

# ILLINOIS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Revised 4/14/18

ALL BYLAWS AND POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION (USSF), UNITED STATES YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (USYSA) AND FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME SHALL BE INCORPORATED INTO AND ARE PART OF ILLINOIS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION'S (IYSA) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. MODIFICATIONS SHALL BE FOR THE GOOD OF YOUTH SOCCER AND APPLY ONLY TO IYSA AND ITS AFFILIATES.

A PERSON, TEAM, CLUB, OR LEAGUE MAY BE PLACED IN BAD STANDING WITH THE ILLINOIS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION RESULTING IN PROBATION, SUSPENSION AND/OR FINE FOR VIOLATING ANY OF THE IYSA POLICIES OR PROCEDURES (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE IYSA CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES, RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY, GOAL SAFETY POLICY, ETC.) A PERSON IS DEFINED AS A PLAYER, COACH, ADMINISTRATOR, TRAINER OR ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE TEAM, CLUB, OR LEAGUE. COACHES, TEAMS OR CLUBS SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BEHAVIOR OF THEIR PARENTS AND SPECTATORS.

### DEFINITIONS

- (1) “**Affiliated**” means players and teams including only players who are registered with Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA).
- (2) “**Team**” means a group of rostered IYSA affiliated soccer players playing on the same side in soccer games.
- (3) “**Game**” means a match between two IYSA affiliated teams having a predetermined time limit, officiated by a USSF certified referee and subject to the FIFA Laws of The Game including allowable modifications. Scores are recorded and usually have effect on standings.
- (4) “**Scrimmage**” means Practice. May have some of the characteristics of a game. Must be between two IYSA affiliated teams or subdivisions of one team. All players must be IYSA affiliated. No out-of-state team may participate. No certified referee officiates. No fees may be charged or paid. FIFA Laws of the Game are not enforced. Scores are not recorded and the outcome has no effect on standings.
- (5) “**Friendly**” means planned scheduled games between four (4) or fewer IYSA/USYSA affiliated league teams as one event. No more the one age group must participate. Combinations of Friendlies in the same event are not allowed. No awards must be issued. No fees must be charged. Each team may pay a referee game fee. Game officials must be USSF currently registered. The host must apply for and receive IYSA Permission to Host Friendly games form. Out-of-state teams must be currently registered with their US Youth Soccer National State Association and must have a permission to travel form.
- (6) “**Tournament Team**” means a team that includes guest players and is put together for the sole purpose of playing in an IYSA/USYSA sanctioned tournament.
- (7) “**Guest Player**” means an IYSA/USYSA registered player participating in a competition for a team to which the player is not rostered for purposes of league play.
- (8) “**Player Registration**” means the execution of intent to play the sport of soccer by signing either a player registration form or a team roster.
- (9) “**Rostering**” means assignment of a registered player to a team.
- (10) “**Suspension**” means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privilege, such as the right to play, coach, or otherwise administer participate (directly or indirectly) in soccer, and the suspension is for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.
- (11) “**Add**” means to add a player to the roster of a team. Must comply with the rules of IYSA/USYSA.
- (12) “**Release**” means the removal of a player formally from the team’s roster. See the rules and procedure for Voluntary Release and Involuntary Release. A released player is no longer an affiliated player.
- (13) “**Transfer**” means the removal of a player from the roster of one team and adding the player to the roster of another team. See the rules governing transfers.
- (14) “**Club**” means an organization that is a member (directly or indirectly) of a State Association that has an identifiable membership of youth soccer players on whose behalf the organization conducts or engages in youth soccer activities.
- (15) “**Soccer Year**” shall be August 1 thru July 31 of the succeeding calendar year. Each soccer year shall be a Fall Season (August 1 thru December 31) and a Spring Season (January 1 thru July 31).
- (16) “**Tryout**” – Deleted 9/19/09
- (17) “**Open Tryout**” – Deleted 9/19/09
- (18) “**Club Pass**” is a US Youth Soccer/IYSA pass issued to a youth player by an IYSA league in compliance with the rules of the IYSA of which the club is a member as provided by this policy and specifies the club of which the youth player is a registered member. Added 9/17/11

#### **RULE 001 A. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of USYSA and the IYSA. A player may not be simultaneously rostered on more than one competitive/travel team. A player may play for only one team in the National Championship competition in any soccer year.

#### **RULE 001 B. TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

A team may concurrently register and participate in more than one (1) IYSA affiliated competitive league.

#### **RULE 002. MAXIMUM REGISTRATION OF PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED PLAYERS PER SEASONAL YEAR (August 1 thru July 31)**

##### 1. Definitions

A. Inter-club Transfer - The removal of a player from a team's roster and the contemporaneous addition of the player to the roster of another team from a different club.

B. Intra-club Transfer - The removal of a player from a team's roster and the contemporaneous addition of the player to the roster of another team from the same club.

2. Teams intending to participate in the State Cup are limited to a total of five (5) transfers (inter-club and/or intra-club) per soccer year.

3. Teams are limited to a total of five (5) inter-club transfers per soccer year.

4. Teams are not limited to intra-club transfers per soccer year.

5. Players are limited to a maximum of one (1) inter-club transfer per soccer year.

#### **RULE 003. TRYOUTS – DELETED 9/19/09**

#### **RULE 004. COMPETITIVE PLAYER TRANSFER RULE**

Effective July 10, 2004, a competitive player is obligated to his/her competitive team for the soccer playing year from the time he/she signs a player registration or team roster form until the end of the soccer-playing year (August 1 through July 31 of the year for which the team is being registered).

The constitution and/or rules and regulations of each member League shall contain a player transfer rule/recruitment policy for players transferring from one team to another within that League (Intra-League transfers).

Inter-League transfers shall only be allowed during the soccer-playing year when both leagues agree or approved on its merits by the IYSA in response to a special request by the player or the player's parent/guardian.

Players may appeal the decisions of the League to the IYSA which will consider the appeal on the basis of compliance with the League's transfer rule.

#### **RULE 005. VOLUNTARY RELEASE**

Voluntary Release means the removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of the player.

It is the right of any player to be released from a team at any time. Such player can join another team only in compliance with the transfer rules of the League and the IYSA. During the soccer-playing year in which the player is released, he/she is a previously registered player and is subject to the rule that no team shall register more than five (5) previously registered players within the current soccer year.

The coach or other team/club official shall process an IYSA Add/Release/Transfer Form to affect the voluntary release to the League as soon as practicable but no later than seven (7) days from the date written request for release is received. Failure to process such form within the stated time shall subject the coach and/or team/club official to disciplinary action. Upon written notice to the League from the player with evidence that the player has requested release from the team and that the request has not been honored within the allowed time, the League shall process an IYSA Add/ Release/Transfer Form to affect the release.

#### **RULE 006. INVOLUNTARY RELEASE**

Involuntary Release means the removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of team authorities.

The team may release involuntarily a player from its roster only if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons:

(A) The player has violated rules of the USSF or USYSA or The National State Association (IYSA) through which the player registered.

(B) The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance. Determination of what constitutes a reasonable travel distance is subject to definition by the National State Association (IYSA).

(C) The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season (Soccer-playing year).

When processing an involuntary release, the coach or other team/club official shall present with the release form a copy of a letter to the player informing the player that he/she is being released from the team and stating the reason for the release and informing the player that he/she may appeal the decision to the IYSA.

#### **RULE 007. ENDORSEMENT OF FIFA LAW 4 - THE PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT**

The IYSA endorses FIFA Law 4 on Safety which states "A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous (including any kind of jewelry)". "FIFA notes that, under the "Powers and Duties" of the referee in Law 5 - The Referee, he or she has the authority to ensure that the players' equipment meets the requirements of Law 4. Modern equipment such as headgear, facemasks, knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight, padded material are not considered dangerous and are therefore permitted." Medical bracelets or necklaces must be taped or otherwise secured so as not to present a hazard and in a manner that the medical message can be clearly seen.

#### **RULE 008. TEAM AND PLAYER BREACHES OF RULES**

Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained in FIFA laws of the Game, USSF Bylaws and Policies and USYSA Bylaws including cautions, ejection, and suspension. Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team such as relatives and spectators are also subject to the jurisdiction and authority of IYSA. Any coach or team official of a team shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual at any game that, in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that team.

#### **RULE 009. LITIGATION**

No IYSA member including but not limited to league officials, leagues, clubs, teams, players, coaches, parents of players, administrators or referees may invoke the aid of the courts in the United States or of a State without first exhausting all available remedies including hearings and appeals within the appropriate member association, league, or the IYSA as provided within the Federation. The offending party shall be subject to suspension and fines, and shall be liable to the IYSA for all expenses incurred by the IYSA and its officers in defending each court action. Any person participating in the IYSA or local association program 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 from all soccer-related activities until completion of the litigation. The status of the person shall be reviewed by the suspending body at the completion of the litigation. Suspensions under this rule shall be determined by the IYSA. The person has the right to appeal whether the matter which is the substance of accusation, if true, is detrimental to the welfare of players.

#### **RULE 010. APPLICABLE BYLAW PROVISION REGARDING HEARING PROCEDURES**

A DISCIPLINARY HEARING IS A MEETING TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT DISCIPLINARY ACTION IS NEEDED FOR AN INCIDENT WITH ALL PARTIES HAVING A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE.

This policy provides the minimum rights that each party would have at a hearing with respect to the right to assistance in presenting one's case at a hearing. These minimum rights apply to hearings conducted by the IYSA and its members. A copy of these minimum rights should be delivered to the parties with the notice of hearing.

- A. Each party at a hearing shall have the right to have an individual present at the hearing to assist the party in presenting the party's case. Such individual may, but shall not be required to be, an attorney.
- B. If the member association is represented by another individual at any hearing and the hearing panel allows that individual to speak, question the parties and/or witnesses, or grants that individual any other rights, then it shall afford all other parties, or the individual representing the party, including an attorney, the same rights during the course of the hearing as allowed to the individual representing the member association.
- C. If an attorney is present at a hearing to assist a party in presenting the party's case, it shall be made clear at the commencement of any such hearing that the hearing shall proceed in accordance with the IYSA hearing rules and procedures. All Federal, State, and local Rules of Evidence or Civil Procedure shall not be applicable.
- D. The Hearing Panel Chair shall determine if an individual assisting a party may be allowed to speak on behalf of the party, make requests or ask questions at the hearing.
- E. Regardless whether the IYSA or a member association allows the individual assisting the party the rights to speak, make requests or ask questions, as noted in Paragraph E above, an individual assisting the party in presenting the party's case shall have the right to be physically present in the hearing room, and so as not to interfere with the hearing procedure, it is also recommended that the individual be seated close to the party (either behind or next to the party) so that the party may seek assistance when desired during the course of the hearing.
- F. During the course of the hearing, a party may confer briefly with the individual who is assisting before making a statement or request or prior to responding to a question. The panel conducting the hearing may limit the frequency and duration of the conferences so as not to unduly interfere with the proceeding.
- G. If there is confusion or concern, the party may request a recess to confer with the individual assisting the party. Such a request should be granted unless the number of requests by a party becomes unreasonable or the length of a requested recess is deemed by the hearing panel chair to be unreasonable.
- H. An individual assisting a party may prepare written materials for the party and collect documents for the party. However, the party and not of the individual assisting must submit or present the materials and documents as materials and documents of the party. The party has complete responsibility for those materials and documents and is subject to questioning about them.
- I. Nothing contained in this policy shall prevent the IYSA or member association from allowing greater rights to assistance than those set forth in Paragraphs A-H above.
- J. The rights, either mandatory or permissible under this policy, shall be consistently applied, and the IYSA or member association should not arbitrarily allow or disallow the rights set forth above to those individuals assisting a party in the presentation or defense of the party's case.

#### **RULE 011. APPLICABLE BYLAW PROVISION REGARDING APPEALS**

No decision which arises out of the application of the rules of competition which is made in the course of the competition, and has no consequence beyond the competition, shall be appealable. For purposes of this policy, the term competition may include games, tournaments, league play or regular season.

1. The IYSA President shall appoint an Appeals Panel (AP) Chairperson and members as the need arises.
2. The AP shall consist of at least three (3) disinterested and impartial members. The Chair is responsible for ensuring that the appeal is considered and determined within the time periods prescribed by the bylaws.
3. The AP shall decide the matter based upon the official appeals record and parties' written arguments. The AP shall meet in person or by telephone conference call at the Chair's direction; it shall be closed to the public.
4. The Appellant shall bear the burden of showing that the decision being appealed is clearly erroneous.
5. No new evidence may be presented to the AP unless circumstances have materially changed, or new facts are discovered that were unavailable at the time of the original hearing from which the appeal is being taken. In such cases, the AP may allow that such new evidence be presented to it provided all parties to the appeal have been given notice and are given an opportunity to respond to the materially changed circumstances or previously unavailable or undiscovered facts.
6. The AP has the power to call for the production of any documents and evidence the AP may require. If the appellant fails to submit arguments by the deadline for submitting appellant's arguments, and no continuance has been granted by the AP, the appeal shall be considered abandoned.
7. The AP shall where practicable issue a final written decision within ten (10) business days after it has considered and determined the appeal, however, no more than 20 days after initial consideration except for just cause.

#### **APPEALS RECORD**

The member association whose decision is being appealed shall within the ten (10) days of the date of the notice of appeal forward to the Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA) and to the Appellant with the Index of Documents the official record utilized by it in making its decision. The Appellant shall mail to the Illinois Youth Soccer Association and the Appellee any argument in support of his/her appeal within the deadline indicated in the IYSA Notice of Appeal acknowledgment.

The member association shall submit to the Illinois Youth Soccer Association one original and three (3) collated copies of the appeals record

using the following format. The appeals record shall contain, at minimum, the following:

1. All documents, exhibits and other evidence in the case with the Index of Documents.
2. Copies of all rules, procedures, and bylaws used to support the charges and to conduct the hearing.
3. The notice of charges and/or hearing provided the defendant/appellant.
4. The decision of the hearing body and any appeals decisions.

The record shall:

1. Be numbered in chronological order
2. Be indexed
3. Contain only one copy of each document in each copy of the appeal record. If video tapes are made part of the record, there must be four (4) copies of any such tape delivered to the IYSA. If audio tapes are made part of the record, there must be four (4) copies of the transcripts delivered to Illinois Youth Soccer Association.

If a written transcript has been prepared, it shall be included as part of the record.

The record must be in English. Party submitting documents in other language is responsible for providing English translations of the documents prepared by a neutral translator agreed to by the parties.

If the record is not submitted in accordance with this procedure, the appeal timetable may be put on hold pending the completion of the record OR the appeal may be dismissed.

If the Appellant wishes to add additional materials to the record, Appellant shall have the opportunity to augment the record using the format as specified above as part of their argument.

#### **RULE 012. SUSPENSION**

(A) The Board of Directors may suspend, fine, or terminate (or any combination thereof) the membership of any Member of the IYSA if the Board determines that (1) the conduct of the Member is adverse to the best interests of soccer or the IYSA, or (2) the Member has not complied with the requirements of its membership in the IYSA. The Board may act only after a hearing, reasonable notice to the Member of the time and place of the hearing, and providing the Member with a reasonable opportunity to present evidence in support of the Member's position.

(B) A suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by the IYSA shall be recognized by all Members of the IYSA. Suspensions and other disciplinary actions taken by Members shall be recognized by the IYSA and all other IYSA Members upon proper notification to the IYSA and determination by the IYSA that the party subject to the action received hearing and procedural rights to those set forth by the IYSA.

#### **RULE 013. NOTICE FOR U11 TEAMS TRAVELING TO TOURNAMENTS**

Section 1. Except as provided by USYSA or its State Associations, the FIFA "Laws of the Game" apply to all competitions sponsored by USYSA. Players under 11 years of age may play soccer in accordance with the rules of USYSA's Development Player Program-Modified Playing Rules for Under11, Under 8, and Under 6.

#### **RULE 014. PERMISSION TO TRAVEL - See Application for Travel Form**

Residents of Illinois must obtain the IYSA authorized Travel Permit from the IYSA to participate in a USYSA sanctioned tournament or games outside of Illinois. To be eligible to obtain IYSA Permission to Travel the team must be registered with the Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA) and in good standing. The Permission to Travel is granted for US Youth Soccer sanctioned outdoor tournaments or games only. Contact IYSA office or visit IYSA website [www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org](http://www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org) for instructions, forms or e-travel submission. An incomplete application will be returned. A falsified submission will be considered void. Only the IYSA may issue Travel Permits. Contact IYSA office for travel permits for tournaments outside of the United States; these must be submitted 90 days prior to date of travel to the tournament. Failure to obtain a Travel Permit or a submission with false information will void participants insurance coverage, jeopardize the team's ability to obtain future permission to travel, and place the team's coach(es) in bad standing with the IYSA and USYSA.

#### **RULE 015. TOURNAMENT GUEST PLAYER PERMIT - See Guest Player Permit Form**

A coach that wants to use an IYSA currently registered player for participation in an event with his/her team must obtain permission on the IYSA Tournament Guest Player Permit Form from the player's lending IYSA currently registered team coach. To be eligible to obtain the IYSA Guest Player Permit the borrowing team must be registered with the IYSA and in good standing. If the player is not IYSA currently registered, player must obtain a Tournament Pass from the IYSA. Contact IYSA office or visit IYSA website [www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org](http://www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org) for instructions, forms or e-travel submission. An incomplete application will be returned. A falsified submission will be considered void. For tournaments outside of Illinois, this form must be submitted to the IYSA prior to date of travel. For Illinois (IYSA) sanctioned tournaments, this form must be submitted to the tournament prior to the start of the tournament. Failure to obtain permission from the guest player's coach or a submission with false information will void participants insurance coverage, jeopardize the team's ability to obtain future permission to travel, violate IYSA's Tampering Rule and may place the team's coach(es) in bad standing with the IYSA and USYSA.

#### **RULE 016. TOURNAMENT PASS**

The IYSA Tournament Pass is available from the IYSA to allow an unregistered/unaffiliated or affiliated recreational player/coach to participate in IYSA/USYSA sanctioned competitive tournaments. The Tournament Pass also allows a player to function as a Guest Player on an IYSA registered team for participation in IYSA/US Youth Soccer sanctioned tournaments only. It is valid for the current soccer year only and expires on July 31 of the current year. Leagues may not issue Tournament Passes. The Tournament Pass becomes void as soon as the player/coach registers with an IYSA/USYSA affiliated league club/team, at which time, the Tournament Pass must be returned to the IYSA. The Tournament Pass player/coach is not eligible to participate in the Illinois Youth Soccer State Cup, Midwest National League or club/travel/competitive league play. Please contact the IYSA for information.

#### **RULE 017 (A). IYSA PERMISSION TO HOST TOURNAMENT IN ILLINOIS**

The hosting organization/applicant must obtain permission from the IYSA to conduct a tournament in Illinois. To be eligible to host an IYSA sanctioned tournament the tournament applicant/hosting organization must be in compliance with IYSA Rule 026 and the bylaws, policies and requirements of Illinois Youth Soccer Association. A Tournament Team is not eligible to host a tournament. Hosting an IYSA sanctioned tournament is a privilege and not a right. If the host is domiciled in one state and the tournament is to be conducted in another state, the host must have approval from both State Associations. The Tournament Host Applicant must complete and submit to the IYSA the required IYSA/USYSA documents and fees by the IYSA Tournament Host Application deadline. Tournament Application submitted to the IYSA after the application deadline is subject to a late fee. IYSA is not required to accept or approve any application that is incomplete, non-compliant

and/or submitted to the IYSA after the application deadline. The IYSA shall not approve an application that is submitted to the IYSA in thirty (30) or less days in advance of the proposed date(s) of the tournament. The Tournament Host Applicant must attend the mandatory, annual IYSA Tournament Host meeting. Failure to obtain permission from the IYSA will void IYSA insurance for tournament participants and hosting organizations, subject the hosting organization to a penalty of up to and including \$1000, and place the hosting organization in jeopardy of losing its privileges with the IYSA/USYSA which may include its ability to host tournaments for up to two years. In all matters not provided herein, the IYSA Tournament Director's decision shall be final.

#### **RULE 017 (B). IYSA PERMISSION TO HOST FRIENDLY GAMES IN ILLINOIS**

The hosting team/organization/applicant must obtain permission from the IYSA to conduct friendly games in Illinois. To be eligible to host an IYSA sanctioned tournament or games the tournament applicant/hosting organization must be in compliance with IYSA Rule 026 and the bylaws, policies and requirements of the IYSA. Hosting IYSA sanctioned friendly games is a privilege and not a right. The friendly games must not involve more than four teams and the teams must be of one age group, application/participation fees must not be charged and trophies may not be presented. If more than four teams in one age group are involved, the event is no longer considered friendly games and the host must apply for tournament status even if the host does not provide trophies or collect fees. The Friendly Game Host Applicant must complete and submit the applicable IYSA Friendly Individual Game Tournament Host Agreement, the USYSA Permission to Host Tournament or Games form to the IYSA prior to scheduling the friendly games. The IYSA is not required to approve an application that is submitted to the IYSA in seven (7) or less days in advance of the proposed date(s) of the friendly games. Failure to obtain permission from the IYSA will void IYSA insurance for friendly games participants and hosting organizations, subject the hosting organization to a penalty of up to and including \$1000, and place the hosting organization in jeopardy of losing its privileges with the IYSA/USYSA which may include its ability to host tournaments for up to two years. In all matters not provided herein, the IYSA Tournament Director's decision shall be final.

#### **RULE 018. IYSA YOUTH PLAYER AMATEUR GAMES ELIGIBILITY**

Section 1. A youth player may play an unlimited number of adult games without losing his or her youth eligibility. The youth player must notify his or her youth coach or other authorized team official of the player's intention to play adult games. The youth player shall request, in writing, (1) eligibility clearance from the Youth State Association through which the player is registered, and (2) permission from the appropriate Adult State Association. When the clearance and permission have been granted, the Adult State Association has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play adult games and will be responsible for establishing the procedures under which the youth player will be allowed to play. In the event of a conflict between an adult game, the youth game shall take precedence. A youth player who is required to sign an adult form shall retain youth eligibility.

Section 2. A youth team with the written permission and mutual consent of both the Youth and Adult State Associations may play in an adult-approved league and not lose its youth eligibility to compete in the U.S. Youth soccer National Championships competitions. If the youth team's players are required to sign an adult form, the team shall retain its youth eligibility.

IYSA Requirement and Clarification: In the event of a conflict between an adult game and a youth game, the youth game shall take precedence. A youth player who is required to sign an adult form shall retain youth eligibility. IYSA registered players must obtain an IYSA/Adult Games Eligibility Clearance in order to participate in the amateur games. IYSA Adult Games Eligibility Clearance Request Form must be completed by the player, player's IYSA registered team coach granting permission for player to participate in amateur games, coach requesting clearance, an officer of the league with whom the player is currently registered before submission for clearance to the IYSA. Youth games shall take precedence over amateur games. This clearance does not extend IYSA insurance coverage to the IYSA registered youth player for amateur game activities. The youth player must obtain insurance coverage through the Adult Association. Adult game clearance is valid for the current seasonal year only.

#### **RULE 019. IYSA RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY - Effective 5/9/98**

The club/league/organization shall, prior to participation, conduct a background search on every new affected person (defined in this policy, Statement of Position, Paragraph 2, a thru f) and every two (2) years thereafter. Referees must submit a background search annually through the search company on IYSA's website. The club/league/organization must submit annually to the IYSA the Organization Certification by August 1<sup>st</sup> that the club/league/organization agrees to complete the background search by October 1<sup>st</sup> for the Fall season participants or May 15 for the Spring season participants.

The IYSA has adopted the following policies as an adjunct to parent/guardian supervision:

1. The IYSA has adopted the USYSA Kid Safe Program which is designed to create a safe environment for all players associated with IYSA;
2. The IYSA has adopted the stringent standards espoused by the USYSA Kid Safe Program for use by all members (leagues/clubs) of the association and is committed to providing all support necessary for those members to implement the USYSA Kid Safe Program at all levels of the association;
3. The IYSA supports and adopts procedures for the safety and security for players in the direct care of its programs, as well as strongly suggests the implementation of the procedures for all players outside the presence of parents and/or guardians.

#### **Statement of Position**

In order to implement the policies identified above, commonly known as the IYSA Kid Safe Program, the IYSA has adopted the following positions:

1. The policies enumerated above, including exclusion from programs, shall apply to the following:
  - a) Coaches, including assistant coaches;
  - b) Trainers, evaluators, chaperones;
  - c) Board of Directors or managers of all clubs, leagues, and organizations affiliated with the IYSA, if they have direct contact with the players;
  - d) All employees of IYSA;
  - e) Individual contractors who enter contracts with the IYSA who have direct contact with minors;
  - f) Referees shall submit to a background search every year through the search company on IYSA's website.
2. The IYSA shall adopt special rules of conduct, which will apply to all persons who have direct contact, and supervision of minors.

#### **Statements of Requirements for the IYSA Disclosure Form**

In order to comply with the IYSA Kid Safe Program, the IYSA shall require all persons aged 18 or older that are described in Item 2 above to submit a Disclosure Statement in writing pursuant to procedures adopted by the IYSA. Further, all such persons shall agree to be subject to a background check designed to disclose activities, which may result in exclusion from the IYSA programs.

The IYSA has adopted the Disclosure Statement, which has been recommended by the United States Youth Soccer Association. All adults listed in the Statement of "Position, 2 (a-f)" shall complete the Disclosure Statement in writing and shall sign such statement. Among other information, each such adult must supply their social security number (or registration numbers for non-United States citizens) and all valid drivers license numbers. If the required Disclosure Statements are incomplete, unsigned or are not submitted as required by any such person who is required to submit the Statement, the IYSA reserves the right to exclude that person from all programs.

The IYSA will appoint a Risk Management Coordinator (RMC) or Assistant Risk Management Coordinator (ARMC). The Assistant will not be involved in any examination of documents or decisions, unless the Coordinator is not able to perform the functions designated. The State President will make the decision to have the Assistant involved in the process. The RMC is to apply the standards contained in this document impartially and fairly along the strict guidelines included herein.

The IYSA will be responsible for providing the IYSA Disclosure Statements to all leagues, who will be responsible for distributing the Statements to all affected clubs/persons. Each league shall in turn designate a Risk Management Coordinator for that league to supervise the implementation of this policy at the club/person level. Each club (regardless of size) shall in turn designate its own RMC for that club to whom the completely executed and signed Disclosure Statement shall be returned in a sealed envelope. It shall be the responsibility of the club to review the disclosure statements and to certify to the league that all affected persons involved in that club are fit to participate in all of the programs according to the stringent standards adopted by IYSA Kid Safe Program. Each league shall in turn certify to the IYSA that each of its clubs has strictly adhered to these requirements. In order to preserve confidentiality, the IYSA and the League's Risk Management Coordinator and the Alternate Risk Management Coordinator will be the only other persons who will have access to the Disclosure Statements and all background checks. Notwithstanding the prior statement, the RMC or the ARMC in the case of absence of the RMC may disclose the Disclosure Statement of the data from the background check if: (i) the person submitting the data authorizes disclosure; or (ii) the person submitting the data challenges the decision by the RMC or alternate to exclude such person from IYSA activities, in which instance the decision is to be appealed to the State Appeals Committee. (The appeals process is contained further in this document.) The confidential information will be released to the Chairperson of the Committee, who is authorized to release it to the members of the committee.

In order to secure a complete list of all persons required to submit such Disclosure Statements, each league, club or organization associated with IYSA shall compile appropriate lists along with other appropriate transmittal documents. Each such league, club or organization is responsible to keep all such current lists and to submit a list when requested by the IYSA Risk Management Coordinator.

All Disclosure Statements received by the RMC shall be deemed to have continuing validity unless there has been within the preceding year a conviction of a violent crime or a crime against a person. See IYSA Employee/Volunteer Disclosure, questions 5 and 6. In the event of such conviction, a new Disclosure Statement shall be submitted in accordance with procedures adopted by IYSA.

Once the League Risk Management Coordinator receives disclosure statements, the League RMC shall establish a random selection process, by which select disclosure statements are reviewed. Each RMC shall further establish procedures to maintain the disclosure statements and related documents in the strictest confidence.

Once a Disclosure Statement is reviewed by the League/Club RMC, he or she shall apply standards adopted by the IYSA Board of Directors as enumerated herein and adopted in order to determine whether a person submitting the Disclosure Statement should be excluded from participation in IYSA programs. The League/Club RMC shall make recommendations for such exclusion to the IYSA RMC. The IYSA RMC shall have the responsibility to present to the IYSA Board of Directors his/her concerns with respect to continuation of any person in any IYSA program, arising from a disclosure statement review. If the IYSA Board of Directors determines that a person should be excluded from the program, the IYSA RMC shall notify that person in writing by certified, registered mail. The contents of the letter will require resignation of the person from all IYSA affiliated organizations within ten (10) days of receipt. If the person decides to appeal the decision of the IYSA RMC, the person shall send a letter requesting an appeal hearing to the Chairperson of the Appeals Committee within ten (10) days of receipt of the notice of exclusion. The normal appeal process of the Board of Directors will then be in effect. As a condition of appeal, the person agrees to have no contact with players until the appeal is heard.

If the person receiving the notice of exclusion from the IYSA RMC does not act within the ten (10) day period from the receipt of the notice of exclusion, the IYSA RMC has the authority to approach the governing body of any or all organizations under the auspices of the IYSA to advise them that such person is not permitted to participate in the program. No notification from the IYSA RMC to any governing body will occur if the IYSA RMC is presented with sufficient evidence that the requested resignation has been filed with the affected organization.

#### **IYSA Board Policy RM-1 Board Policy for Exclusion from Programs Operated or Affiliated with the IYSA**

Every person aged 18 or older working in any capacity with youth members of the Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA) shall annually complete and sign a disclosure statement on a form promulgated by the IYSA. No person who has been convicted within fifteen (15) years of executing an IYSA Disclosure Statement shall be allowed to participate in any program directly or indirectly overseen by the IYSA, including its affiliated leagues, clubs, teams, and or/organizations if he or she has been convicted of murder, kidnapping, rape, robbery, arson, burglary, manslaughter, extortion, indecent liberties, incest, vehicular homicide, prostitution, corruption of a minor, unlawful imprisonment, sexual exploitation of any person, child abuse or neglect, child molestation, sexual misconduct with any person, possession of electronic or internet pornography, distributing unlawful drugs, providing alcohol to a minor, violation of any restraining order, or any crime of physical violence.

Any person so disqualified may appeal to the IYSA Risk Management Committee for a waiver of the disqualifying condition based on facts and circumstances unique to the basis for the conviction. The decision of the Risk Management Committee, with or without a formal hearing, shall be binding.

#### **IYSA Board Policy RM-2 Board Policy for Suspension from Programs Operated or Affiliated with the IYSA**

Pursuant to United States Youth Soccer Association Rule 4043 and policies adopted by the IYSA, any person participating in any IYSA program who becomes a defendant in any litigation, the outcome of which would subject the litigant to exclusion under the policies identified in BOARD POLICY RM-1 or any litigation based on activities otherwise detrimental to the welfare of minors shall be subjected to suspension from all soccer-related activities until such litigation is resolved by court order. The phrase "matters detrimental to the welfare of youth players" shall include all the offenses listed in BOARD POLICY RM-1 and may be extended to include other crimes or charges of moral turpitude. For purposes of this policy, the phrase "a defendant in litigation" shall include the arrest, indictment, citation or equivalent "formal charge" of any adult person for any crimes or other offenses listed above. The IYSA RMC will determine the period of suspension subject to appeal.

## **RULE 020. MISCONDUCT TOWARD GAME OFFICIALS**

### Section 1. General

Misconduct against a referee may occur before, during and after the match, including travel to and from the match. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a game official as a referee.

### Section 2. Rule Application

(A) This policy shall supersede all rules of Organization Members that pertain to assaults or abuse upon Federation referees, the manner and means of hearings, appeals, and re-hearings in matters pertaining thereto.

(B) Nothing in this policy rule shall be construed to restrict or limit any league, event/tournament or State Association from applying equal or greater restrictions to anyone not listed in section 4(a)(1) of the policy (i.e., a spectator associated with a club or team). (Policy 4(a)(1) states "When any amateur or professional player, coach, manager, club, official or game official assaults or abuses a referee, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in the responsible State Association which is affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation.")

(C) This policy shall not apply to players, coaches, managers, club officials, or league officials while participating in Professional League member activities.

### Section 3. Terms and References

As used in this policy –

(1) "Referee" includes the following:

- a) all currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees, 4th officials or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match.
- b) any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee.
- c) any club assistant referee.

(2) "Hearing" means a meeting of at least three neutral members, one of which is designated or elected to serve as chairman. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to guidelines established by the State Association.

(3)

- a) Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee. For purposes of this policy, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interest of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.
- b) Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing an object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.

(4)

- a) Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.
- b) Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; or verbally threatening a referee.
- c) Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat 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 referee abuse.

### Section 4. Jurisdiction and Hearings

When any amateur or professional player, coach, manager, club official or game official assaults or abuses a referee, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in the responsible State Association which is affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation.

### Section 5. Penalties and Suspensions

(A) Abuse

The minimum suspension period for referee abuse shall be at least three (3) scheduled matches within the rules of that competition. The State Association adjudicating the matter may provide a longer suspension when circumstances warrant.

(B) Assault

When an allegation of assault is verified by the State Association the person is automatically suspended until the hearing on the assault. Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension.

The player, coach, manager or official committing the referee assault is automatically suspended as follows:

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

## **RULE 021. IYSA CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES**

This Code of Conduct 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. (The term "Coach" shall include, but is not limited to Head Coach, Assistant Coach(s), Manager/Trainer, Team Representative or Parent.)

### Article I Responsibilities to Players

1. The coach's responsibility is to the health and safety of all participants.
2. Coach must abide by IYSA'S Policies and Procedures including but not limited to IYSA's Risk Management Policy, Goal Safety Policy, Concussion Awareness and Abuse Prevention.
3. The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players.

4. Coach should know and understand the Laws of the Game and instruct players to play within the laws and the spirit of the game at all times.
5. Coach should be positive role model and set the standard for sportsmanship.
6. Coach should keep sport in proper perspective with player's academic education.
7. Coach shall say "no" to drugs.
8. Under no circumstances should coach authorize or encourage the use of, but not limited to, medicinal or performance enhancing drugs.
9. Coach should always inspect fields, goals and players equipment for safety. Prior to every practice, game and soccer event inspect the goals for safety and make sure that they are properly anchored. Do not allow the players to play, hang or climb on goals and never leave children unsupervised. See IYSA Rule 021-A.
10. Coach should continue his/her own education in the sport in order to be able to educate the players in technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of the game for their level.
11. Coach should encourage moral and social responsibility.
12. Coach should be sensitive to each child's developmental needs, strive to have each player reach his/her full potential and be prepared to move to the next stage of development.
13. Coach should develop the child's appreciation of the game. Players should have fun and receive positive feedback.
14. Coach should supervise and control his/her players to avoid injury situations. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.
15. It is recommended that the coach become certified in basic first aid and be prepared to handle medical emergencies at all practices and games.
  - a) Coach should bring properly supplied first aid kit and ice to all practices and games.
  - b) Coach should know 911 and emergency phone numbers and procedures.
  - c) Coach should know location of nearest emergency medical facilities.
  - d) Coach should bring IYSA Medical Release and Liability Waiver to all practices and games.
14. The coach must behave in an ethical and legal manner. The Coach must complete and submit an IYSA Disclosure Statement to his/her IYSA affiliated association.

#### **Article II Responsibility to IYSA and Member Organizations**

1. Coach should work in the spirit of cooperation with the officials, administrators, coaches, spectators and participants.
2. Coach should know and follow all rules set forth by the IYSA, leagues and clubs.
3. Coach should know and follow
4. Coach must strive to maintain integrity within the sport.
5. Coach should contact club official or league to resolve conflicts with another coach.

#### **Article III Responsibility For The Laws of The Game**

1. Coaches should know the Laws of the Game, their intent, interpretation and correct application.
2. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the laws of the game.
3. If a coach permits, encourages, or condones performance which is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, coach is derelict in his/her responsibility to players, Member Organizations, IYSA and the sport worldwide.

#### **Article IV Responsibility to Officials**

1. Coach must not criticize game officials and instruct his/her players, parents and spectators to refrain from criticizing officials.
2. Coach should treat officials with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as "Referee" or "Mr. or Ms. Referee" and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between officials, coach, or player.
3. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.
4. Coach is responsible for and will be held accountable for the conduct of his/her players, parents, and spectators.
5. Coach should submit comments in writing regarding an official to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

#### **Article V Responsibility Regarding Recruiting**

1. Coach and team representative shall strictly adhere to league rules pertaining to recruitment.
2. It is unethical for a player to be recruited or enticed from the Olympic Development Program (ODP) setting, either by his ODP coach or any other coach, manager, parent, or team representative.
3. The coach has an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams, and organizations when discussing the advantages of his/her organization.
4. It is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete that cannot be fulfilled.
5. Documentation of recruiting violations must be submitted in writing to the applicable member league. Allegations of unethical recruiting should be based on concrete facts rather than hearsay and innuendo.

#### **Article VI Responsibility for Public Relations**

1. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents, or the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.
2. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly while representing their team, league, and IYSA in public.
3. Comments blaming officials, organizers, players, etc. for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and must be avoided.

#### **Article VII Game Day And Other Responsibilities**

1. A coach's behavior must bring credit to him/herself, his/her organization, and the sport of soccer.
2. Rival coaches should meet prior to the game and exchange friendly or professional greetings. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary professional conduct.
3. The coach must confine him/herself to the technical area and only provide technical instruction.
4. A coach shall exhibit a respectful attitude towards players, officials, spectators, opposing players and coaches. Verbal abuse or physical assault is unethical and shall be punishable by fines and/or suspension from the program.



5. The coaches foremost post game responsibility is to his/her team.
6. Coach should use his/her influence to control the behavior of his players, parents and spectators.

All Member Associations are directed to form their own Conduct & Ethics Committee and to hold hearings – WITH THE PARTIES HAVING THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT – on alleged violations of the IYSA Code of Conduct when properly submitted in writing. (Approved 08/05/00)

#### **RULE 021-A. GOAL SAFETY POLICY**

Each coach, manager and/or official of a team/club/organization must INSPECT & ENSURE prior to any activity that the fields, goals and portable equipment that they are using are safe and that the goals are anchored and STORED according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission's and the goal manufacturer's guidelines for the environmental conditions and that all of the goals have labels warning of climbing hazards. All unused goals must be securely anchored and/or chained to a substantial or permanent structure or to another goal. All portable equipment including but not limited to fences, tents and signs must be anchored and stored according to the manufacturer's guidelines for the environmental conditions.

Each club/team shall provide a copy of IYSA Goal Safety Policy to its club/team coaches, assistant coaches, trainers or other responsible persons.

Each club/team shall communicate to its club/team parents/guardians the dangers of unsecured goals and their responsibility to assure that goals are secure for the environmental conditions.

For every club/team practice/game/activity, each club/team shall maintain a written record from each of its coaches, assistant coaches, trainers or other responsible persons certifying that he/she has performed a physical inspection of the goals used in his/her practice/game/activity to verify that the goals were securely anchored for the environmental conditions.

Each league shall require each club or individual team unaffiliated with a club to certify in writing that it has in place a program to ensure that goals it uses are adequately secured, that its goals have been and will be inspected by a member of the club or team prior to each game/practice/activity. Each club and team shall further certify to the league that it has communicated to the parent or guardian of each player the dangers of unsecured goals and their responsibility to assure that goals are secure for the environmental conditions. Each league shall certify to the IYSA that its clubs and teams have complied with these requirements prior to their annual registration.

Any coach who participates in practice/game/activity where the goals are not securely anchored shall be fined not less than \$200 and suspended for a minimum of not less than one (1) calendar year from the date of the practice or game involved. In the event the goal is not securely anchored, the entity (team, club, league, state) that has primary responsibility for the field or event upon which the unsecured goal is situated shall be fined \$1000. Coach means the head coach, any assistant coach, trainer or any other team official present at the time of the violation. The entity against which a fine is imposed shall be in bad standing until the fine imposed is paid.

#### **RULE 021-B. CONCUSSION AWARENESS POLICY**

Each coach must have a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) *Heads Up Concussion in Youth Sports* Completion Certificate and use and abide by the Illinois Youth Soccer Association Concussion Notification Form.

Each IYSA Member League and each IYSA approved tournament will use and abide by the Illinois Youth Soccer Association Concussion Notification Form and ensure that each team participating in its activities abides by the IYSA Concussion Awareness Policy.

Based on the advice of the US Soccer Medical Committee, effective 2/11/16 Illinois Youth Soccer has banned heading for players aged 10 and younger (**U11 and younger age brackets**) at all Illinois Youth Soccer activities including but not limited to Illinois Youth Soccer Member League play, practices and tournaments. 11 year olds playing U11 are prohibited from heading the ball. If a player is playing in an older age group, players 10 and younger should not be heading the ball regardless of the age group in which they play. A purposeful header by a player in a U11 or younger age bracket shall result in an indirect free kick awarded to the opponent.

#### **RULE 021-C UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (DRONES)**

Based on US Youth Soccer's Policy on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones), the use of drones is strictly prohibited at all IYSA member events. It is the responsibility of the Event/Home Site Host to ensure that this policy is strictly enforced.

#### **RULE 022. COACHING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

##### **Purpose**

IYSA coaching certificates and licenses are recognized nationally by U.S. Soccer (USSF) and U.S. Youth Soccer and internationally by F.I.F.A. The IYSA Coaching Education Program (CEP) is a program directed by USSF to provide instruction to any individual regardless of his/her coaching or playing background. The following course levels have been established by USSF to provide instruction to coaches. The content of each course is arranged so that instruction relates to specific age groups. The U6/U8, U10/U12 Youth Modules, 'E' license and the 'D' license state level courses are organized in the same manner as the U.S. Soccer national coaching schools for the 'C', 'B' and 'A' licenses. Spanish language coaching courses are available. A recreational coaching course is available for IYSA member associations.

##### **Eligibility**

Any individual can participate in the IYSA CEP Youth Modules and the 'E' course. Participation in 'D' licensing course requires proof of having successfully completed the 'E' certification course. Contact USSF to obtain course eligibility requirements for 'C', 'B', or 'A' licensing courses.

##### **Enrollment**

To participate in an IYSA CEP course, applicant must complete and submit to the IYSA the online IYSA CEP Course Application with payment at least fourteen (14) days prior to course date. To be eligible for IYSA affiliate course discount, applicant must attach copy (front and back) of IYSA affiliated league current season's coach's pass prior to start of course. Faxed copy will not reserve course space. Course fees are not refundable unless a course has been canceled by the IYSA. Contact USSF to enroll in a 'C', 'B', and 'A' license course.

##### **Hosting a Course**

An organization may host a CEP course. The hosting organization must meet the IYSA hosting facility requirements. The hosting organization must complete and submit to IYSA the IYSA CEP Course Host Request Form for hosting consideration at least eight (8) weeks prior to requested course. The minimum number of participants required for the U6/U8, U10/U12 Youth Module course is fifteen (15); for the 'E' course is sixteen (16); and for the 'D' course is sixteen (16).

## **Cancellation**

CEP course is subject to cancellation if a minimum number of participants are not pre-registered prior to deadline.

## **Exception for 'D' Course Participation "E Bypass"**

Before submitting a 'D' course application, an applicant requesting to participate in 'D' course without having an 'E' certificate must submit in writing to the IYSA Director of Coaching applicant's resume and reasons for exception to bypass E. Once approved for an E Bypass by the IYSA Director of Coaching, applicant will have one (1) year to complete the assigned online tests and the 'D' license course. If applicant fails to attend the 'D' course, the E Bypass will expire and applicant must attend the 'E' course.

## **RULE 023. ILLINOIS YOUTH SOCCER STATE CUP**

The IYSA shall establish and organize annually the following IYSA Cup Competitions, hereinafter referred to as Cup Competitions:

- Illinois State Cup hereinafter referred to as the State Cup. The State Cup is the State Association level competition for the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series competition.
- Illinois Presidents Cup hereinafter referred to as the Presidents Cup. The Presidents Cup is the State Association level completion for the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup competition.
- Illinois Open Cup hereinafter referred to as the Open Cup. The Open Cup is the State Association qualification competition that determines the teams that advance to State Cup or Presidents Cup.

## **Administration**

- Section 1. The entire administration of the Cup Competitions is vested in the IYSA.
- Section 2. There shall be an IYSA Cup Competition Director (Cup Director) appointed by the IYSA. The Cup Director is responsible for the entire administration of the Cup Competitions, subject to the approval of the IYSA Board of Directors.
- Section 3. For all matters not provided herein, the Cup Director's decision shall be final.

## **Precedence of Games**

The Cup Competition semifinals and finals shall take precedence over all other soccer games.

## **Team Eligibility**

To be eligible to participate in any Cup Competition the team must be properly registered and be in good standing with the Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA). The team and club with whom the team is affiliated must be in compliance with IYSA Rule 026 and all of the following requirements:

- Section 1.
1. The team must be comprised of players and coaches who are properly registered and rostered according to the rules of the IYSA and USYSA with an IYSA Member League during the current soccer year.
  2. The team must participate in an IYSA-Only division of an IYSA Member League during the current soccer year.
  3. The team must be in good standing with the IYSA and USYSA and must be in compliance with, and has not violated, any of the bylaws and policies of the IYSA.
  4. For a team to enter the competition at least 50 percent of its players must be registered and domiciled in Illinois.
  5. With the exception of the U19 age group the league competition must consist of one (1) game against not less than three (3) different IYSA teams participating in the Member League.
  7. The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and every level of the National Championship competitions by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players common to the rosters of the team at every level of the competitions.
  8. The team may not be a tournament team.
- Section 2.
1. Each team must submit its Cup Competition roster 48 hours prior to the first game of the Cup Competition. Each player and coach on the Cup Competition roster must have a current and proper pass from the IYSA Member League.
  2. A team may not have on its Cup roster more than five (5) players who were previously rostered to another club, other than the club of which the team is a member during the current soccer year in compliance with the rules of the IYSA.
  3. The IYSA is not required to consider the following as a rostered player:
    - A. a player on a school team when the State Association administers school programs,
    - B. or a player on a recreational team.
  4. In addition to the application of the club pass provisions of this policy, a team and the IYSA may release involuntarily a player from the team's roster who has violated the bylaws, policies, or requirements of the USSF, USYSA or the IYSA, or the member of the State Association through whom the player is registered.
- Section 3.
1. Every team participating in the Cup Competition shall have the team's IYSA Member League roster, Cup Competition roster and a Game Card for every match in the Cup Competition.
    - A. IYSA Member League Roster
      - a) The IYSA Member League Roster shall be the roster approved by the IYSA Member League.
    - B. Cup Competition Roster
      - a) The Cup Competition Roster shall be the roster entered into the IYSA's online Cup Competition system.

- b) The Cup Competition Roster must be submitted no later than 48 hours prior to the first game.
  - c) The Cup Competition Roster shall have a minimum of nine (9) registered players at all times.
  - d) The team may have up to twenty-two (22) IYSA Member League youth players on the team roster and must include every player intended to be used for any game within the Cup Competition.
  - e) The Cup Competition Roster is frozen after the team's first game of the Cup Competition.
- C. Game Card
- a) The Game Card shall have a maximum of eighteen (18) players and a minimum of nine (9) players.
  - b) Every player listed on the Game Card must be listed on the team's IYSA Member League Roster and Cup Competition Roster to be eligible to participate with the team in the Cup Competition.

Section 4. A team shall forfeit each game of the team in which:

- 1. an unregistered player was with the team at the game in a uniform; or
- 2. a player was improperly entered on the team's roster (ie: ineligible, suspended and/or ejected player/coach); or
- 3. the team no longer has an IYSA Member League recognized team official on the team bench.

Section 5. The team may compete in only one (1) age group of the Cup Competitions during the soccer year.

### **Player Eligibility**

Section 1. A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of IYSA and USYSA.

Section 2. A youth player may play for only one (1) team in the Cup Competition in any soccer year.

Section 3. A player who has been suspended may not be rostered on the team and may not play in the Cup Competition until after the player's term of suspension has expired.

### **Team and Player Breaches of Rules**

Section 1. It is the responsibility of the Cup Director to investigate a properly protested violation immediately following its receipt. Failure to cooperate with that investigation shall result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension.

Section 2. Any team, coach, manager, or other official found guilty of knowingly using an ineligible player or a player found guilty of submitting falsified birth information is prohibited from competing further in the Cup Competitions in the current and subsequent soccer years.

Section 3. Ejections

- 1. A player who is ejected from any Cup Competition shall not participate in the next immediately following Cup Competition played by the player's team and must pay the Red Card fine to the IYSA.
- 2. A coach, manager, or team official that receives an ejection shall be ineligible to participate in his or her next immediately following Cup Competition game and in any remaining games on the day of the ejection and must pay the Red Card fine to the IYSA.
- 3. If the ejection is in the team's final game of the Cup Competition then the following will apply:
  - A. If the player/coach that receives the ejection is on the winning team and advances to the U.S. Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championship games then his/her ejection notice will be forwarded to the Region II Tournament Committee and the ejected individual will not be eligible to participate in the first game of that Tournament;
  - B. If the player/coach that receives the ejection is on the losing team then that individual will not be eligible to participate in his/her next Cup Competition the following soccer year.

Section 4. All coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained in this policy, including cautions, ejections and standard suspension. Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team, such as relatives and spectators, are also subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the IYSA.

Section 5. Team Head Coach, assistant coaches and club/organization shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual at any game that, in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that team.

Section 6. If the violation or the conduct of the person is more extensive, the Cup Director has the authority to extend the suspension beyond the standard suspension that may include an additional fine and suspension from league play, future Cup Competitions and tournament competition.

### **Passes, Rosters and Uniforms**

Section 1. Each player and team official listed on a team's roster must carry an IYSA Member League pass certifying that the player is currently registered with the IYSA. The pass must carry a current photograph of the player or team official. If the team advances to the US Youth Soccer regional competition, each player and team official listed on a team's roster must carry the properly executed US Youth Soccer member pass.

Section 2. (a) The team's official roster and member passes must be available at the game site at all times. The official Game Card and Cup Competition Roster shall include the number of each player's jersey.

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

(d) Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and game officials.

(e) At every level of the Cup Competitions, each player, team and team official may only have on his/her/their apparel the name, logo or identifying mark of US Youth Soccer or a member directly or indirectly of US Youth Soccer. A name, logo,

or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization other than US Youth Soccer or its member must be removed, replaced, or covered before the player, team or team official may enter or continue in the Cup Competition.

### **Withdrawals/Forfeits from Cup Competitions**

#### **Section 1. Withdrawing from the Cup Competitions Prior to the Start of Tournament**

Any team that withdraws from the Cup Competitions prior to the start of the Cup Competition will forfeit its team registration fee and may be subject to additional fines or sanctions. Written notice of withdrawal must be submitted to the IYSA.

#### **Section 2. Withdrawing/Forfeit from the Cup Competitions After the Start of Tournament**

Any team that withdraws from the Cup Competition after the start of the Cup Competition will forfeit its team registration fee, group play fee, referee fees, and may be subject to a fine plus referee fees. Upon certification by the Committee of a team's withdrawal from or refusal to participate in are subject to additional fines or sanctions. Written notice of withdrawal must be submitted to the IYSA.

## **RULE 024. IYSA OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

### **Purpose**

The Olympic Development Program or ODP is a national identification and development program for elite players under the direction of US Soccer Federation (USSF) and the US Youth Soccer Association (USYSA). The objective is to identify, develop and prepare the best players in Illinois. Illinois Youth Soccer Association's (IYSA) ODP is for the serious soccer player who loves the game and has hopes of playing in college, professionally and for the U.S. National team. Each player is expected to take his/her participation in the program seriously, and should be committed to improving his/her individual skills and as a team player. Each player is subject to the IYSA ODP Code of Conduct upon entry into the program and may be removed from the process at any time for misconduct.

### **Program History & Description**

1. The IYSA has a history of producing National Team players
2. The IYSA's program has existed since 1979
3. The IYSA has a multi-level player selection process
4. The IYSA creates Illinois State Select Teams
5. The IYSA process is compatible with the National Team program
6. The IYSA's program includes male and female development tracks
7. The IYSA's program has multiple age groups
8. The IYSA offers opportunities at multiple locations throughout Illinois

### **Authority**

The Amateur Sports Act is a federal law enacted by Congress in 1978 naming the US Olympic Committee (USOC) as the coordinating body for activity in the United States directly relating to international Olympic family competition. The USOC recognizes USSF as the national governing body for the sport of soccer in the United States and authorizes USSF to use the grassroots athlete development programs that are implemented by its State Associations as Organization Members.

All Olympic program competitions or events organized by an Olympic member in its selection procedure is protected by the federal law. No one may deny or threaten to deny any amateur athlete the opportunity to compete in the protected competition, censure, or otherwise penalize (1) any such athlete who participates in such competition, or (2) any organization which the athlete represents. The USOC shall, by all lawful means at its disposal, protect the right of an amateur athlete to participate if selected (or to attempt to qualify for selection to participate) as an athlete representing the United States in protected competitions.

### **Eligibility**

Any soccer player is eligible for consideration in the ODP provided that he or she meets the age requirements for the established age group. US Soccer Federation and US Youth Soccer determine the age groups and FIFA determines the year span (birth or calendar year rather than U-age). A player may not tryout for the ODP in more than one State Association.

### **ODP Enrollment**

Every player must enroll in the program each year. In order to enroll in the IYSA ODP process, the player must complete and submit the following by deadline to the IYSA: the new year IYSA ODP Enrollment Form, IYSA Emergency Medical Release & Liability Waiver form, and IYSA ODP Enrollment Fee payment including applicable late fees prior to participation.

### **Selection Process**

Players are evaluated on four components that make up a soccer player: (1) technique, (2) tactics, (3) fitness and athletic ability and (4) psychological component (attitude) at the IYSA ODP Winter Trainings/Tryouts and Select Events. Please see ODP page on the IYSA website [www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org](http://www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org).

### **Injured Player**

The injured player must submit a completed IYSA Injured Player Exemption Form, attending physician's written notice, IYSA Emergency Medical Release & Liability Waiver, the new year IYSA Enrollment Form, and the IYSA Enrollment Fee payment to the IYSA prior to deadline in order to be considered for a medical exemption. Before the injured player may resume participation in the IYSA ODP process, IYSA must have a written release on file from the player's attending physician. If an injured player is unable to participate in any of the IYSA ODP Winter Trainings/Tryouts, the player will be released from the IYSA ODP process unless the player is currently listed as a regional or national ODP player.

### **Reduced or Free ODP Fees**

A limited number of free or reduced ODP fees and payment plans are available. Please contact the IYSA office for required submissions and deadline.

### **Refunds**

No refunds will be forthcoming for any reason including but not limited to an injury or illness.

### **National ODP Player Fee Waiver**

An IYSA ODP participant who is currently listed as a U.S. Soccer National Team pool player as confirmed in writing by USSF/USYSA is exempt from having to pay the IYSA ODP Enrollment Fee.

### **Out-of-State ODP Participants**

**Section 1.** A player wishing to try out for the Olympic Development Program may only try out and be selected for the Program through the State Association in which he or she resides with his or her parent(s) or guardian(s), or, for a student in residence at a boarding school or college, the state in which the boarding school or college is located.

**Section 2.** To be eligible to try out for another State Association, the player must receive written permission from:

- (1) the State Association where the player resides; and
- (2) the other State Association where the player wishes to try out.

**Section 3.** A player may only try out for the Olympic Development Program in one State Association. A player is responsible for all Olympic Development Program fees of the State Association in which the player tries out.

### **RULE 025. REGISTRATION AND FEE PAYMENT**

Each IYSA league shall register by team with the IYSA those players, head coaches, assistant coaches, team managers wishing to participate. Those registered with the IYSA shall receive IYSA benefits including IYSA insurance coverage. The league shall not deny or otherwise prohibit registration with the IYSA.

For purposes of this rule, the words "registered" and "rostered" shall be synonymous and refer to those players, coaches, assistant coaches, team managers who are registered with the IYSA and for whom the League has issued a pass and whose names appear on an IYSA Registration Form and other league documents.

Each League shall submit to the IYSA by August 1st of the current soccer year the completed and signed most current IYSA Organization Statement of Understanding.

Each League shall submit to the IYSA by August 1st of the current soccer year a copy of their current playing rules and procedures or have them posted on their website.

Each League shall submit to the IYSA by September 1st of the current soccer year a list of its League Directors and Officers consisting of each person's first name, last name; title; street address, apt/unit # if applicable, city, state, and zip; cell/primary/work phone number with area code; home phone with area code; and email address. Each League shall submit to the IYSA any changes to its Directors and Officers within seven (7) days of the change.

Each league shall submit to the IYSA by September 1st for the Fall season and April 15 for the Spring season of the current soccer year an IYSA compatible electronic file in Excel or .csv, consisting of all IYSA registered players, head and assistant coaches, team managers, containing the following required information (each item must be listed in a separate field): first name, last name; street address, apt/unit # if applicable, city, state, and zip; phone number, area code; email address; gender; birth date; U-age; club name, team name, team code. Each league shall report to the IYSA the required information for any added/released players/coaches within seven (7) days of being processed by the league. Upon request by the team and/or IYSA, the league shall submit to the IYSA a team IYSA Registration Form with IYSA Add/Release Transfer Form. Any League failing to submit a compatible electronic file to the IYSA by deadline will be assessed the current input rate charged by a data entry company.

Each League shall submit to the IYSA by October 1st for the Fall season and May 1st for the Spring season of the current soccer year full payments, including player registration/insurance/league affiliation fees.

For insurance, recruiting, liability compliance, and to protect IYSA's core values, leagues shall not register any youth team that uses the same or a deceptively similar name in any other US Soccer Federation sanctioned competitive youth league.

No claim for medical coverage or liability coverage will be honored for any player, coach or other person associated with any team/club who has not been listed and submitted to the IYSA on a compatible electronic file for which payment of fees as required above have been received by the IYSA. Evidence of insurance compliance shall be presented by the League to IYSA via the IYSA completed insurance claim forms, a copy of the claimant's IYSA Medical Release and Liability Waiver and a copy IYSA Registration Form and/or electronic file upon which the claimant appears.

Any League failing to comply with the above requirements shall be placed in bad standing and subject to further fines as determined by a simple majority of the members of the IYSA Board of Directors voting at a regular or special meeting of the IYSA. Any further fines or other conditions as may be set by the IYSA Board shall be paid/met prior to reinstatement to good standing. (Revised 7/11/09)

### **RULE 026. MEMBERSHIP**

1. Each applicant desiring to administer an IYSA sanctioned league shall file a league application to the IYSA. The application shall include:

(a) Completed IYSA League Membership Application.

(b) Signed statement by the applicant's chief executive officer that:

- 1) The applicant will maintain a board of directors or governing authority that is independent from any other organization except in the event of a sponsoring governmental organization (i.e. park district) or a sponsoring entity that is a non-profit corporation with a 501(c)(3) ruling and an annual certified audit;
- 2) The applicant will maintain its own bank accounts or that it 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. government sponsored organizations or non-profit entities with a 501(c)(3) ruling and an annual-certified audit) (any applicant requesting waiver of this requirement shall attach to its application evidence to support its request);
- 3) The applicant will abide by all bylaws, policies, rules and regulations of the IYSA, US Youth Soccer, and US Soccer.
- 4) The applicant shall schedule and maintain regularly scheduled league play among at least four (4) IYSA only teams in a minimum of five (5) IYSA only age divisions per applicable gender within its association. Each division within the league will have a structured group of at least four (4) IYSA teams joined for the purpose of inter-club play under a common set of administrative and competition rules. A series of round robin tournaments are not considered "regularly scheduled league play".

2. Each applicant desiring to participate in an IYSA sanctioned league shall file an application with the league in which the applicant desires to participate. The application shall include:

(a) Completed IYSA League Application Form;

(b) Signed statement by the applicant's chief executive officer that:

- 1) The applicant will maintain a board of directors or governing authority that is independent from any other organization except in the event of a sponsoring governmental organization (i.e. park district) or a sponsoring entity that is a non-

- profit corporation with a 501(c)(3) ruling and an annual certified audit;
- 2) The applicant will maintain its own bank accounts or that it 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. government sponsored organizations or non-profit entities with a 501 (c)(3) ruling and an annual certified audit) (any applicant requesting waiver of this requirement shall attach to its application evidence to support its request);
  - 3) The applicant will register all of its players, teams, coaches, administrators, and volunteers with IYSA provided, however, that if some of the applicant's members do not wish to participate in IYSA sanctioned activities, then only those players, teams, coaches, administrators, and volunteers that wish to participate in sanctioned activities shall register with the IYSA (any applicant that does not register all of its members may not be eligible for IYSA insurance coverage in the event of inter-league or inter-club play with teams or members not registered with IYSA);
  - 4) The applicant will abide by all bylaws, rules and regulations, and Policies of the IYSA, US Youth Soccer, and US Soccer Federation.

#### **RULE 027. INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUES - PLAYER REGISTRATION**

A player may register in the IYSA Recreational Player Program through an IYSA Affiliated Indoor League.

In order for an indoor soccer facility to be considered for membership as an IYSA Affiliated Indoor League by the IYSA board of directors, facility shall complete and submit to the IYSA, the association's IYSA application for membership, IYSA league affiliation fee, copy of association's constitution/bylaws or playing rules, and list of association's directors and officers. Once membership is accepted, association must submit list of players and coaches including full name, address, phone number with area code, gender and birth date (birth date not required for coaches) with the IYSA per player fee. The IYSA Affiliated Indoor League status does not imply that the IYSA has inspected, endorsed or guaranteed the safety or security of the facility.

Player shall provide proof of age to the IYSA Affiliated Indoor League where he/she is registered and the player shall be eligible for benefits only while participating at that IYSA Affiliated Indoor League's facility against other IYSA currently registered players. The period of player registration shall be the annual playing season from August 1 of the current year through July 31 of the following year. A player is affiliated with the IYSA through the IYSA Affiliated Indoor League with which he/she is registered. A player shall be considered affiliated with the IYSA when the IYSA Affiliated Indoor League's roster on which he/she is registered is submitted with the appropriate fees to IYSA by the IYSA Affiliated Indoor League. The player's name appearing on a properly completed roster submitted to IYSA by IYSA Affiliated Indoor League shall be the only proof of eligibility for IYSA member insurance and other benefits.

If a player participates at another IYSA Affiliated Indoor League's facility, he/she will must register with that IYSA Affiliated Indoor League and pay a separate fee to the IYSA.

#### **Rule 028. NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Membership in the IYSA is open to all soccer leagues, clubs, teams, players, coaches, referees and administrators without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status.

#### **Rule 029. ABUSE PREVENTION**

It is the policy of the Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA) to comply with all state and federal laws including but not limited to the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 that was passed on February 14, 2018. IYSA policy requires all of our members to prevent child and sexual abuse. It also requires our members to provide reasonable sexual abuse prevention training prior to participating/interacting with minor athletes every two (2) years through reasonable resources such as the U.S Center for SafeSport or Abuse Prevention Systems and to submit a copy of their Certificate of Completion to their member club/league. The clubs/leagues are required to keep a copy of their Certificates of Completion and make them available to the IYSA upon request.

#### **Rule 030. RECOGNITION OF DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

A disciplinary action imposed by a Member of the Federation shall be recognized by the Federation and all Members of the Federation on notification by the Federation as provided in section 4 of US Soccer Federation Policy 241-1.

#### **Rule 031. US SOCCER FEDERATION COMPLIANCE**

Except as otherwise required by applicable law, IYSA will comply with all Bylaws, policies and requirements of the Federation, and all statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA and CONCACAF to the extent applicable to a US Soccer youth state association.