for the submission of documents.
- d. Preparation expenses for calling meetings of the BOD and/or Committees if necessitated by the action.
- e. Any and all other expenses incurred by FYSA as a result of such action.

**607.2.2** Invoking the use of the court system prior to the exhaustion of all appeals within FYSA and/or USSF shall result in immediate suspension from all FYSA sanctioned events for the party invoking legal action and shall result in any appeal process(s) remaining within FYSA being halted, until such time as the litigation is resolved.

## **608 REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION**

**608.1** Request for intervention may come from any Affiliate or Affiliate member in good standing and must follow the criteria established for this process. The BOD shall exercise the right and authority to cause review and response to any request for intervention.

**608.2** Procedures for Requesting Intervention are:

1. Basis for requesting intervention shall be upon documentation that a person(s) has been denied due process; a timely, fair, or impartial hearing; has been denied the opportunity to respond to charges; or involves the action or failure to act by FYSA or the Affiliate.
2. Filing a request shall be directly to the Secretary of FYSA who shall present the request to the BOD for direction.
3. Circumvention of the protest and appeal process cannot be the object of requesting intervention.

**608.3** BOD options are:

1. Refer to the Review and Discipline Committee if the BOD feels that a valid and documented issue has been raised. The Review and Discipline Committee findings shall be submitted in writing to the persons(s) requesting intervention.
2. Deny request and take no action if the Committee determines a valid issue has not been raised or properly documented.
3. Refer to Protest and/or Appeal level deemed more appropriate to the issue.

**608.4** Any expense incurred by FYSA will be assessed to the requesting party. FYSA may require a bond be posted equal to the estimated cost.

## **609 INTERVENTION**

**609.1** Intervention, upon request of an Officer of FYSA, into an Affiliate's organization, administration, or actions pertaining to protest, appeals and/or discipline is within FYSA's authority and right to intervene.

**609.2** Procedures for Intervention are:

1. Review and Discipline Committee shall, upon notification by an Officer, review the rule infraction(s), determine if an infraction exists, and shall set discipline if determined infraction has occurred.
2. RVP shall take appropriate action as determined by the Review and Discipline Committee, providing due process has not been circumvented or denied.

## **610. GRIEVANCE BY AN AFFILIATE MEMBER OF FYSA**

1. A written charging letter must be submitted by, signed, or endorsed by the agent of record of the charging affiliate. This charging document shall be filed with the FYSA Vice President of Administration and Communication. A copy of the complaint must also be sent, by registered, return receipt mail or some other service where service can be verified, to the charged affiliate. The complaint must contain the following:

- a. the names and addresses of the parties involved,
  - b. the alleged grounds or rules that have been violated,
  - c. all supporting evidence or documents forming the basis of the complaint, and
  - d. the relief sought.
2. The complaint must be accompanied by the required fee as may be set by FYSA's BOD.
  3. An answer to the complaint shall be filed by the charged affiliate with the FYSA Vice President of Administration and Communication, with a copy to the all parties, by certified mail or other means where service can be verified, within thirty (30) days after receipt of the complaint. Failure to file a response within the requisite time period shall serve as a default, except upon showing of good cause.
  4. The complaint and answer shall be referred to the BOD of FYSA for a hearing on the merits of the complaint. This hearing shall be held at the direction of the President of FYSA within sixty (60) days of the filing of the complaint. If the President believes it will best serve the interest of expeditious consideration of the complaint, the President may, with approval of the BOD, appoint a panel of not less than three (3) members of the BOD to hear evidence on the complaint. This panel will then submit its recommendations to the full BOD for approval.
  5. Based on the nature of the complaint, the BOD may adjust the above timelines.
  6. Any required hearing shall comply with Rule Section 611.
  7. There shall be no right of appeal to any other FYSA body from a determination of the BOD under this procedure.

## **611. HEARING PROCEDURES**

**611.1** Hearings shall be held at the lowest or entry level when the disciplining body wants to levy more than the minimum discipline, when there is confusion as to who participated and/or to what degree in a serious incident, to determine responsibility for Administrative misconduct, or otherwise required for protest and/or appeal. Refer to FYSA Rule 611.3 for the proper procedure on conducting a hearing. Incorrect hearing procedures shall be cause for protest or appeal.

**611.2** Informal hearings shall be held in cases of minor infractions that may involve one or only a few individuals. These hearings must be held at the entry level as described under Rule Section 604. However, notification, documentation and submission of evidence to the FYSA State Office as described under Formal Hearings (see next section) should be followed as closely as reasonably possible.  
(NOTE: Referee judgment calls are not subject to appeal.)

**611.3** Formal Hearings shall be held in cases of major infractions and/or when it is not clear who is liable for discipline/suspension/sanction unless witness testimony is taken. The procedure is as follows:

1. Shall provide to the accused written notice (charging document) to the accused of the specific charges or alleged violations and the possible consequences if the charges are found to be true.
2. It shall be the sole responsibility of the requesting party to notify all persons who are requested to give testimony by first class or priority mail, Federal Express, UPS, fax with confirmation of receipt, or e-mail with confirmation of receipt. Such notice shall be retained as part of the record of the hearing.
3. Notice shall be sent at least seven (7) days in advance of the hearing as to date, time and place of the hearing to both the prosecution and defense.
4. Schedule the hearing as conveniently as possible to all participants.
5. The accused shall have the right to be assisted in the presentation of his/her case at the hearing.
6. The accused shall have the right to call witnesses and present oral and written evidence and arguments in support of his/her defense.
7. The accused shall have the right to confront witnesses, including the right to be provided with the identity of witnesses who will be giving testimony not less than seven (7) calendar days in advance of the hearing.
  - a. In the case of referee abuse and/or assault, the SYRA or his/her designee will be present for the hearing. If the referee is a minor, the minor referee has the voluntary option to choose to be on the hearing, and if they choose to, must be accompanied by a legal guardian. If the

minor referee chooses not to be on the hearing, the hearing board will not construe this in a negative light against the minor official.

8. Select a hearing board of not less than three (3) pertinent representatives who are not familiar with the incident being heard. (NOTE: In the case of referee assault, the hearing panel shall be comprised of not less than five (5) members.)
9. The accused shall have the right, at his expense, to have a record of the proceedings made.
10. Document the proceedings and obtain copies of all documents supplied by anyone requested to be present or generated at the time the incident occurred.
11. Provide equal time for all sides and sufficient time to hear all sides.
12. Deliberate in private after the hearing. Reach a decision solely on the evidence of record (the evidence and testimony introduced at the hearing). A written decision letter must then be produced to include the reasons for the decision, the specific findings of the panel, a description of the charges, the factual conclusions made by the panel that led to its decision, the specific discipline imposed (if any), and the scope of any discipline.
13. Notify those being disciplined and/or recommended for further action of the decision by certified mail, return receipt requested, within ten (10) days of reaching the decision.
14. Include in the decision letter the next level of appeal, the procedure for filing that appeal, and costs associated with the appeal.
15. Provide a copy of the decision and all hearing documentation to the FYSA State Office.
16. Referee judgment or discretion calls cannot be heard by any disciplinary body.

**611.4** It is the responsibility of the highest (last) hearing authority to notify the FYSA State Office in writing of any person(s) affiliated with FYSA who is suspended from participating in any FYSA activities for more than sixty (60) days or six (6) games.

## **700. BUDGET AND EXPENSES**

### **701. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**701.1** Budgets and expenses shall be established annually for Officers and Committees, as necessary for the operation of their offices.

**701.2** An annual review by a certified public accountant shall be authorized by the Budget Committee of all FYSA funds, which may be a full audit or some lesser accounting procedure.

**701.3** Accountability and fiscal responsibility shall be demonstrated by FYSA in the use of all funds under its authority and to assure that adequate resources are available to attain its goals to promote, support and educate for the advancement of youth soccer. All persons with budgetary authority shall be accountable for the expenditures of funds budgeted to their office or program.

**701.4** Levels of Funding shall include but not be limited to:

1. Conduct of Business:
  - a) Telephone
  - b) Office supplies
  - c) Postage
  - d) Copying
  - e) Fax services
2. Travel:
  - a) In Region
  - b) Out of Region
  - c) Out of State
3. Per Diem:
  - a) In Region
  - b) Out of Region
  - c) Out of State
4. Travel Outside of the Continental United States as per review and recommendation of the Budget Committee and approval of the BOD.

**701.5** Request for funding shall be submitted to the Budget Committee for review, modification, and approval or denial. The Committee will develop the budget in each category and submit it to the BOD for review, comment, adjustment, modification, increase, reduction or denial of the request in whole or part. The request shall be returned to the Budget Committee for incorporation into the annual budget.

- 701.6 Final approval of requests for funding shall lie with the Board of Directors subject to their review and action, except as overruled by the Affiliate membership at the AGM by a two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote.
- 701.7 Adjustments, amendments, reductions, additions and/or deletions shall be submitted to the Budget Committee for review and recommendation and forwarded to the BOD for action.
- 701.8 Special modifications may be made to identified budget items in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or five (5) percent, whichever is less, either by the President or Chairman of the Budget Committee. Such modifications shall be submitted to the BOD as part of the Treasurer's Report at their next meeting.
- 701.9 Review or expenditures as budgeted by Officers, Staff, etc. is within the authority of the Budget Committee. It is the responsibility of the Officers, Staff, etc., to maintain full documentation of their expenditures. Failure to provide the documentation will constitute grounds for disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.
- 701.10 Yearly documented reports shall be submitted by anyone required to submit a budget on expenditures, prior to the end of the budget year, a date as set by the Treasurer, to the Budget Committee. Unobligated funds shall be returned to the General Fund in such form as directed by the Treasurer.

**702. BUDGET PROCEDURES**

- 702.1 Submitting a budget shall be required of all Officers, Administrative Staff, Committee Chairpersons, consultants and any other persons directed by FYSA to perform duties that may require expenditures for the performance of those duties.
- 702.2 President, Secretary, Treasurer shall submit request for funding for cost that may be incurred in the performance of their duties to the Budget Committee, annually.
- 702.3 Registrar, Region Vice-Presidents, Vice-President of Player and Coach Development and Competition, shall submit request for funding for costs that may be incurred in the performance of their duties for approval by the BOD prior to submission to the Budget Committee.
- 702.4 Administrative Staff shall submit an annual budget request separate and apart from any budget requested for the day-to-day operation of the Administrative Office to the Budget Committee.
- 702.5 Standing Committee Chairperson shall submit request for costs that may be incurred in the performance of their Committee to the Budget Committee.
- 702.6 Special Committees, Consultants and Special Project Coordinators shall request funding from the Budget Committee as deemed necessary. Initial authorization by the BOD shall not exceed \$1000.00 dollars. If additional funds are needed the Budget Committee must review and submit for approval by the BOD.

**800. ACCIDENTAL MEDICAL AND LIABILITY INSURANCE**

**801. ACCIDENTAL MEDICAL COVERAGE**

- 801.1 Excess Participant Accident coverage is maintained by FYSA; offering coverage to include affiliates, registered players, registered coaches/volunteers, participating in FYSA sanctioned activities at the team, club, league, and State levels including FYSA sanctioned tournaments and Cups.

**801.2** Coverage is available to all affiliated members who have been properly registered as per Rules and Regulations. For youth players who also participate in the Florida State Soccer Association, players are not covered during FSSA competitions and/or activities.

**801.3** Notice of claim and initial treatment shall be given by claimant within ninety (90) days of the injury.

**802. LIABILITY COVERAGE**

**802.1** Comprehensive general liability coverage both for the State Association and Affiliates shall be maintained.

**802.2** The named insured for the State Association coverage shall include its representatives, Officers, Directors, volunteers, and staff as established by the BOD.

**802.3** Affiliate coverage includes Affiliate Officers, volunteers, players, coaches, assistant coaches, and spectators.

**802.4** Directors and Officers Liability: A separate Directors and officers liability policy, including Employment Practices Liability shall be maintained for FSYA BOD and its Affiliates.

**802.5** Claim Procedures (Liability): Affiliates are to immediately notify the President of FYSA of any claims alleging negligent actions resulting in Bodily Injury or Property Damage.

**803. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**803.1** Public liability or the medical insurance contract shall not be amended or otherwise altered by the overall direction and information contained herein. The wording of the policy constitutes the only agreement and provision of coverage between the insured and the insurance companies.

**803.2** Out of State travel requires approved State travel permits and roster on file at the State Office for the insurance to be valid outside of the State.

**803.3** Additional Insured coverage can be supplied to owners or operators of game and practice facilities if they require proof of insurance or additional named insured certificates. This service shall be provided for a fee in the amount listed in Fees/Fines Structure (302).

**804. CLAIM PROCEDURE (Participant Accident)**

**804.1** Initial contact to report an injury and to obtain the necessary notification and claim forms shall be with the club registrar or agent of record. Accidental claim forms must be obtained and completed. Claimant shall follow instructions for correctly completing the form.

**804.2** Claims may be denied if the below listed procedures are not followed and in no case shall a claim be paid if the participant is not properly affiliated or registered to FYSA.

**804.3** Primary carrier benefits must be depleted before FYSA coverage can be paid through these policies. Claimant shall be advised and notified that the coverage is secondary and subject to a deductible chosen by the FYSA BOD if the claimant has no other insurance. This shall be acknowledged on the FYSA forms.

**804.4** Processing of claims must be through the State Office.

## **900. TOURNAMENT AND TRAVEL**

### **901. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

*Tournament oversight shall be within the authority of FYSA and the Tournament and Travel Committee.*

Initial approvals shall be under the direction of the FYSA Tournament and Travel Committee. The Committee reserves the right of final approval over all tournament and travel applications. State approved applications requiring additional approvals shall be submitted to US Youth Soccer and/or USSF for final approval. Denial by either organization shall negate state approval.

The following forms are required to be used by the tournaments sanctioned by FYSA. Modifications to the game report and supplemental form as to the addition of tournament logos and sponsors is acceptable. Context of forms cannot be changed.

- A. Official FYSA or USSF Game Report
- B. Official FYSA or USSF Supplemental Report
- C. Official USSF Game Report and Supplemental Report to be used for referee abuse and assault cases.

Failure to use the forms listed in A, B and C above will result in a fine to the tournament of \$100.00 per incorrect form used.

### **902. TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS**

A sanctioned tournament is any tournament having official approval from FYSA, other US Youth Soccer members, USSF and/or FIFA (international federation). All sanctioned tournaments will require that teams and coaches present the following:

1. Picture identification cards for players and coaches issued by the team's Federation Organization Member.
2. Official Roster approved by the team's Federation Organization Member.
3. Official Guest Player Form(s) approved by the team's Federation Organization Member.
4. Official Permission to Travel Form(s), if applicable, approved by the team's Federation Organization Member.

**902.1** Application to host a tournament is required if the Affiliate invites teams from outside their region. Applications must be submitted including the following:

- US Youth Soccer Application to Host form, properly completed and signed by the affiliate's agent of record.
- US Youth Soccer Tournament Hosting Agreement, properly completed
- Appropriate fees. See Fees/Fines Structure FYSA Rule 905.
- All required tournament fees and late charges shall be non-refundable.
- FYSA club responsibility form
- If foreign teams are invited or accepted, all requirements of 904.4 must additionally be complied with.
- A copy of the rules for the Tournament
- Affiliates or associated affiliates who have previously held within the last twelve (12) months a tournament without sanctions or fines shall have the bond requirement waived until such time as a sanction or fine is imposed. The bond requirement shall then be reinstated.
- Failure to comply may subject the affiliate to fines as outlined under section 905

- 902.2** Tournament Hosting Application Deadlines are:
1. Within Region: received thirty (30) days prior to tournament by the State Office.
  2. Within State: received sixty (60) days prior to tournament by the State Office.
  3. Outside the State: received ninety (90) days prior to tournament by the State Office
  4. Any request for modifications to approved tournament rules less than thirty (30) prior to the event will require an additional fee of 250.00.
  5. Late fees may be assessed to cover additional cost to FYSA. The minimum late fee shall be 100.00.
- 902.3** The State Office shall process the application to the required State, Regional or National authority. Tournament acceptances and/or invitations may not be issued until all official approvals have been granted and notification of such has been received by the hosting affiliate. The State office shall notify the RVP of the hosting affiliate as to the receipt and final approval of the application.
- 902.4** All FYSA Sanctioned Tournaments will have a currently certified referee assignor, responsible for all referee assignments. FYSA must provide written notice to FSR of the primary certified referee assignor and if relevant, and other junior or support certified assignor(s) of the tournament(s). This will include but not limited to the following: All Sanctioned Tournaments, any and all State Cup Games, Presidents Cup, Commissioner's Cup, Kohl's American Cup, and ODP games.
- 902.5** All Tournaments are encouraged to have a coaches' meeting prior to the beginning of competition to discuss schedule changes and local tournament rules.
- 902.6** International teams attending tournaments must supply, at credentials check-in, their National Federation permission to attend the tournament and/or other tournaments within the U.S. and proof of medical insurance coverage (refer to manual for procedures concerning medical coverage or the lack thereof). Passports are acceptable proof of age since most National Federations do not issue permanent player passes.
- 902.7** For all tournaments and games involving international teams (teams from outside the United States), the rules for the tournament or games must comply with the following substitution requirements: For matches involving players under 16 years of age, the number of substitutions allowed is as provided by the rules of the tournament or game. For all other matches, the number of substitutions is as agreed to prior to the match and the referee is informed prior to the match of that number. The number agreed to can be as provided in the rules of the tournament or game.
- 902.8** **It shall be the policy of FYSA that any tournament must disclose with the application and invitation any and all requirements that must be met upon acceptance of the team by the tournament.**
- This will include but not be limited to the following:
1. Any player fees not included in the application fee,
  2. Any requirements as to mandatory travel arrangements that must be arranged through the tournament,
  3. Any requirements as to mandatory hotels in which teams must arrange lodging, and.
  4. Any other requirements, such as parking fees, etc., that the hosting organization plans to impose at the tournament.
- Violation of the above may result in the revocation of the approval by FYSA of the Tournament.**
- 902.9** No Tournament shall advertise in any fashion its tournament as approved, prior to receiving final approvals from FYSA, Regional, and National authorities as may be required, unless the wording "Pending Approval" is included. (Note---This wording must be of the same type and size as the predominate type in the advertisement.)

**902.10** Any team that will not be permitted to play in the contracted age group shall have the option to withdraw and receive a full refund of all entry fees. All tournaments shall notify any participant not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the beginning of the tournament if any age group advertised will not be offered.

**902.11** Tournaments may only accept FYSA's official Guest Player Form(s) per FYSA Rule 208 for players participating as guest players with FYSA and/or US Youth Soccer teams. No other forms are valid for guest player permission for FYSA sanctioned events. Organizations and Associations other than FYSA will provide their own guest player form or requirements for teams participating. No player will be granted permission to participate with a non-US Youth Soccer team utilizing his/her FYSA pass. Failure to use the official FYSA Guest Player Form(s) will result in a fine to the tournament of \$100.00 per team that does not have the proper documentation.

**902.12** Tournaments are required to accept only the official FYSA Roster for FYSA teams participating in the tournament. If the team participating has guest players, the properly executed FYSA Guest Player Form(s) must be attached to the roster. Organizations and Associations other than FYSA will produce their own roster forms per their rules and requirements. Failure to obtain and use the official FYSA Roster for FYSA events will result in a fine to the tournament of \$100.00 per team for each incorrect roster

### **902.13 TOURNAMENT REFUND POLICY**

Any tournament that fails to return/refund an entry fee per the timelines listed below will be subject to an assessment fine not to exceed ten (10) times the original entry fee. Any report of violation of the above will be referred to the Tournament and Travel Committee. Failure to pay the assessed fine could result in the hosting affiliate/associate affiliate being placed in NGS with FYSA. Future approval requests to host tournaments by the affiliate/associate affiliate could also be denied.

Tournament entry fee returns/refunds as follows:

- A. Within five (5) days after notification that the team is not accepted by their application.
- B. Within five (5) days upon cancellation of the tournament.
- C. Within ten (10) days of withdrawal request of the application by a team prior to acceptance of that application by the tournament.

**902.14** The Hosting Affiliate is responsible to ensure that all required post tournament reports are timely and properly filed. All reports must be typed, computer generated or submitted online. (No handwritten reports will be accepted.)

1. Tournament red card summary report along with copies of the game and supplemental referee reports must be faxed, e-mailed, or submitted online to the FYSA office within seventy-two (72) hours after completion of the event, inclusive of weekends. If the red card summary report is submitted online, then the game and supplemental referee reports must be faxed or emailed separately with a copy of the red card report. The report must be filed even if there are no red cards issued.
2. The post tournament report must be filed within fifteen (15) calendar days of completion of the event via fax, email, or online submission. Said report is to include a statement from the tournament referee assignor explaining whether or not each tournament game was staffed by the appropriate number of certified referees based on the requirements per age category. If not, then the assignor is to identify how many games were not completely staffed and a reason for the lack of certified referees, if available. The tournament may be fined a per game fee for each game not fully staffed as defined under FYSA Rule 905.1.
3. All original game reports and team rosters must be maintained by the hosting organization for a period of not less than ninety (90) calendar days.

**902.15** All fees and approved by the BOD are defined in FYSA Rules Section 905.



## **903. TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS**

- 903.1** Travel requirements shall be established for affiliated teams that wish to compete in tournaments or other competitions outside their club/league, within their FYSA region, within the State of Florida, within US Youth Soccer Region III (“Region III”), outside of Region III but within the United States, or outside the United States (foreign travel). The necessary forms may be obtained from the club registrar and furnished to FYSA together with additional information and/or fees required per Rule 903.3, 903.4 and 903.5. Permission to travel shall be granted by FYSA for only those events sanctioned by US Youth Soccer or other National State Associations as defined by USSF.
- 903.2** Travel within the State of Florida requires no special application or approval.
- 903.3** Travel outside the State of Florida but within Region III shall require the following. Except for normal league play, notification must be sent for each event:
1. Copy of Region III Interstate Travel Notice form.
  2. Copy of approved tournament application, hosting agreement, league information.
  3. Official FYSA roster with properly executed guest form(s) attached.
  4. Appropriate fees, as required.
- 903.4** Travel outside of Region III but within the U.S. shall require the following submitted to FYSA:
1. US Youth Soccer Application to Travel form, properly completed and signed by the affiliate’s agent of record.
  2. Copy of approved tournament application.
  3. FYSA computer-generated roster with properly executed guest form(s) attached.
  4. Affiliate letter signed by the "agent of record" granting permission for travel and accepting responsibility for the team’s conduct while traveling.
  5. Appropriate fees, as required.
- 903.5** Travel to foreign countries shall require the following submitted to FYSA:
1. For travel outside the United States, approval is required by and therefore must be obtained from USSF. Denial by USSF shall negate State approval. Approval shall be granted only for properly sanctioned events.
  2. US Youth Soccer Application to Travel and USSF travel forms properly completed and signed by the affiliate’s agent of record.
  3. Copy of approved documentation from the hosting National Federation and pertinent information regarding the proposed matches.
  4. Official FYSA roster with properly executed guest form(s) attached.
  5. Appropriate fees. See Fees/Fines Structure.
  6. Notice of approval from USSF will be sent to the National Federation of the Country to which the team is traveling, to FYSA and to the traveling team.
- 903.6** While traveling either nationally or internationally, all teams or players/coaches/volunteers must carry with them the following:
1. US Youth Soccer Player/Coach Pass for each player, guest player and team official listed on the roster and traveling with the team.
  2. US Youth Soccer Application to Travel, officially approved if applicable.
  3. Official FYSA roster with properly executed guest form(s) attached.
  4. Medical releases forms, signed by parent/guardian authorizing emergency medical care (for all players under the age of 18).

**903.7** Travel Application deadlines are:

1. Outside State and within Region III: Not less than 24 hours.
2. Outside Region III but within the United States: Thirty (30) days prior to tournament or match. Fifteen (15) to twenty (20) days, a late fee shall be assessed. Less than fifteen (15) days, travel may be denied and application not accepted by the Tournament and Travel Committee.
3. Internationally: Ninety (90) days prior to tournament or match. Forty (40) to eighty-nine (89) days, a late fee shall be assessed. Less than forty (40) days, travel may be denied, and application not accepted by the Tournament and Travel Committee.

**904. HOSTING TEAMS FOR EXHIBITION GAMES**

**904.1** Hosting teams either from outside the Region, outside the State, foreign, Senior, amateur, or professional, for exhibition or games, may only be done following special guidelines as required by FYSA and USSF.

**904.2** Hosting Teams:

1. Hosting teams from within Florida but outside the team's home region shall require notification of the hosting team's RVP not less than 24 hours prior to the match.
2. Hosting teams from outside the State shall require using US Youth Soccer player passes and a roster verified by the National State Association of the traveling team being submitted to the RVP.
3. Hosting teams from outside Florida but within Region III shall require notification of FYSA by fax or e-mail not less than 24 hours prior to the match. FYSA shall notify the appropriate RVP. It shall be the responsibility of the hosting affiliate to ensure that the proper level of referees is assigned to the match.
4. Hosting teams from outside Region III (within the United States) shall require the following:
  - a. US Youth Soccer Application to Host form properly completed and signed by the hosting affiliate's agent of record.
  - b. Approval by FYSA and payment of the appropriate fee.
  - c. Club responsibility form on file with FYSA.
  - d. A copy of the Tournament Rules.
  - e. Appropriate fees as may be required.
  - f. The hosting affiliate must notify the Area Director of Assignors to ensure that the proper level of game officials is assigned to any match.
5. Hosting foreign teams shall require the hosting team to use an Official FYSA roster, an FYSA or US Youth Soccer player pass and passports for visiting teams and submitting the following to FYSA. (Note-Once Passports are verified)

**904.3** International teams invited to play exhibition games must supply, before the games are played, to the RVP, Federation documentation permitting the teams to travel within the U.S. and proof of medical insurance.

**904.4** Youth teams may be permitted to compete against non-FYSA and/or US Youth Soccer teams subject to conditions as outlined below:

1. Teams not affiliated with USSF (e.g., high school teams, college teams, etc.):
  - a. A request must be submitted to the FYSA office in writing and be accompanied with an official FYSA roster listing all players that will compete. Permission must be requested for each event.
  - b. The FYSA office will grant permission in writing, upon verification of the roster and as to proof of the proper assignment of game officials (game officials will be assigned at a level appropriate for the highest-level team competing).
  - c. The team requesting permission to play a non-affiliated team must provide written verification to the FYSA office prior to FYSA granting approval that the non-affiliated team has permission to play and is covered by insurance from the non-affiliate's sanctioning body.
  - d. All paperwork must be to the FYSA office not less than seven (7) calendar days prior to the match or FYSA may deny permission.

- e. Failure to obtain permission may result in the team's administrative staff (coach, team manager, etc.) being suspended from all FYSA sanctioned events for at least thirty (30) calendar days.
2. Teams under direct sponsorship of USSF (e.g., National teams, academy teams, etc.):
    - a. A request must be submitted to the FYSA office in writing and be accompanied by an official FYSA roster listing all players that will compete. Permission must be requested for each event.
    - b. The FYSA office will grant permission in writing, upon verification of the roster and shall notify FSR of the event and request assistance with the proper assignment of game officials from the DRA, ARA or SYRA.
    - c. The team requesting permission to play a team under the direct sponsorship and supervision of USSF must provide written verification to the FYSA office prior to FYSA granting approval that the USSF team has permission to play said game(s).
    - d. All paperwork must be to the FYSA office not less than seven (7) calendar days prior to the match or FYSA may deny permission.
    - e. Failure to obtain permission may result in the team's administrative staff (coach, team manager, etc.) being suspended from all FYSA sanctioned events for at least thirty (30) calendar days.
  3. Teams from other USSF affiliated organizations (e.g., US Club Soccer, USL, Y League, etc.):
    - a. FYSA registered teams shall be permitted to compete against team from other USSF affiliated organizations, provided the competition is officiated by USSF registered referees and/or game officials and the other team is covered by insurance from their sanctioning organization.
    - b. All FYSA benefits of membership shall be extended to FYSA players and coaches participating in such events.
    - c. Failure to abide by the terms of this subsection shall negate any insurance claims arising from the competition.
    - d. The FYSA registered team shall retain a copy of both official team rosters and submit the documentation upon request by FYSA staff/officials.
    - e. This subsection shall not be construed to permit teams not affiliated with FYSA or US Youth Soccer to participate in leagues designated as competitive or non-US Youth Soccer sanctioned tournaments.

**904.5** Hosting team's application deadlines are:

1. Within Region III shall require notification of not less than 24 hours.
2. Outside State but within U.S. - thirty (30) days prior to match. Fifteen (15) to twenty-nine (29) days prior to match, a late fee shall be assessed. Less than fifteen (15) days, hosting may be denied and application not accepted by FYSA.
3. Internationally - ninety (90) days prior to match. Twenty (20) to eighty-nine (89) days prior to match, late fees shall be assessed. Less than twenty (20) days, hosting will be denied and application not accepted by the RVP or FYSA.

**905. TOURNAMENT AND TRAVEL FEE SECTION**

**Tournament hosting Application Fee**

Within home region	\$50.00
Within the State of Florida	\$150.00
Within the United States	\$150.00
Any Foreign Teams	\$250.00
Tournament Bond as may be required	\$2,500.00

**Tournament Hosting late fees**

90-150 days	\$100.00
60-90 days	\$200.00
30-60 days	\$500.00
less than 30	\$1,000.00

**Amendments to Applications:**

Tournament	\$100.00
Less than thirty (30) days before the event	\$250.00

**Tournament Web Advertising:**

Enhanced website advertisement	\$125.00
Enhanced advertisement with logo	\$175.00
Additional tournament listing done at same time	\$25.00/listing

**Application to travel:**

Out of State within the United States other than Region III	
More than 30 days	\$10.00
15-29 days	\$35.00
Less than 15 days	\$100.00
Within Region III less than 30 Days	\$20.00

**Foreign Travel**

More than 60 days	\$75.00
59-30 days	\$150.00
less than 30 days	\$250.00

**Game Hosting Fees/game**

(Fees listed are per game involving the visiting team)

Teams, registered with US Youth Soccer, from within US Youth Soccer Region III, there shall be no fee with proper notification.

Teams, registered with US Youth Soccer, from within the U.S. but outside Region III:

30 or more days prior to event	\$10.00/game
Less than 30 days prior to event	\$25.00/game

Foreign Teams:

More than 90 days prior to event	\$50.00/game
89-30 days prior to event	\$100.00/game
Less than 30 days prior to event	\$125.00/game

**Tournament and Travel fines:**

Failure to timely file or file red card reports	\$250.00
Failure to timely file or file post tournament reports	\$500.00
Failure to staff games with required number of certified referees	The higher of \$25.00 per game or the referee game fee for the

	unstaffed position(s)
Failure to follow FYSA min red card sanctions	\$1,000.00
Failure to follow posted tournament rules	\$1,000.00
Failure to follow refund policy	10 times entry fee
Failure to maintain games report/rosters for 90 days	\$1,000.00
<b>Hosting a tournament without proper permission:</b>	
Teams from within Florida	\$500.00
Teams from outside Florida within the USA	\$1,500.00
Any Foreign Teams	\$2,500.00
<b>Hosting or playing against teams without permission</b>	
Failure to properly notify FYSA for teams within Region III	\$100.00
Out of Florida within United States	\$1,500.00
Any Foreign Team	\$2,500.00
<b>Traveling without Permission</b>	
Out of Region within State of Florida	\$500.00
Out of Florida within the United States	\$1,500.00
Foreign Travel	\$2,500.00

## **1000. OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

### **1001. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**1001.1** The main goal of the Florida Youth Soccer Association Olympic Development Program is to identify players for our men's and women's Youth National Teams. This selection process takes place through state, regional and national trials.

**1001.2** Technical assistance in the form of a program description shall be published. The program description shall provide the procedures for participating in the Olympic Development Program, current fee schedule, time requirements, and any other directions necessary for participation in the program.

**1001.3** The Director of Coaching and Player Development, in coordination with the Olympic Development Program Committee shall have oversight of the program and be responsible for developing the format, holding the trials and selecting the coaches for the program.

**1001.3.1** An active club/league coach shall not coach, assist and/or advise in ODP in the same age group and gender in which they currently coach.

**1001.4** Fees shall be required in order to finance the program which shall be in addition to the required registration fees for FYSA. Selected player may also be responsible for travel fees to trials, matches, and tournament, and for room and board while traveling. It may also be necessary to pay uniform fees if not sponsored.

**1001.5** Trialist and selected player conduct shall be in keeping with the principles of good sportsmanship, and players shall commit no acts which may discredit themselves or FYSA.

**1001.6** The program format requires the following:

1. A player may be identified in age group trials that are set up throughout the state or through the FYSA scouting program.
2. The number of players selected at the Region level shall be unlimited. The State pool in each age group will depend on the player pool. The number of teams identified will be determined by the size of the player pool.
3. Player registration with FYSA is required.
4. Pre-Registration for a trial is required for all players.
5. Advancing to State trials requires selection from the Regional trials, scouted by FYSA scouting program or previously identified to Region III Pool or National Pool unless granted exception from the Olympic Development Program Committee (see Rule 1001.7).
6. Required forms must be submitted by players to the State Office to advance to State level.
7. Expenses for travel, room, and food shall be incurred by the selected player unless specifically provided for by FYSA.
8. U.S. Citizenship is not a requirement to participate in ODP at the State level.

**1001.7** Exceptions to trial participation shall be made for justifiable cause such as illness or other extenuating circumstances. A player requesting an exception shall submit a written request to attend State Trials with the proper documentation.

**1001.8** Age groups are determined by the International age cutoff dates which change periodically and may not coincide with the US Youth Soccer cutoff dates. It is recommended that players enter in their age group and not in a higher group.

## **2000. COACHING DEVELOPMENT**

### **2001. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**2001.1** State level coaching development is designed to provide instruction in soccer coaching for any individual regardless of coaching or playing background. The philosophy is to expose the beginner or novice to coaching and teaching methods which are economical and efficient. This is achieved by the development of State level coaching courses.

**2001.2** Procedures for hosting courses shall be published and posted on the FYSA website. The procedures shall provide the process for scheduling courses, course curriculum, current fee schedule, time requirements and any other directions necessary for obtaining a State-level coaching license. The hosting procedures shall be binding on all affiliates and/or participants.

**2001.3** Program administration shall be overseen by the Vice President of Player and Coaching Development. The Director of Coaching and Player Development will be responsible for all correspondence between the Affiliate requesting the course and the State Office. He/she will assign Staff Coaches, ensure proper forms are completed and submit necessary documents for coach's fees to be paid.

**2001.4** State coaching courses will conform to curriculum developed by US Soccer Federation. Additional courses and clinics may be developed by FYSA to meet the needs of its membership.

**2001.5** The instructional staff shall be certified and administered by the Director of Coaching and Player Development. The staff shall be drawn from those coaches holding a National A, B, or National Youth License. Certification as an instructor is dependent upon the instructor's attending staff training sessions and demonstrating an ability to teach.

**2001.6** National licensed coaches may instruct State levels as follows; however, exceptions may be made by permission of the Director of Coaching and Player Development:

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. A -                                      | D, E or F Courses |
| 2. B -                                      | D, E or F Courses |
| 3. C -                                      | E or F Courses    |
| 4. National Youth License and C (or higher) | Modules           |

**2001.7** Fees shall be charged for all four levels of licenses as specified in the Coaching Manual to support the program and are due and payable upon application. The fee charged each participant for any particular course shall be the same throughout the State, thus, people in outlying Districts are not penalized with extra travel expenses for the instructor.

### **3000. OFFICERS, STAFF**

#### **3001. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

1. President
2. Vice President of Player/Coaching Development
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

#### **3002. OFFICERS**

1. Registrar
2. Region Vice-Presidents (4)
3. Vice President of Administration and Communication
4. Vice President of Competition
5. Regional Commissioners (2 elected from each Region)

#### **3003. BOD**

1. President
2. Vice President of Player/Coaching Development
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Registrar
6. Region Vice-Presidents (4)
7. Vice President of Administration and Communication
8. Vice President of Competition
9. Regional Commissioners (2 from each Region)

#### **3004. REGIONAL BOARDS**

1. RVP
2. RC's (maximum 4 per Region)

##### **3004.1 DUTIES OF THE REGIONAL BOARD**

1. Shall meet a minimum of four (4) times a year.
2. Telephonic conference calls shall be an acceptable meeting format.
3. Shall be responsible for Florida Commissioners' Cup.
4. Shall be responsible for hosting and administering Regional AGM.
5. Shall be responsible for addressing regional issues.

## **3005. ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES**

### **3006. STAFF**

**3006.1** Administrative employees and office staff shall be determined by the Personnel Committee subject to approval by the BOD as to number of positions needed for the adequate performance of the State Office. The Executive Director has the authority to hire and fire office staff.

**3006.2** A personnel manual shall be established by the BOD in conjunction with the Personnel Committee describing administrative employees and office staff positions, including job description, pay scale, vacations, hiring/firing procedures, and all other policies related to employment. This manual shall be kept in the State Office. Copies shall be given to the BOD.

### **3007. DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS**

#### **3007.1 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS:**

The duties and responsibilities of the Administrative Officers, President, Vice President of Player/Coaching Development, Secretary and Treasurer, are enumerated within the Bylaws (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4).

#### **3007.2 REGISTRAR**

The Registrar shall:

1. Serve as voting member of the BOD.
2. Implement all programs and services related to the registration transfer, and tracking of all players and affiliate members
3. Oversee technical assistance related to inquiries regarding all aspects of registration.
4. Work with the Secretary and Credentials Committee in determining votes available to Affiliates at the AGM.
5. Term of office shall be two (2) years, elected at the AGM on the odd year.
6. Chair the Registration Committee
7. Perform specific duties as prescribed in the FYSA Rules.
8. Shall attend State Cup Final Four and President's Cup and assist at FYSA sponsored tournaments.

#### **3007.3 VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATION**

The Vice President of Administration and Communication shall:

1. Serve as voting member of the BOD.
2. The term of office shall be two (2) years, elected at the AGM on the even year
3. The Vice President of Administration shall have programmatic authority for the operation and management of the FYSA Web Site.
4. The Vice President of Administration and Communication shall have programmatic authority for the operation and management of all FYSA publications and social media outlets.
5. The Vice President of Administration and Communication shall have the responsibility for the Rules and Revisions Committee and will serve on the committee but may recommend to the President the chair of that committee.
6. The Vice President of Administration and Communication shall have the responsibility for the Review and Discipline Committee and shall recommend to the President the chair of that committee.
7. Shall attend State Cup Final Four and President's Cup and assist at FYSA sponsored tournaments.

#### **3007.4 VICE PRESIDENT OF COMPETITION**

The Vice President of Competition shall:

1. Serve as voting member of the BOD.
2. Provide overall supervision of all programs and services for the development and implementation of policy and procedures for competitive soccer.
3. The term of office shall be two (2) years, elected at the AGM, on the "odd" year.



4. The Vice President shall have programmatic authority for the operation and management of the FYSA State Cup Program. May serve as the chair or can recommend to the President the chair of the state cup committee.
5. The Vice President shall have programmatic authority for the operation and management of the Florida Presidents' Cup Program. Will be a member and can recommend to the President the chair of the presidents' cup committee.
6. Provide technical assistance to assure uniform application and implementation of FYSA Rules applicable to competitive programs.
7. Establish a working group to assist in the organization, management, policy and procedures development and other tasks.
8. Provide administrative oversight in cooperation with the RVPs for the Premier League (Statewide competitive teams).
9. Delegate such duties as necessary to timely completion of all tasks.
10. Shall attend State Cup Final Four and President's Cup and assist at FYSA sponsored tournaments.

### **3007.5 RVP**

The RVP shall:

1. Serve as a voting member of the BOD and RB.
2. Provide oversight and supervision within a geographic area, supervise the Region's RC's and be primarily responsible for State level Cups or tournaments conducted within their Region.
3. RVPs must permanently reside within the Region to which they represent. In the event the RVP moves or fails to live and resided in the Region, the BOD shall immediately appoint a replacement to serve until the next AGM where a new election will occur.
4. Instruct, train and oversee RC's to assure their understanding application of all FYSA Rules.
5. The term of office shall be two (2) years, elected at the AGM, elected at the regional level. Regional elections will be staggered as per FYSA Rules.
6. Must Chair the Regional Board, which must meet a minimum of four (4) times per year at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled BOD meetings. Telephonic conference calls shall be an acceptable meeting format.
7. Must schedule and moderate their Regional AGM
8. Shall attend State Cup Final Four and President's Cup and FYSA sponsored tournaments.
9. The RVP may not serve more than four (4) fully elected consecutive terms.

### **3007.6 RC (Elected)**

The RC shall:

1. Serve as a voting member of the BOD and RB.
2. Provide affiliate representation to the BOD and RB.
3. RC's must permanently reside within the regional area within the region (ie. North/South or East/West) they represent. In the event the RC moves or fails to live and resided in the region the RVP shall immediately convene a new election to replace the RC.
4. Shall be responsible for assisting affiliates in one of the following:
  - Registration
  - Discipline & Risk Management
  - Obtaining information for coaching development (ie. Scheduling courses)
  - League/tournament/affiliation issues
5. The term of office shall be two (2) years, elected at the Regional level, using the prior FYSA AGM certified voting count numbers for the clubs in the region. Regional elections will be staggered as per FYSA Rules.
6. Shall attend a minimum of four (4) regional board meetings per year. Telephonic conference calls shall be an acceptable meeting format.
7. Shall attend State Cup Final Four, President's Cup, Commissioner's Cup and FYSA sponsored tournaments.
8. Shall attend the Regional AGM

**3007.7 RC (APPOINTED)**

The RC shall:

1. Serve as a voting member of the RB.
2. Provide affiliate representation to the RB.
3. Must permanently reside within the region they represent. In the event the RC moves or fails to live in the region the RVP shall appoint a new RC.
4. Shall be responsible for assisting affiliates in one of the following areas: Registration, Discipline and Risk Management, Obtaining information for coaching development (coaching courses), and League/Tournament/Affiliation issues.
5. The term of office shall be one (1) year. Appointed by the RVP.
6. Shall attend a minimum of four (4) regional board meetings per year. Telephonic conference calls shall be an acceptable meeting format.
7. Shall attend State Cup Final Four, President’s Cup, Florida Commissioner’s Cup and FYSA sponsored tournaments.

**3008. BOD MEMBERS HOLDING OFFICE IN AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS**

**3008.1** The FYSA BOD members shall annually disclose to the Board any conflict of interest. An FYSA BOD member shall be considered to have a conflict of interest if (a) such BOD member has existing or potential financial or other interests which impair or might reasonably appear to impair such BOD member's independent, unbiased judgment in the discharge of his/her responsibilities to FYSA, or (b) such BOD member is aware that a member of his/her family (which for purposes of this paragraph shall be a spouse, parents, sibling, children and any other relative) or any organization in which such BOD Member (or member of his/her family) is an officer, director, employee, member, partner, BOD member, or controlling stockholder, has such existing or potential financial or other interests. All BOD members shall disclose to the Board any possible conflict of interest at the earliest practicable time. No BOD member shall vote on any matter under consideration at a Board or committee meeting, in which such BOD member has a conflict of interest. The minutes of such meeting shall reflect that a disclosure was made and that the BOD member having a conflict of interest abstained from voting. Any BOD member who is uncertain whether a conflict of interest may exist in any matter may request the Board or committee to resolve the questions by majority vote.

**3009. TERMS OF OFFICE**

<b>OFFICERS</b>	<b>TERM</b>	<b>ELECTED</b>	<b>TERM LIMIT</b>
1. President	Two (2) years	Even Years	(Not serving more than four (4) consecutive terms)
2. Secretary	Two (2) years	Odd Years	(Not serving more than four (4) consecutive terms)
5. Treasurer	Two (2) years	Even Years	(Not serving more than four (4) consecutive terms)
4. VP of Player/ Coach Development	Two (2) years	Odd Years	(Not serving more than four (4) consecutive terms)
5. VP of Admin/ Communications	Two (2) years	Even Years	-
6. VP of Competitions	Two (2) years	Odd Years	-
7. Registrar	Two (2) years	Odd Years	-

8. VP of Region	Two (2) years	(Not serving more than four (4) consecutive terms)
	A, C	Odd Years
	B, D	Even Years
8. Region Commissioner	Two (2) years	
	South, West	Odd Years
	North, East	Even Years

**3010. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

**3010.1** Cause for removal from office of any Officer, Staff Member, Administrator, Committee Member, or any person delegated to represent FYSA in any capacity shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. Actions contrary to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of FYSA.
2. Infractions as enumerated in Rule 505.
3. Unauthorized expenditure of funds. Authorized expenditures include only those that were approved by the BOD as part of the annual budget or approved by special request of the BOD.
4. Unauthorized travel to any meeting or functions not previously approved by the BOD as part of the annual budget or by request to and approval from the BOD, for which the traveler expects expense reimbursement in part or full. All parties traveling to the same meeting or function other than a Committee meeting must have prior approval to attend and be reimbursed for or otherwise have their expenses paid by FYSA.
5. Any unauthorized disclosure of registration information is in direct violation of FYSA Bylaws.

**3010.2** Unexcused absence at meetings which are continued and excessive shall be cause for removal from office according to the following requirements and procedures.

**3010.3** Administrative Officers, Vice Presidents, Registrar and Elected RC's:

1. Two (2) consecutive BOD meetings.
2. By three-fourths (3/4) vote of the BOD.
3. Published agenda item fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting at which removal will be considered.

**3010.4** RC's (Elected and Appointed):

1. Two (2) consecutive RB meetings.
2. Published agenda item fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting at which removal will be considered.

**3011. REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS, ETC.**

**3011.1** Due to resignation, removal, death, injury, etc., any Officer, Staff Member, Administrator, Committee Members, or any person delegated to represent FYSA in any capacity shall be replaced as soon as possible and according to the following requirements and procedures.

**3011.2** President, Secretary, Treasurer shall be replaced by the appointment of the BOD, within thirty (30) days of the vacancy. Appointee shall serve until the next AGM, when an election will take place for the remainder/new term.

**3011.3** Replacing remaining positions of BOD, except Region V.P.s as listed in Rules 3011.1, shall be replaced by the BOD within thirty (30) days. The replacement shall serve for the remainder of the un-expired term or the AGM, whichever is earlier.

**3011.4** Replacing RVP's and Elected RC's the replacement must be elected by the Region where the vacancy occurs. The election must be held within thirty (30) days from the date the vacancy occurs. If a Regional Vice President is being replaced, the President shall appoint any member of the BOD to preside at a Regional meeting for the purpose of such a vote. If a Regional Commissioner is being replaced, the RVP shall preside at a Regional meeting for the purpose of such a vote.

**3012. ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES (STAFF)**

**3012.1** Office Staff shall be determined as to positions, by the BOD. The President and Executive Director shall be responsible for assignment of tasks and direction. No other Officer or Affiliate shall assign tasks to the Office Staff. The Staff shall not accept or respond to special requests without prior approval of the Executive Director. Specific job description shall be included in the Personnel Manual.

**3012.2** Expenditure of funds is authorized by the BOD to the Administrative Staff, including special expenses and limited contract/service agreements, supply purchases, equipment and travel expenses and day-to-day operation of the Administrative Office. These items shall be budgeted for in the annual budget. Expenditures over the budget require approval of the Budget Committee in concurrence with the BOD.

**4000. AMENDING THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, BYLAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**4001. ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, BYLAWS AMENDMENTS**

Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws amendments may be submitted and changed in the same manner and procedures as the Rules and Regulations with the following exceptions:

1. Two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the general membership present at the AGM, required for passage.
2. Final decision on the acceptance or rejection of proposed amendments shall be that of the general membership present at the AGM.

**4002. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**4002.1** Rules and Regulations amendments may be submitted and changed in the same manner and procedures as the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws with the following exceptions:

1. Majority vote of the general membership present at the AGM for passage.
2. Suspended or amended Rules between AGMs by the BOD must be ratified by the general membership at the following AGM.
3. Notification of suspension or amendment must be sent to all Affiliates when ratified by the BOD within fifteen (15) days of the action having been taken.

**4002.2** Establishing a new policy shall follow the above requirements in order to enact between AGMs.

**4002.3** Protest and appeal procedures may be invoked by any Affiliate as described in Rule 600 based on the opinion that it should only be acted upon at the AGM.

**4003. SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENTS**

**4003.1** Submitting amendments to the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and/or Rules and Regulations shall be in writing to the FYSA Vice President of Administration and Communication, by any Affiliate or its members. The document for which change is suggested shall be noted along with the article, section or sub-section and the proposed change. Proposed changes may be submitted anytime during the year but no later than ninety (90) days prior to the AGM.

**4003.2** Review by the Rules and Revision Committee shall be the next step in the process. The Vice President of Administration and Communication shall turn over to the Committee all proposed changes once the proposals have been dated received. The Committee upon review may request clarification, intent and/or purpose of the change. Reviewed changes must be submitted to the Affiliates thirty (30) days prior to the AGM and all proposed changes must be presented to the membership at the AGM.

**4003.3** Upon acceptance of all proposed changes by the Rules and Revisions Committee and after review, the Committee will formally draft the change to assure its proper sequence, language, and compatibility with other related sections. They shall then submit a formal draft to the AGM with comments of Rules and Revisions committee attached.

**4003.4** Modifications to a proposed change may be drafted by the Committee if original proposal has merit but may conflict or be at variance with other sections of the Rules. The modifications, if acceptable to the author, shall be developed as in Rule 4003.3, above.

**4003.5** Filing late, after the ninety (90) day deadline, the proposal may then be referred to the Rules and Revision Committee for consideration at their next regularly scheduled meeting except if called up by the BOD by a two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote.

## **5000. MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS**

### **5001. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**5001.1** "Robert's Rules of Order" shall be the procedure for conducting all official meetings of **FYSA** with the exception of the rules for meetings contained herein. Any rules not covered herein shall be governed by Robert's Rules.

**5001.2** Rules for the conduct of meetings shall only govern the method in which meetings are held and shall in no way govern, apply to or affect the established rules and regulations contained within the previous sections of the Rules of FYSA.

**5001.3** Meeting preliminaries, which are the necessary preparations that must be accomplished prior to conducting a meeting, for the AGM, BOD shall include the following:

1. Notice
2. Agenda
3. Quorum
4. Credentials

**5001.4** Conducted by Chair, who is usually the President. The President may relinquish the chair to a specific person. Should the President be unable to attend the meeting, he/she shall appoint the Vice President of Player and Coaching Development to conduct the meeting in his/her absence.

**5001.5** The agenda shall be followed in order unless the body agrees to suspend or postpone an agenda item by majority vote.

**5001.6** Motions must be properly made, clearly stated, accurately recorded, seconded, debated, and voted upon according to "Robert's Rules", as shall amending, tabling, etc. The chair may not make or second a motion and can only vote on a motion in order to break a tie.

**5001.7** Debating motions at regular meetings can be restricted the same as for the AGM (see next section).

**5001.8** Debating motions at the AGM, in the interest of time and fairness, the chair may set a time limit for each speaker in advance of discussion on a particular agenda item.

**5001.9** Voting on motions shall be conducted by the chair (except items 4 and 5 below) and by using one (1) or more of the following methods:

1. General acclamation.
2. Voice vote by "aye" and "nay".
3. Show of Hands.
4. Roll Call.
5. Secret Ballot.
6. Electronic Voting

**5001.10** Calling meetings shall be the responsibility of the President, however, special called meetings may also be called in the following manner:

1. BOD - request in writing to the Secretary, by at three (3) members of the Board.
2. General Meetings of the Affiliates, request in writing to the Secretary, by at least twenty- five (25) Affiliate members.

**5001.11** All other meetings called by RVPs, committees, etc., may be held on an informal basis with a report on the meeting presented at the next scheduled regular meeting.

**5001.12** Proper conduct shall be expected of each member attending and each meeting shall be conducted properly without intent to circumvent the Rules.

## **5002. NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

**5002.1** Notice of regular meetings of the BOD shall be by mail or e-mail thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting date set. Written notice can include an annual calendar previously established, approved and published by the BOD. All members must always be notified.

**5002.2** Notice of special called meetings of the BOD shall be in writing, fax or e-mail fifteen (15) days in advance of the meeting date set. All members must always be notified, and the purpose of the meeting must be stated in the notice.

**5002.3** General Membership special called meetings shall be noticed in writing forty-five (45) days in advance of the meeting date set. All Affiliates must be notified.

**5002.4** Telephonic meetings (conference calls) of the BOD need not be noticed in writing, however, seven (7) days' notice, if a regular meeting, shall be given by phone or e-mail and all members must be contacted. Emergency conference calls need not be noticed seven (7) days in advance as long as all members are contacted, and a quorum can be present.

**5002.5** Notice of the AGM shall be in writing to all Affiliates ninety (90) days prior to the meeting date set with information as to time, place, agenda, etc. included with notice. Proposed rule changes, however, shall be in writing to all Affiliates thirty (30) days prior to the AGM.

## **5003. AGENDAS**

**5003.1** A regular meeting proposed agenda shall be mailed to BOD members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting date set, whether the meeting was scheduled in an annual calendar or called with a thirty (30) day notice.

**5003.2** A special called meeting agenda shall include only the issue(s) for which the meeting is being called may not be amended.

**5003.3** Amending a proposed agenda of a regular meeting shall be at the beginning of the meeting by a majority vote of the membership and shall then become the final agenda.

**5003.4** Adoption of the final agenda shall take place at the beginning of the meeting by a majority vote of the members present. Upon adoption of the final agenda, it may not be amended; however, items may be suspended or postponed for consideration at another time during the meeting or at another meeting. See Agenda format, Rule 5003.6.

**5003.5** Agenda items to be presented as motions, whenever possible, should include the text of the motion. Members should not be confronted with unexpected decisions or be unprepared on important matters.

**5003.6** Agenda format for BOD regular meetings shall be as follows:

- |                                       |                              |                             |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A. Call to Order                      | H. Committee Reports         | J. New Business             |
| B. Roll Call                          | 1. V.P. of Competition       | 1. etc.                     |
| C. Adopt Agenda                       | 2. V.P. of Recreation        | K. For the Good of the Game |
| D. Guests                             | 3. - 6 Region V.P.s          | L. Adjournment              |
| E. Approve Previous Minutes           | 7. -etc. Standing Committees |                             |
| F. Correspondence                     | I. Old Business              |                             |
| G. Treasurer's Report<br>and Approval | 1. etc.                      |                             |

**5003.7** Agenda format for the AGM shall be as follows:

1. Registration \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (dates, times)
2. Vendors \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (dates, times)
3. Workshops \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (dates, times)
4. BOD \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (dates, times)
5. Banquet \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (date, times)
6. General Session \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (date, times)

- |                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Call to Order                   | I. Old Business          |
| B. Credentials Report              | 1. etc.                  |
| C. Guests                          | J. New Business          |
| D. Approve Previous Minutes        | 1. etc.                  |
| E. Correspondence                  | K. Elections             |
| F. President's Report              | L. Proposed Rule Changes |
| G. Treasurer's report and Approval | M. Proposed Fee Changes  |
| H. Committee Reports:              |                          |
| 1. V.P. of Competition             |                          |
| 2. V.P. of Recreation              |                          |
| 3. - 6. Region V.P.s               |                          |
| 7. - etc. Standing Committees      |                          |
| 7. For the Good of the Game        |                          |
| 8. Adjournment                     |                          |

### **5003.8 RULES COMMITTEE CONDUCT AT THE AGM**

The rules committee spokesperson conducting the Rules and Bylaws changes at the AGM will conduct him/herself during the proposed new or changed rule or bylaw as follows:

- 1) Read the proposed new or changed rule or Bylaw.
- 2) Give the members of the AGM the opinion/or position of the rules committee.
- 3) Request the author of the proposed new or changed rules or Bylaws to speak on behalf of their proposal.
- 4) Prior to the beginning of the rules changes presentation (time limits may be imposed equally for all submitted rules changes).
- 5) In the absence of the author, the author may designate a speaker.
- 6) The committee spokesperson conducting the rules and Bylaws changes will then ask for anyone who wants to speak for or against the proposed new or changed rules or Bylaws to come forward and so speak. Debate shall be in the order of “against” and “for” until such time as there is no opposition to the last speaker. At this time the speaker shall allow one additional speaker speaking the position as the last. After this the question shall be “called.”
- 7) Under no circumstances shall the committee spokesperson conducting the meeting speak for or against any proposed new or changed rules or Bylaws after the general members have spoken and prior to the vote on such proposed new or changed rules or Bylaws.
- 8) The rules committee spokesperson shall not have the right to speak as a general member for or against a proposed new or changed rule or Bylaw, unless he relinquishes the chair during debate on this question. Once relinquished the chair shall not assume the chair until such time as the matter at hand has been resolved. If applicable the rules committee spokesperson may vote on any such proposed changes.

### **5004. QUORUM**

**5004.1** Determining and maintaining a quorum shall be defined in the Bylaw 7.2.

**5004.2** Notice of intention to attend a meeting shall be given the State Office Staff. The Staff shall then give the list of those who have given such notice to the Secretary who shall determine if the quorum requirements have been met. If a quorum will not be met, the BOD shall cancel the meeting and notify the membership. The meeting may or may not be rescheduled.

### **5005. CREDENTIALS**

**5005.1** The Credentials Committee shall be responsible for verifying credentials and maintaining all records of verification as established either by Roll Call or the Credentials Report. The Secretary shall report to the body the members present and eligible to vote. Only Affiliates “in good standing” shall be able to participate in all matters considered at the AGM.

**5005.2** Voting on motions and elections as prescribed in Bylaw 8, Rule 5007, Rule 5008 and Standing Committees C-50, when requiring a Roll Call vote or Credentials Report shall be conducted by the Committee. The Secretary shall report the results to the body and the Committee shall record and maintain the results.

### **5006. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**5006.1** Minutes shall be taken of every regular or special called meetings of the BOD and AGM, by the Secretary or his/her designee. The minutes can be taken electronically, by hand or by shorthand at the convenience of the Secretary.



**5006.2** Minutes shall be sent, typewritten, by the Secretary to the Affiliates for all AGM, BOD meetings within thirty (30) days following the meeting. The Secretary shall sign all minutes. If someone other than the Secretary recorded the meeting, that person must be noted in the minutes.

**5006.3** Minutes shall contain, adhering to the order of the agenda, the following:

1. Date, time and place of meeting.
2. Names of members present (except for the AGM, which shall instead include the Credentials Report).
3. Names of members absent (except for the AGM, which shall instead include the Credentials Report).
4. Names of guests and brief synopsis if they made presentation before the body.
5. Approval/disapproval/corrections of previous minutes.
6. Attach correspondence.
7. Treasurer's Report.
8. Committees reporting and not reporting with a brief synopsis of the report and attaching any written material the Committee may have submitted.
9. Old Business in order as numbered on the agenda. If motions were made, see Rule 5007.
10. New Business in order as numbered on the agenda. If motions were made, see Rule 5007.
11. For the Good of the Game, briefly describing the items discussed.
12. Adjournment motion stating persons making and seconding, and the time of adjournment.

### **5007. RECORDING MOTIONS**

All motions must be recorded even if the motion died for lack of second or if the motion was tabled. Beside the text, being clearly and accurately stated, each recording of a motion must also contain:

1. Names of persons making and seconding each motion.
2. Method of voting on the motion such as by acclamation, voice vote, show of hands, etc.
3. Outcome of motion, whether it was carried, defeated, tabled, or died from a lack of a second.
4. BOD Roll Call or ballot votes shall include number of votes for, against and abstentions.
5. AGM ballot votes, as determined by the Credentials Committee shall include the number of voting for, against and number not voting.
6. Discussion pro and con can be briefly recorded.
7. Separate copies of items such as reports, forms, schedules, etc. having been acted upon, shall be attached, and noted as attached.

### **5008. ELECTIONS**

**5008.1** Annual elections shall be held to fill positions in accordance with Bylaws 2.5, 3.1 and 8., also, in accordance with Rule 3008.

**5008.2** RC elections shall be held within the Region prior to the AGM and supervised by the RVP or his/her designee. Nominations shall be accepted from the floor even if a slate has been presented. Eligibility requires the affiliate to be "in good standing" at the time of the election. Election by email shall be permitted under the supervision of the RVP and the FYSA Secretary, who shall approve the procedure.

**5008.3** RVP elections shall be held at the AGM after all other elections have been conducted. The Credentials Committee shall conduct the election. Only those Affiliates within the Region who have been verified and are "in good standing" shall be eligible to vote for their Regional candidates. If a candidate is unopposed, voting need not be by secret ballot. Nominations shall be accepted from the floor.

**5008.4** Eligibility shall include "in good standing" status. Eligibility shall be verified by the Credentials Committee as to status and number of available votes.

- 5008.5** Proxies shall be counted if they have been verified by the Credentials Committee prior to the deadline set to register proxies. All proxies must be submitted to the FYSA Secretary using a form (found on the FYSA website), signed by the affiliate's "agent of record" and prepared in accordance with the Bylaws. If specifically directed on the proxy to vote a specific person to a particular position, proxy holder must cast votes as directed; otherwise, the person holding the proxy may vote as they choose.
- 5008.6** FYSA shall post a notice of all elections, their duties, and the process for nominations on the FYSA website at least 90 days prior to the AGM. FYSA will present a slate of candidates for all positions at least 30 days prior to the AGM. The list of candidates shall be given to the affiliates at registration. FYSA does not choose the candidates only facilitate an orderly nomination process. The candidates must be nominated in the same manner from the floor.
- 5008.7** Nominations from the floor shall be accepted prior to the close of nominations. The maker of the nomination may speak for one (1) minute and the nomination must be seconded. The person seconding the nomination shall not speak. The person nominated can refuse the nomination. Nominations for that position shall then be closed by the Secretary hearing no further nominations.
- 5008.8** Candidates shall have five (5) minutes to speak on their behalf or have someone speak for them. The candidates shall speak in order, alphabetically by last name.
- 5008.9** Conducting elections shall be the responsibility of the Credentials Committee as chaired by the Secretary. Should the Secretary position be on the ballot, the Secretary shall temporarily step aside for that position election. The Committee shall choose a temporary chair and so notify the body.
- 5008.10** Method of voting shall be secret ballot with Credentials Committee supervising that eligible votes are being and have been cast.
- 5008.11** Ballots can be destroyed only after having been held by the Credentials Committee for a period of thirty (30) days. The Committee shall also keep the tallying receipts for the same period.
- 5008.12** Contesting an election of a particular position can be done by anyone (1) of the opposing candidates who may then ask for a recount. An election need not be contested before close of business at the AGM, however, it must be contested in writing to the Secretary within the thirty (30) days the Credentials Committee is required to hold the ballots.
- 5008.13** An invalid election shall be re-held, if so determined by the BOD after a recount by the Credentials Committee. If found to be invalid during the AGM, the election shall be re-held immediately. If found to be invalid after close of business at the AGM, a ballot containing the slate of candidates, as approved on the floor during the meeting, shall be sent to all Affiliates. The Affiliate shall vote, sign and have the ballot notarized and returned to the Secretary. All rules for a normal election concerning quorum, eligibility, verification, etc., shall then apply. The results shall be published to all Affiliates.
- 5008.14** A motion for election by acclamation may only be made if a candidate is unopposed. A motion may then be made to destroy the ballot, at the meeting, for the unopposed candidate only.

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## **C. STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **C1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- C1.1** Standing Committees shall be as established and defined in the Bylaw 9. The Committee sections beginning on page III herein shall address each Standing Committee's objectives, structure, duties/responsibilities.
- C1.2** Selecting Committee members shall be the responsibility of the Committee Chairperson as ratified by the BOD. The Committee Chair shall choose members volunteering or being recommended by BOD/Affiliate members. All volunteers and recommendations must be considered. The President shall designate the Chairperson of the Committee as ratified by the BOD. The Committee must be structured as defined within this section of the Rules.
- C1.3** Selecting a different Chairperson, shall be within the authority of the Committee should the approved Chair be unable to serve or not be performing his/her duties, except for those Committees chaired by elected officials. A different Chairperson cannot be selected until the Committee has met at least once. The new Chairperson shall be ratified by the BOD.
- C1.4** President is an ex-officio member of all Committees but shall not vote on committee matters. However, the President shall supply committees with data and documentation as needed and shall monitor committees assuring, they are performing their duties as required. In the event the Chairman resigns, the President, with the approval of the BOD, shall appoint a new Chairperson. This appointment is to be ratified at the next BOD meeting.
- C1.5** Budget approval by the BOD for the Committee to meet and expend funds necessary for the performance of the Committee is required. Funds and meeting request beyond the approved budget cannot be expended until special requests have been submitted in to in writing and approved by the BOD.
- C1.6** Scheduling approved meetings shall be verified with the State Office in order to make proper arrangements, to avoid conflicts with other business being conducted at the same time, in the same place and possibly coincide with other meetings. The State Office need not be notified if the meeting does not require arrangements by the Office.
- C1.7** Authorized to institute policy once a full written report is submitted to and approved by the BOD. Committees shall render opinions when asked to do so. Policy recommendations shall be presented as follows:
1. Majority opinion shall be represented by the Chair on decisions, proposed policies and/or opinions decided by a majority vote of the Committee. A majority opinion shall be presented before any other opinion and shall be identified as the majority opinion and/or recommendation of the Committee.
  2. Minority opinion shall be presented by the Chair if requested to do so by the portion of the Committee having an opinion or recommendation different from the majority vote. A minority opinion and/or recommendation may only be presented after the majority opinion and shall be identified as the minority opinion.
- C1.8** Removing and/or replacing Committee members is within the authority of the BOD. Any or all members may be removed and replaced if it is evidenced, they are failing to perform or improperly performing their duties and responsibilities.
- C1.9** Special (ad hoc) Committees can be established by the BOD, and/or the President for a single-issue purpose. A definite period of time must be established, when the Committee is established, for the completion of its task. A full written report must be issued by the ad-hoc Committee.
- C1.10** The conduct of meetings by Committees may be on an informal basis. Parliamentary procedures need not be observed. Minutes need not be taken, however, full detailed reports shall be compiled in accordance with the rules in this section.

## **C20. AUDIT**

### **C20.1 OBJECTIVES**

The Audit Committee is responsible for assisting the BOD to fulfill its responsibilities of ensuring that financial reporting and internal controls are adequate and undertaken efficiently. Likewise the Audit Committee acts as the communication channel for the outside auditors to the Board as a whole.

### **C20.2 STRUCTURE**

1. Chair is appointed annually and should have some background in accounting and financial matters.
2. Shall serve for one (1) year until close of business at AGM.
3. Shall be comprised of not less than five (5) members, with at least one (1) member from each Region and including the chair. Regional members should have some background in accounting and financial matters.

### **C20.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Assess the quality of accounting policies, the financial reporting process and internal controls.
2. Assess the effectiveness and evaluate the independence of the external auditors.
3. Assess the control environment, identify comprehensive risk, make sure policies and procedures to manage significant risk are carried out timely, monitor activities to assess controls over time and assess communications throughout the Association.
4. Establish the annual audit plan and approve requests for special projects or amendments to the audit plan and develop a budget to cover the projected costs for the completion of its task.
5. Review operational areas for their stewardship of resources and compliance with policies and procedures.
6. Investigate reported occurrences of financial irregularities and recommend controls to detect and prevent such occurrences
7. Review the external auditor's management report issues and managements responses and make recommendations for necessary actions or policy modifications
8. Work in conjunction with the Budget Committee in developing the proposed budget for the AGM.
9. Report to the BOD on its activities and recommendations annually or as may be required by the BOD

## **C30. BUDGET**

### **C30.1 OBJECTIVES**

The Budget Committee is charged with the development of an annual long-range budget, financial and investment planning, application for grants and funds and the modification, adjustment and review of the current budget. The Committee shall assure that all local, state and federal rules and regulations are met. As per Rule 701.2, an Annual Review by a CPA shall be authorized by the Budget Committee of all FYSA funds, which may be a full audit or some lesser accounting procedure.

### **C30.2 STRUCTURE**

1. Chair shall be the Treasurer of FYSA.
2. Except for the Chair, shall serve for one (1) year until the close of business at the AGM.
3. Shall be comprised of not less than five (5) members, one member selected from each region, and including the Chair.

### **C30.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Shall receive and review all budget requests and submit to the BOD for review.
2. Shall compile reviewed requests into an overall budget to be submitted by the Committee for membership approval at the AGM.
3. The Chair is authorized to receive requests for budget adjustments during the seasonal year. Such request, not to exceed five hundred (\$500.) dollars or five percent (5%), may be approved by the Committee, reported to and ratified by the BOD.
4. Shall submit the audit to the BOD and reporting to the membership at the AGM.
5. Shall assist committees in projecting costs when developing new programs or procedures in order to develop their operational budget as per Rule 702.6.
6. Shall meet on an "as needed" basis.
7. Develop a budget to cover the projected costs for completion of its task for the seasonal year.
8. Besides the annual budget, shall make such interim reports as required by the BOD.

## **C40. PLAYER/COACHING DEVELOPMENT**

### **C40.1 OBJECTIVES**

The Player/Coaching Development Committee is charged with assisting the Vice President of Player and Coaching Development in the oversight and review of programs for the education and training of coaches and player development for FYSA.

### **C40.2 STRUCTURE**

1. Committee members shall serve for one (1) year until close of business at AGM.
2. The Committee shall be comprised of not less than four (4) members, with at least one (1) member from each Region. The chairperson of the committee will be the Vice President of Player and Coaching Development.

### **C40.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Shall assist the Vice President of Player and Coaching Development, as needed, in the oversight of the programs for the education, training and advancement of players and coaches and the review of such programs.
2. Shall meet on an "as needed" basis, but at least once yearly (recommended AGM).
3. Director of Coaching and Player Development will develop, with the Vice President of Player and Coaching Development, a budget to cover the projected costs for the completion of the committee's tasks for the seasonal year.
4. Shall make such annual and/or interim reports as may be required by the BOD.

## **C50. CREDENTIALS**

### **C50.1 OBJECTIVES**

The Credentials Committee is charged with determining the correct number of votes to which Affiliates, Officers, Directors and other such members are entitled to cast in accordance with FYSA Rules. They shall verify that all votes cast are by the rightful holder as an individual, valid assigned proxy, legally assigned representative or directed vote to the Secretary of FYSA.

### **C50.2 STRUCTURE**

1. The Chair shall be the Secretary, with the Registrar as advisor to the Committee.
2. Except for the Chair, shall serve for one (1) year, until the close of business at the AGM.
3. Shall be comprised of not less than four (4) members.

### **C50.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Shall review current computerized listings of Affiliates' registered players, verifying correctness in order to establish their eligible votes. Confirmation must be supplied to the Affiliates in advance of the AGM as per Bylaw 8.2.
2. Shall hear and rule on disputed votes as per Bylaw 8.2. In all matters of dispute, the verified computer listings shall be the Committee's determining factor and shall be final.
3. Shall determine at the AGM, and other meetings, if necessary, based on the verified membership in attendance, what constitutes a quorum, majority, two thirds (2/3) majority, etc., in order to conduct voting by membership legally and correctly.
4. Shall conduct elections and shall conduct other such voting procedures requiring ballot voting.
5. Shall work in cooperation with the State Office in establishing and maintaining Affiliate lists of legal representative (agents of record), Officers, Directors, Referee Assignors and coaches.
6. Shall work in cooperation with the Review and Discipline Committee in maintaining record of sanction and discipline.
7. Shall meet on an "as needed" basis, except that at least one (1) meeting is to be held annually in preparation for the AGM.
8. Develop a budget to cover the projected costs for completion of its tasks for the seasonal year.
9. Shall make such annual and/or interim reports as may be required by the BOD.



## **C60. TOPSOCCER**

### **C60.1 OBJECTIVES**

The TOPSoccer Committee is charged with supporting and growing the TOPSoccer program in Florida.

### **C60.2 STRUCTURE**

1. The Chair of the Committee shall be the VP of Player and Coaching Development or a designee of their choice
2. Except for the Chair, all members (including a designated Chair) shall serve for one (1) year, until the close of business at the AGM. There is no limit on the number of years a member can serve.
3. The Committee shall be comprised of not less than four (4) members, who shall be chosen by the Chair.

### **C60.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Provide BOD with verbal or written update at all Board meetings via attendance by Chair (or alternate Committee member).
2. Maintain monthly Committee conference calls to ensure thorough communication and discuss topics of interest, including:
  - a. Existing program issues
  - b. New program support
  - c. Grant programs
  - d. Communication plans (email and newsletters)
  - e. Marketing opportunities
  - f. Coach certification and Buddy courses
  - g. FYSA AGM participation
3. Maintain a database of existing and potential FYSA TOPSoccer programs and relevant information about each including primary contact
4. Respond to inbound email and telephone inquiries relative to connecting an interested parent or coach with a local program.
5. Schedule and conduct TOPSoccer Coaching and Buddy Courses with instructors including the DOC and others who are authorized by the Chair.
6. Provide phone and video conference support for new clubs interested in starting a TOPSoccer program and attend meetings.
7. Shall review and make necessary changes to the criteria for TOPSoccer Awards annually in August.
8. Shall review all nominations received for the following recognition awards and make a recommendation to the BOD:
  1. TOPSoccer Volunteer of the Year
  2. TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year
  3. TOPSoccer Coach of the Year
  4. TOPSoccer Club of the Year

## **C90. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

### **C90.1 OBJECTIVES**

The Personnel Committee is charged with developing personnel policies and procedures for all FYSA employees. It shall provide overall guidance of those policies and assure that procedures for staff evaluation, performance standards, promotions and guidance are followed.

### **C90.2 STRUCTURE**

1. The Chair shall be the Secretary of FYSA.
2. Shall serve for one (1) year until close of business at AGM (except Chair).
3. Shall be comprised of not less than four (4) members. It is recommended that at least one (1) member resides in the area of the State Office. The Treasurer shall be a member of this Committee.

### **C90.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Shall publish and/or revise and maintain personnel manual to be kept in the State Office with copies distributed to all EC members.
2. Shall establish policies and procedures for hiring and supervising the necessary staff for maintaining the State Office and FYSA programs and services.
3. Shall recommend to the BOD all matters relating to the positions of Executive Director and Director of Coaching, as long as the positions have been included in the budget.
4. Shall meet on an "as needed" basis.
5. Shall establish a budget, in conjunction with the Budget Committee, for all office operating costs.
6. Develop a budget to cover projected costs for completion of its task for the seasonal year.
7. Shall make such annual and/or interim reports as may be required by the BOD.

## **C100. COMPETITION COMMITTEE**

### **C100.1 OBJECTIVES**

The Competition Committee is charged with establishing and implementing requirements for the annual FYSA-sponsored competitions. The Committee shall direct and supervise the competition.

### **C100.2 STRUCTURE**

1. The Committee shall be the responsibility of the Vice President of Competition of FYSA.
2. The Committee shall have at least one member from each Region.
3. Shall serve for one (1) year until the close of business at the AGM.

### **C100.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Shall establish necessary rules and procedures for the tournament being certain to comply with the Rules section on Tournament and Travel.
2. Recommend to BOD, tournament site upon receiving and investigating all hosting requests from host region.
3. Shall be tournament directors.
4. Shall make all necessary post-tournament reports as required by Rules section on Tournaments and Travel.
5. Shall determine and recommend to the BOD entry fees to ensure financial stability of the Cup, working in cooperation with the Budget Committee.
6. Shall work in close cooperation with the Tournaments and Travel and Registration Committees, and the State Office.
7. Shall meet on an "as needed" basis being certain to comply with BOD established deadlines and date requirements.
8. Develop a budget to cover the projected costs for completion of its tasks for the seasonal year.
9. Shall make such annual and/or interim reports as may be required by the BOD.

## **C110. PROTEST AND APPEALS**

### **C110.1 OBJECTIVES**

The Protest and Appeals Committee is charged with hearing protests and appeals pertaining to FYSA Bylaws and Rules, and other rules, regulations, and policies of affiliated organizations. All avenues of protests and appeals must be exhausted at all levels below this body before the Committee will consider hearing a protest or appeal.

### **C110.2 STRUCTURE**

1. Shall serve for one (1) year until close of business at AGM. NOTE: Except when a member(s) is involved in a protest or appeal which has not been resolved.
2. Shall be comprised of a minimum of eight (8) members, two (2) from each region, approved by the BOD. An appointed member may be temporarily reordered by the Chair should they be in any way involved in the protest or appeal being heard.

### **C110. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Shall keep current with policies/procedures USSF, US Youth Soccer and submitting such changes to the Rules Committee for correction to the FYSA Rules.
2. Shall provide the State Office the necessary reports to assure that imposed sanction/discipline is accurate, the offender is properly and clearly defined, and that records are updated or expunged if found in error or changed in appeal.
3. Shall meet to hear a protest or appeal which has been submitted to them or the Secretary. Also, on an "as needed" basis for conducting business of the Committee.
4. Provide an annual review to the Budget Committee related to costs for filing protests and appeals, suggesting maintaining or revising fees to compensate for the costs of hearing protests/appeals.
5. Shall meet to hear protest or appeal being certain to comply with time limits as required in Rules 604.3 and 604.5.
6. Develop a budget to cover the projected costs for completion of its tasks for the seasonal year.
7. Shall make annual and/or interim reports as may be required by the BOD.

## **C120. RECOGNITION OTHER THAN HALL OF FAME**

### **C120.1 OBJECTIVES**

The Recognition Committee is charged with seeking and rewarding those individuals who have served and/or are serving the Florida youth Soccer Association by contributing unselfishly, show the type of dedication in their field that brings credit to themselves, the group they represent, our game and FYSA.

The areas for selection are:

1. Region III Andy Stone Scholarship Award
2. Recreational Club of the Year
3. Administrator of the Year
4. Friends of Soccer (regionally selected; maximum of 8 per year)
5. Young Female Referee of the Year
6. Young Male Referee of the Year
7. Girls Competitive Coach of the Year
8. Girls Recreational Coach of the Year
9. Boys Competitive Coach of the Year
10. Boys Recreational Coach of the Year

### **C120.2 STRUCTURE AND TENURE**

1. Shall serve for one (1) year until close of business at the AGM.
2. Shall be comprised of not less than four (4) members.
3. Shall include the FYSA Director of Coaching.

### **C120.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Shall develop and up-date the selection criteria for each award and ensure that it is amply disseminated to the membership.
2. Shall ensure that nominations have been received on due date and that they meet the published criteria. Select those qualified and forward their choices and recommendations to the BOD for disposition (approval or rejection).
3. Shall select not more than eight (8) persons for Friends of Soccer working in conjunction with the AGM host region submitting the nominations.
4. Shall work with the State Office in maintaining and updating all records of nominees and inductees so a permanent history of the awards is kept.
5. Shall meet on an "as needed" basis, except that at least one (1) meeting shall be in conjunction with the BOD.
6. Shall develop a budget to cover the projected costs for completion of its tasks for the seasonal year.
7. Shall make such annual and/or interim reports as may be required by the BOD.

## **C125. HALL OF FAME (“HOF”)**

This is the highest recognition award honoring those who served FYSA. It shall have its own separate committee, to be appointed by the president, approved by the BOD. It shall remain active for two years. The committee and its members may be reappointed.

### **C125.1 OBJECTIVE**

The Hall of Fame selection committee shall be responsible to review nominations received from FYSA Members and recommend those eligible persons to the BOD after ensuring that all existing criteria has been met without exception.

### **C125.2 STRUCTURE AND TENURE**

1. The HOF selection committee shall consist of no less than five (5) members: four current HOF members, and a member of the BOD appointed by the President.
2. The chairman of the HOF committee shall be elected by its members.
3. The committee shall serve for two (2) years until the close of business at the AGM in year two.

### **C125.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The HOF committee shall ensure that preparations have been made by the AGM committee to include the HOF presentation at the AGM.
2. It shall work with the FYSA office to ensure that all documents are maintained to ensure perpetual information is available.
3. Shall be prepared to report to the BOD, as to the number of recommendations received.
4. Develop a budget to ensure expenses, if any, are available and covered.
5. Request from the AGM committee a place to allow HOF members to gather during the AGM.

### **C125.4 PRIVILEGES OF HALL OF FAME MEMBERS**

1. HOF members have the right to attend all AGMs.
2. HOF members may be compensated for expenses at the AGM as directed by the BOD each year.
3. HOF members shall be entitled to vote as per Bylaw 8.5.

### **C125.5 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION TO THE FYSA HALL OF FAME**

1. Except as indicated below, the nominee must have at least 15 years of high achievement and excellence in contributing to FYSA, as a volunteer, in one or more of the following categories. The contributions must have left a lasting positive effect on the purpose and goals of FYSA.

2. Administrator. Must have been an active member of FYSA BOD/RB. Must have vacated that position at least three (3) years prior to selection. Must have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments and leadership making significant and lasting contributions not only locally but to the entire state. All service must have been voluntary.
3. Coach. Must have completed 15 years as a FYSA coach serving youth programs throughout the State of Florida showing outstanding leadership and teaching ability. All service must have been voluntary. This nomination must be endorsed by the FYSA Director of Coaching.
4. Meritorious Service. This area is reserved for those non-FYSA members and others who have demonstrated support to FYSA programs for an extended period of time such as journalists who see that FYSA activities are mentioned in the media, individuals who see that FYSA receives financial or other sponsorship for an extended period of time to ensure success in our programs, and other individuals who have contributed to either FYSA, US Youth Soccer or USSF to benefit FYSA and its programs throughout the entire state.

#### **C125.6 PROCEDURE AND DEADLINE**

1. Nominations along with attachments must reach the FYSA office not later than the date published for all award nominations to be presented by the AGM if the nomination is to be reviewed that current year. Any nomination reaching the FYSA office after the published submission date or without the necessary documentation will not be reviewed that year. The nominations will be returned to sender for possible resubmission the following year. Postdated mail will not be considered.
2. Nominations may come from any member of the FYSA administrative chain to include state, area, league, club, or team members.
3. Nominations must be typewritten on the official form and must contain, as an attachment, supportive documents where required.
4. Every member of the HOF committee shall be furnished by the FYSA office, via e-mail or other means, a copy of the nominations with the respective attachments, provided they were received by the office prior to the deadline date.

## **C140. REGISTRATION**

### **C140.1 OBJECTIVES**

The Registration Committee is charged with establishing and implementing the policies and procedures necessary for the proper registration of all players and coaches wishing to participate in FYSA. It shall also supervise the proper affiliation of all members.

### **C140.2 STRUCTURE**

1. The Chair shall be the Registrar of FYSA.
2. Except for the chair, the Committee shall serve for one (1) year until close of business at the AGM.
3. Shall be comprised of not less than five-(5) members, with one (1) member selected from each region and including the Chair.

### **C140.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Shall establish all policies and procedures for registration of players and coaches, continuously updating.
2. Shall publish and update a registration manual for Affiliates and RCs describing registration procedures and shall publish/up-date required registration forms.
3. Shall recommend a necessary fee structure designed to maintain the financial needs of FYSA. Such fees to be approved, after review by the BOD, by the membership at the AGM as per Rule 301.2.
4. Shall work in close cooperation with the Rules Committee for proper up-dating of the Rules and with the Budget Committee in establishing fees.
5. Shall meet on an "as needed" basis, except that at least one (1) meeting annually shall be in conjunction with BOD.
6. Develop a budget to cover the projected costs for completion of its tasks for the seasonal year.
7. Shall make such annual and/or interim reports as may be required by the BOD.



## **C150. REVIEW AND DISCIPLINE**

### **C150.1 OBJECTIVES**

The Review and Discipline Committee is charged with reviewing the actions of Affiliates and imposing or removing discipline if the review so determines.

### **C150.2 STRUCTURE**

1. Shall serve for one (1) year until the close of business at the AGM.
2. Shall be comprised of a minimum of three (3) members. Member(s) may be recalled by the Chair, should a conflict of interest arise. Members must be approved by the BOD.

### **C150.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. It is the entry level for request, through the FYSA Secretary for Intervention by either Affiliate of an Officer of FYSA.
2. Advise the proper Region V.P. of their findings and discipline so that he/she may carry out and monitor the sanction/discipline the sanction/discipline imposed by the Committee.
3. Shall review game reports for ejections/sendoffs in Invitational Tournaments. May recommend additional sanctions by notifying appropriate RVP.
4. Shall provide the State Office the necessary reports to assure that imposed sanction/discipline is accurate, the offender is properly and clearly defined, and that records are updated or expunged if found in error or changed on appeal.
5. Shall work in close cooperation with Rules and Revisions Committee.
6. Shall meet on an "as needed" basis to conduct its business.
7. Develop a budget to cover the projected costs for completion of its task for the seasonal year.
8. Shall make such annual and/or interim reports as may be required by the BOD.

## **C160. RULES AND REVISIONS**

### **C160.1 OBJECTIVES**

The Rules and Revision Committee is charged with the development and revision of the rules of the Association. The Committee is charged with the responsibility of receiving recommendations pertaining to the change, modification, updating, deletion and correction of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules. The Committee will receive, initiate request, and recommend proposals to the BOD for their action on all proposed amendments. The Committee shall render opinions concerning the interpretation of the Bylaws and Rules of FYSA, as directed to do so by the BOD.

### **C160.2 STRUCTURE**

1. Shall serve for one (1) year until close of business at the AGM.
2. Shall be comprised of not less than four-(4) members.

### **C160.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Coordinate the receiving and dissemination of information on all existing rules, proposed changes and required update from USSF and US Youth Soccer.
2. Shall render opinions, verbally or written, at all meetings, or whenever requested by any Affiliate and/or Affiliate member, after contacting appropriate BOD members.
3. Shall meet on an "as needed" basis or as necessitated by the submission of proposed or requested amendments and at the direction of the BOD.
4. Develop a budget to cover the projected costs for completion of its task for the seasonal year.
5. Shall make such annual and/or interim reports as may be required by the BOD.

## **C180. TOURNAMENT AND TRAVEL**

### **C180.1 OBJECTIVES**

The Tournament and Travel Committee is charged with establishing policies and procedures for Affiliates wishing to host tournaments and teams wishing to travel outside their region. To ensure that FYSA is in compliance with the US Youth Soccer Tournament and Travel Manual.

### **C180.2 STRUCTURE**

1. Shall serve for one (1) year until the close of business at the AGM.
2. Shall be comprised of not less than four (4) members.

### **C180.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Shall assist RVP and/or Club/team, if needed in their processing of the Tournament and travel application. Shall receive appeals from teams/clubs for applications rejected by the RVP.
2. Shall up-date tournament and travel rules and procedures and establish timely response deadlines for approval.
3. The Tournament and Travel Committee will report any violation of either FYSA, US Youth Soccer, or USSF tournament and/or travel rules and will recommend fines and/or sanctions to the Vice President of Administration and Communication. Fines will be in accordance with the established schedule as passed by ~~either~~ the BOD now in effect or as approved at a later date.
4. Shall work in close cooperation with the Olympic Development and Coaching Committees, Region V.P.s
5. Shall meet on an "as needed" basis, except that at least one (1) meeting yearly shall be in conjunction with the BOD.
6. Develop a budget to cover the projected costs for completion of its tasks for the seasonal year.
7. Shall make such annual and/or interim reports as may be required by the BOD.

## GLOSSARY

<b><u>Administrative Officers</u></b>	The President, Vice President Player/Coaching Development, Secretary, and Treasurer.
<b><u>Agent</u></b>	One of three individuals within an affiliate named to conduct business for the affiliate with FYSA. Agent duties include but are not limited to conducting business with the FYSA office, authorizing entry into FYSA-sponsored events, collecting credentials at the AGM, and requesting, in writing, affiliation changes.
<b><u>Agent of Record</u></b>	The primary contact with an affiliate; is one of three Agents who may conduct affiliate business with FYSA.
<b><u>Appeal</u></b>	A formal method of requesting a reversal of any decision or ruling made by an authority within FYSA. (Rule 605)
<b><u>Birth Verification</u></b>	Proper birth documentation for the player has been submitted by the affiliate to FYSA.
<b><u>District</u></b>	A geographical sub-division of the territory of a National State Association (FYSA).
<b><u>Event Roster</u></b>	A roster created by an event, such as a league or tournament that is used only in that event and has been created from data obtained from the team's official state roster and approved guest player forms.
<b><u>FIFA</u></b>	Federation International de Football Association, the worldwide governing body of the sport of soccer.
<b><u>FYSA Official</u></b>	Officers, Directors, Vice Presidents, Registrar, RC's Administrators, Committee Members, or anyone authorized to represent FYSA in any capacity.
<b><u>Guest Player</u></b>	A registered player participating in a competition for a team to which the player is not rostered.
<b><u>Frozen Roster</u></b>	Any roster that is frozen mandates that there can be no movements either off of or onto until either the team is eliminated from the specific competition or the completion of the competition under which the roster is frozen. Season ending injuries cannot be replaced once the roster is frozen. Any changes to the roster will result in the team being disqualified from the specific competition.
<b><u>Hate Speech</u></b>	Speech that demeans on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or any other similar ground.
<b><u>Ineligible Player</u></b>	Any youth who is unregistered, suspended, overage, or not a rostered member of the teams competing.
<b><u>Involuntary Release</u></b>	The removal of a play from a team's roster at the request of team authorities.
<b><u>League</u></b>	A structured group of four (4) or more teams joined for the purposes of inter-team play under a common set of administrative and competitive rules.

<b><u>National State Association</u></b>	An affiliated member of USSF representing all leagues, clubs, teams, and players within the territory assigned to the National State Association by the USSF National Council. (FYSA is a National State Association.)
<b><u>Non-Player</u></b>	Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, or any other person assisting the team; spectator
<b><u>Not In Good Standing (NGS)</u></b>	All rights and privileges of FYSA are removed.
<b><u>Official FYSA Roster</u></b>	The computer-generated roster from the FYSA secure site in printout form.
<b><u>Player</u></b>	A youth properly registered in accordance with the rules of USSF, US Youth Soccer the National State Association rules.
<b><u>Previously Rostered Player</u></b>	Any player who has been rostered to another team during the same seasonal year in any fashion and then transfers to any other team.
<b><u>Protest</u></b>	A formal method to question and request reversal of an event.
<b><u>Recreational League</u></b>	An inter-club league in which use of try-outs, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively to any team based on talent or ability is prohibited. Accepts any and all youths (subject to reasonable registration); system of rostering players is employed for the purpose of creating a fair or balanced distribution of playing teams.
<b><u>Recreational Team</u></b>	A team in which the use of try-outs, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited.
<b><u>Referee</u></b>	All currently registered USSF referees, linemen, 4th official or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match. Also, any non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee, a club linesman.
<b><u>Region</u></b>	One of the four (4) geographically sub-divisions of the National State Association.
<b><u>Regional Commissioner</u></b>	A member of the Regional Board. Provides affiliate representation to the Regional level. Provides assistance to affiliates within their Region. Elected RC's provide affiliate representation to the BOD (2 per Region).
<b><u>Registration</u></b>	The signing of an intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of fees to become a member of US Youth Soccer and the National State Association.
<b><u>Rostering</u></b>	The assignment of a registered player to a team.
<b><u>Team Roster</u></b>	A list of registered players eligible to play for a team.
<b><u>Game Roster</u></b>	A list of players who will participate in a particular competition.
<b><u>Spectator</u></b>	Any individual observing a game.

**Suspension**

The temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges such as, but not limited to: the right to play, coach, referee, or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in the game of affiliated soccer. Any person or group (team, club, league, board, etc.) that has been suspended with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.

**Team**

A recognized entity organized for the purpose of playing the sport of soccer.

**Transfer**

The removal of a player/coach from one team's roster and the addition of the player to another team's roster.

**Verified**

Proper birth documentation has been submitted.

**Voluntary  
Release**

The removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of the player.