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## **0.0 PURPOSE OF OSYSA**

**0.1** The purpose of the OSYSA is to organize and promote recreational and competitive youth soccer programs, clubs, leagues, associations and societies for youth up to and including those 19 years of age; to offer programs for teams to participate in State, National and International competitions and National Championships; and to offer a program under the approval of US YOUTH SOCCER and US SOCCER for the development of individual players for state, regional and national teams and development camps that can lead to their selection on teams to represent the United States in the Olympics, Pan American games and other National and Inter-national competition as required.

## **1.0 ADHERENCE TO US SOCCER BYLAWS**

### **1.1 PURPOSE**

As a result of the organizational changes of US SOCCER, the following rules will take precedence over all other OSYSA Bylaws. In the event of conflicting Bylaws, the OSYSA \US SOCCER rules will be enforced.

**1.2** The membership of OSYSA and the members of OSYSA shall be open to any soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators and officials not subject to suspension under section 4 of Bylaw 241, nor subject to disqualification as provided in Section 12 of this OSYSA manual and to any amateur soccer organization in its territory.

**1.3** OSYSA, its member leagues and all OSYSA registered participants shall not and/or will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identification, or disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended.

**1.4** The US SOCCER articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies and requirements take precedence over and supersede the governing documents and decisions of OSYSA and its members to the extent applicable under state law, and OSYSA and its members will abide by those articles, bylaws, policies and requirements.

**1.5** The OSYSA articles of incorporation and bylaws take precedence over and supersede the governing documents and decisions of its members to the extent applicable under state law, and its members will abide by those articles, bylaws, policies and requirements.

**1.6** OSYSA will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with the US SOCCER articles, bylaws, policies and requirements.

**1.7** OSYSA shall register all of its players, coaches, teams and administrators with US SOCCER at least once each year and pay all dues and fees of the US SOCCER in a timely fashion.

**1.8** OSYSA and its members will abide by the US SOCCER articles, bylaws, policies and requirements on interplay.

**1.9** OSYSA shall have a Board of Directors (or similar body) selected through an open and democratic election process.

**1.10** OSYSA shall provide to the Secretary General of US SOCCER an annual report on the activities of the association and most current annual financial statements within 90 days after the start of the US SOCCER seasonal year.

**1.11** OSYSA will (A) provide annually to the US SOCCER copies of OSYSA constitution, bylaws and other governing documents (B) submit changes to those documents to US SOCCER for approval not later than 90 days after adoption and (C) make copies of those documents available to its members.

**1.12** OSYSA will provide equitable and prompt hearing and appeal procedures to guarantee the rights of individuals to participate and compete. Those procedures shall include that all grievances involving the right to participate and complete activities sponsored by US SOCCER and OSYSA and its members

may be appealed to US SOCCER Appeals Committee that shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify or reverse a decision.

**1.13** OSYSA shall maintain its tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code.

**1.14** OSYSA shall adopt Bylaws prohibiting sexual and physical abuse that meet certain minimum criteria established by US SOCCER (subject to any contrary requirements contained in state or local law applicable to state association).

## **2.0 MEMBERSHIP BYLAWS**

### **2.1 PURPOSE**

US YOUTH SOCCER and/or OSYSA have established Bylaws that provide the procedures for operation of member association and leagues, member teams, sanctioned tournaments, friendly games, in-state and out-of-state play, US Youth Soccer, Ohio South State Cup games and referees. All member leagues, associations, teams, players, coaches, managers and referees must abide by these Bylaws to remain in good standing.

OSYSA is composed of member associations and leagues hereinafter referred to as either leagues or member leagues that offer competitive or recreational soccer, except as provided in section 3.1.

Recreational programs have flexibility in that not all of the Bylaws included in the OSYSA Manual apply to recreational programs whose teams play only within their own organization. For these recreational member leagues, their own procedures may be acceptable. They should ask the OSYSA office if there is a question on any rule and regulation included in the OSYSA Manual that may be in conflict with the rules of their recreational league.

**2.1.1** For the purposes of registration on gender-based amateur teams, a player may register with the gender team with which the player identifies in their daily lives, and confirmation sufficient for guaranteeing access shall be satisfied by documentation or evidence that shows the stated gender is sincerely held, and part of a person's core identity.

Documentation satisfying the above stated standard includes, but is not limited to, government-issued documentation, (i.e. birth certificate, driver's license, passport, etc), or documentation prepared by a health care provider, counselor, or other qualified professional not related to the player.

**2.1.2** This designated flexibility includes establishing Bylaws different from those contained within this OSYSA Manual specifically including, but not limited to, those regarding:

- a) Bylaws defining the number of players on the field during a recreational league sanctioned game.
- b) Bylaws regarding the definitions of the individual age groups within the recreational programs.
- c) The Bylaws as set forth in OSYSA Bylaw 2.14 and Addendum #1 and in OSYSA Bylaw 3.6 and Addendum #2.

**2.1.3** The flexibility of recreational leagues to establish rules different from those within this OSYSA Manual does not include the ability to not comply with:

- a) Those Bylaws regarding the OSYSA Risk Management Program.
- b) Those Bylaws requiring the registration of all players within the recreational league with OSYSA and US YOUTH SOCCER.
- c) Those Bylaws regarding the OSYSA concussion and awareness training program.
- d) Those Bylaws prohibiting discrimination as specified in Bylaw 1.3 or the registration of players as specified in 2.1.1.

e) Those Bylaws restricting and/or prohibiting the heading of a soccer ball by youth soccer players as specified in Bylaw 20.0.

## **2.2 SANCTIONED LEAGUE**

**2.2.1** In order to retain membership in the OSYSA, all member associations and leagues must include at least four teams in each of their individual competition formats (age group leagues).

**2.2.2** The schedule for each age group must include at least five games against teams, the majority of whose players live within OSYSA. In order to remain in good standing with OSYSA, teams must complete this minimum five game schedule within the current season.

Teams cannot exceed the playing minutes shown below in a single day in league and tournament play:

- a) Under-10s and younger teams shall play a maximum of 100 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- b) Under-11s and under-12s teams shall play a maximum of 120 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- c) Under-13s and under-14s teams shall play a maximum of 140 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- d) Under-15s and under-16s teams shall play a maximum of 160 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- e) Under-17s, under-18s and under-19s teams shall play a maximum of 180 minutes of scheduled play per day.

**2.2.4** OSYSA member leagues and associations that fail to register players and coaches for 2 consecutive seasonal years shall be dropped as a member of OSYSA following a vote by the majority of the OSYSA Board of Directors to do so.

**2.2.5** To be accepted into OSYSA as a member league and to maintain their status as a member league, 100% of their players, coaches and team administrators from that league must be registered with OSYSA.

## **2.3 OUT-OF-STATE LEAGUES**

**2.3.1** OSYSA member leagues or associations may accept teams, the majority of whose players are not residents within Ohio South's territory, for play within their leagues provided such teams comply with all of OSYSA's Bylaws and are sanctioned or approved by another USYS affiliate.

**2.3.2** Teams, the majority of whose players live in OSYSA, must purchase their US YOUTH SOCCER player and coach passes from OSYSA. All of the OSYSA registration Bylaws apply to these teams and this material must be handled and validated by a registrar of OSYSA or its member leagues.

**2.3.3** Teams playing in an OSYSA league or association must purchase all of their US Youth Soccer player and coach passes through OSYSA or pay the appropriate fee to their home state association.

**2.3.4** Individual teams domiciled in Ohio South may request permission from the OSYSA Executive Director to participate in US YOUTH SOCCER or leagues sanctioned by another state affiliate of the US YOUTH SOCCER. An adverse decision by the OSYSA Executive Director may be appealed to the OSYSA Board of Directors.

**2.3.5** Teams that participate in the USYS National League or the Midwest Regional League are eligible to participate in the USYS Ohio South State Cup or the USYS Ohio South President's Cup.

## **2.4. IN-STATE LEAGUES**

**2.4.1** If their home state association does not have a coach's pass, these teams must purchase a coach's pass from OSYSA. All coaches of teams playing in OSYSA sanctioned member competitive association or leagues must have an OSYSA coaches pass. All registration material required by the member association or league, (except player passes), must be completed by the out-of-state team by the registrar for the member association or league. The OSYSA member league or association must approve the out-of-state's team roster. This roster must be the league OSYSA roster.

**2.4.2** OSYSA sanctioned member leagues or associations can only accept for play (under-10s and below) teams that have the majority of their players who live in the same OSYSA district as the member league or association, however if your player is located within 6 miles north of the border of Montgomery and Warren counties or 6 miles south of the border of Montgomery and Warren counties then they have the right to be included in either District 1 or District 2. Under-10s and below age teams are required to participate in member league and associations located within the same OSYSA district. Under-11s and above age teams may participate in any member league or association in any district. See section 2.3 Out-of-State Leagues for play outside of OSYSA.

**2.4.3** Teams, under-10s and below, are considered to be domiciled within the boundaries of an OSYSA District when the greatest percentage of players on the roster is from that OSYSA district. When the greatest percentages of players on a team are from more than one district, the district of the residence of the team's head coach shall determine the residency requirement of the team.

**2.4.4** Team age is based on the age of the oldest player on the roster. All teams participating in the State Cup Championship shall do so from the district from where the greatest percentage of players on the roster reside. When the greatest percentages of players on a team are from two different districts, the district of the residence of the team's head coach shall determine the residency requirement of the team.

**2.4.5** These Bylaws do not prohibit any team playing in a OSYSA member league or association from entering and playing in US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup, sanctioned tournaments or friendly games in other OSYSA districts or other members US YOUTH SOCCER state associations or teams who belong to organizations who are affiliate members of US Soccer. However, before any team participates with any teams that are affiliate members of US Soccer, they should check the Insurance Section.

## **2.5 PLAYERS PLAYING OUT-OF-STATE**

**2.5.1** Players who are domiciled inside of the boundaries of OSYSA are to play on teams located within these boundaries. The following explains the procedures to request consideration for an exemption to this requirement and the procedure to follow if the exemption is granted. If an exemption is not granted, players who are domiciled inside of the Ohio South boundaries cannot play on a team in another state association.

**2.5.2** Player that are interested in playing on a team located outside of the boundaries of the OSYSA must ask for and receive written permission from the Ohio South to play on a team located in another state association.

**2.5.3** OSYSA will grant permission for players to play with teams in other state associations only if there are NO teams in the player's general geographical area located inside of the boundaries of Ohio South for the player to join.

**2.5.4** If written permission is given the player must register with OSYSA, pay the established registration fee and complete the player registration form. Ohio South will issue a player pass in the name of the team, which must be used by the player on his/her team.

**2.5.5** Player(s) who are domiciled inside of the boundaries of OSYSA who elect to play for a team that is domiciled within the boundaries of another State Association directly adjoining to the boundaries of OSYSA do not need permission to participate as outlined in **Section 2.6**. However, the team on which they will participate with must be playing in an OSYSA sanctioned League or Member Association. All of these OSYSA domiciled players must register via this sanctioned League or Member Association and pay the Player registration fee that is in effect for OSYSA. Player passes will be issued and they are to be attached to the Player Pass of the qualifying State Association Player Pass (if required by that other State Association).

## **2.6 TEAM COMPETITION**

**2.6.1** Participation in formal league games, by OSYSA / US YOUTH SOCCER players and teams against non-OSYSA / US YOUTH SOCCER registered players and teams are not permitted

**2.6.2** OSYSA teams may participate in tournaments sanctioned by other US Soccer affiliates but it is recommended that Section 15.0 Insurance be reviewed. Participation in non-US Soccer events are not covered by OSYSA insurance.

**2.6.3** US YOUTH SOCCER / OSYSA registered teams can schedule and play friendly games against any team they wish. Such play against teams that are not members of US SOCCER / US YOUTH SOCCER are not protected by the rules of US YOUTH SOCCER, or OSYSA. Insurance coverage may not apply in such matches. Teams should review the Insurance Section.

**2.6.4** OSYSA registered players and teams can participate in any non-member league or activity. However, players and teams do so at their own risk and without the protection or support of OSYSA's insurance policy.

## **2.8 GOOD/BAD STANDINGS**

**2.8.1** Any player that submits an OSYSA Voluntary Quit Form (not a transfer) cannot participate in the US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup/President's Cup or any OSYSA league. If a player quits (not a transfer) a team, that player may only participate in any US Youth Soccer/OSYSA tournament as a tournament guest player or as a member of a tournament team provided that player re-registers as such and pays the corresponding registration fee. If the player has submitted an OSYSA Voluntary Quit Form, the player may participate in a tournament regardless the playing commitment of the player's former team.

**2.8.2** Teams, players, leagues, coaches or managers may be declared in bad standing by the OSYSA Board of Directors for violations of any of the Bylaws of OSYSA or for any action, which is detrimental to the benefits or goals of OSYSA /US YOUTH SOCCER /US SOCCER and the sport of soccer.



**2.8.3** If a team, player, league, coach or manager is fined by OSYSA, as approved by the OSYSA Board of Directors, for violation of OSYSA Bylaws, the bad standing will continue until the fine is paid.

**2.8.4** If the suspension is ordered for violation of OSYSA Bylaws, as approved by the OSYSA Board of Directors, the bad standing will continue until the expiration date of the suspension.

**2.8.5** Teams, players, coaches or managers in bad standing are not permitted to participate in any US YOUTH SOCCER league, tournament, or US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup games.

**2.8.6** Players, coaches or managers in bad standing are not permitted to be members or participate in the OSYSA ODP function. If they are in the program and are declared in bad standing by their action or the action of the Board of Directors of OSYSA, they will be dropped immediately from the ODP program.

## **2.9 SIMULTANEOUS PLAY**

**2.9.1** Players are not permitted to play on a US SOCCER / US YOUTH SOCCER /OSYSA team and an independent, OHSAA high school, or NCAA / NAIA college team during the same period of time.

**2.9.2** If a player is on an OHSAA high school varsity / reserve / freshman team or NCAA/NAIA college team simultaneous play is not permitted. He / She cannot register and play with a US SOCCER / US YOUTH SOCCER / OSYSA team during that time period from when his/her school plays their first OSYSA determined official OHSAA / NCAA / NAIA game until their last game of that season.

**2.9.3** Any player playing on an OHSAA, NCAA, NAIA, cannot be a guest player in any US YOUTH SOCCER / OSYSA tournament during the time that they are members of these teams

**2.9.4** For purposes of simultaneous play, indoor soccer is not considered to be covered under this section.

**2.9.5** For purposes of determining simultaneous play, players who are invited to participate in OHSAA / NCAA / NAIA sanctioned All Star games are permitted to participate. Participation in OHSAA / NCAA / NAIA sanctioned All Star games is not considered simultaneous play.

**2.9.6** Tryouts and participation in OSYSA ODP program or any other tryout or competition of US YOUTH SOCCER or US SOCCER is not considered simultaneous play.

**2.9.7** During the fall and spring seasons, players cannot roster and participate on two different OSYSA teams.

## **2.10 PRIMARY REGISTRATION AND TRANSFERS**

**2.10.1** The seasonal year within the boundaries of OSYSA is divided into the fall season (August thru December), the **winter**/spring season (November thru June). Teams in the fall season can participate as teams in the fall and spring.

**2.10.2** OSYSA does not recognize secondary player registrations.

**2.10.3** If the transfer is within the same OSYSA member association or league, the closing date of transfer within the league/association is the controlling date. If the transfer is between leagues, the controlling date is the transfer date deadline of the league/association that the player is being transferred to. If there are any conflicts between the transfer rules of the league the player is transferring to, then the rules of the league that the player is transferring to shall govern the transfer.

**2.10.4** OSYSA member leagues or associations may establish restrictions as to the timing of transfers and limitations as to the reasons for which transfers may be approved.

**2.10.4.1** During the fall and spring seasons, players cannot be registered and playing on two teams at the same time, except that a player may play on a team in an OSYSA competitive league and on a team that is in an OSYSA recreational league at the same time, if permitted by the leagues where the player wants to play.

**2.10.5** Once a player or a player's parent or guardian signs the registration form for a team, that player is considered a member of that team and must be transferred even if the player has not participated in a game for that team.

**2.10.6** If a team registers and activates with one OSYSA competitive league or program during the Fall season and then that team registers with a different competitive league or program for the Spring season, then it shall be the responsibility of the league or program where that team first activated and registered to maintain the registration information for the team that switched leagues or programs. This registration information includes, but is not limited to, the handling of inter-team transfers, voluntary quits, player adds, and coach changes.

**2.10.7** If a team registers and activates with one OSYSA competitive league or program and simultaneously (during either the Fall or Spring seasons), plays in a second OSYSA competitive league or program, then the corresponding registration information shall reside with the league or program where the team first activated and registered. In this instance, the corresponding registration regarding voting strength shall be divided evenly between the two leagues or programs where the team participated.

**2.10.8** If a player transfers from a team that participates in one OSYSA competitive league or program to a team that participates in a different competitive league or program, it shall be the responsibility of the league or program where the player is going to play to administer the player's transfers and registration on the new team.

## **2.11 OSYSA JURISDICTION**

**2.11.1** Jurisdiction and adjudication of all matters concerning their organization belongs to member leagues and associations except as noted in sections of the US SOCCER and/or US YOUTH SOCCER rules and/or the OSYSA Bylaws.

**2.11.2** OSYSA has jurisdiction on all disputes between OSYSA member associations and leagues.

**2.11.3** At OSYSA's option, OSYSA may elect to exercise original jurisdiction on matters resulting from violation of any US SOCCER /US YOUTH SOCCER national rule or when another US YOUTH SOCCER state association or member of another US YOUTH SOCCER state association issues a complaint or made requests for resolution of problems caused by a violation of any.

**2.11.4** Member leagues or association must take action within 30 days of notification of potential violation of any Bylaws. If no action is taken within the required time limit, the complaint concerning the potential violation may be filed directly with OSYSA. Based on an investigation, **the OSYSA Conduct Committee** may elect to take jurisdiction to adjudicate the issue.

## **2.12 RECOVERY OF GRIEVANCE EXPENSES**

**2.12.1** In this section, “party” means a Member of Ohio South Youth Soccer Association including officials, leagues, clubs, teams, players, coaches, administrators, or referees.

**2.12.2** If a party brings a grievance against Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, either in a court of law or with the US Soccer Federation, and does not prevail in the grievance, that party shall be liable to Ohio South Youth Soccer Association for all expenses incurred by Ohio South Youth Soccer Association and its officials and staff in defending the grievance, including the following:

1. Grievance costs;
2. Attorney’s fees;
3. Reasonable compensation for time spent by Ohio South Youth Soccer Association officials and staff in responding to and defending against legations involved in the grievance, including responses to discovery and appearances regarding the grievance;
4. Travel expenses.
5. Collection costs

**2.12.3** If the party fails to pay to Ohio South Youth Soccer Association the expenses due under subsection 2.14.2 of this section, the party may be subject to legal action, suspension, or the party’s membership or position terminated in Ohio South Youth Soccer Association by a vote of the OSYSA Board of Directors.

## **2.13 Definition of a “Club”**

**2.13.1** For use throughout this manual of Bylaws, the term “club” is defined to mean a collection of two or more teams that have two or more of the following attributes:

- are known by a similar set of team names
- use a common set of similar uniforms
- are organized under a common board of directors
- have a common set of coaches and trainers
- have their games and practice fields at one or more common locations

**2.14** The United States Soccer Federation and US Youth Soccer have issued the standards as shown in Addendum #1 at the end of this Section 2 for organized play that would lead to a national championship or other events organized by USSF or USYS. In order to comply with these standards, all OSYSA programs (OSSL, ODP, State Cup, Presidents Cup) organized by OSYSA shall adhere to the provisions as outlined in OSYSA Bylaw Section 2 Addendum #1 beginning at the start of the 2016/2017 seasonal year. All competitive leagues (CUSL, BPYSL, MOSSL, MVYSA) shall adhere to the USSF standards on the number of players on the field as outlined in OSYSA Bylaw Section 2 Addendum #1 beginning at the start of the 2016/17 seasonal year and player registration based upon calendar years as outlined in Bylaw 3.6 and are encouraged, but not required, to follow the USSF standards on field and goal sizes as shown in Addendum #1 beginning at the start of the 2016/17 seasonal year. All OSYSA recreational member leagues are encouraged

to adopt these same recommendations but are not required to do so per OSYSA Bylaw Sections 2.1 and 2.1.2.

**2.14.1** Any non-compliance with these standards by member leagues or OSYSA sanctioned tournaments shall not be the basis of a protest or appeal as provided in OSYSA Bylaw Section 14.

## **2.15 Prohibited Conduct**

**2.15.1** It is the policy of the US Youth Soccer and the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association to provide a safe environment for its youth soccer players. As organizations committed to providing a developmental, healthy, and safe environment, US Youth Soccer and OSYSA recognize that the safety of its youth players is paramount. It is the responsibility of the competition authority of all events organized by OSYSA or OSYSA member leagues and associations and OSYSA sanctioned tournaments, as defined within this bylaw, to ensure that this bylaw is strictly enforced. Therefore, the use of unauthorized unmanned aircraft is not permitted at activities or events managed or organized by OSYSA, its leagues and / or its sanctioned tournaments for youth soccer players.

**2.15.2** Definitions as used within this Section 2.14.

**2.15.2.1** "Unmanned Aircraft Systems" (UAS), a.k.a. drones or remote controlled aircraft, is defined as any aircraft without a human pilot aboard.

**2.15.2.3** "Event" means all activities or events managed or organized by OSYSA, its member leagues, its clubs, and / or tournaments sanctioned by OSYSA. This includes but is not necessarily limited to:

- All games of the OSYSA State Cup Championships.
- All games of the OSYSA Presidents Cup.
- All intra-league and inter-league games organized by OSYSA member leagues or associations.
- All OSYSA sanctioned tournaments
- All ODP games, practices and scrimmages

**2.15.3** The use of unauthorized UAS at any Event is strictly prohibited unless written authorization is received in advance of the Event permitting the use of such UAS. If such prior written authorization is granted, then OSYSA, its leagues and / or its sanctioned tournaments shall, in its / their sole and absolute discretion, dictate, and control the manner in which such UAS may be utilized. OSYSA, its leagues, and / or its sanctioned tournaments reserve their right to rescind any written authorization previously granted at any time in their sole and absolute discretion.

**2.15.4** Any person attending any Event who is associated with OSYSA, its leagues and / or its sanctioned tournaments who operates or attempts to operate a UAS at an Event in violation on this section 2.14 shall be required to immediately cease and desist such activity or shall be immediately removed from the event by OSYSA, its leagues and / or its sanctioned tournaments that are managing the event.

Any person who has been removed from an Event for a violation of this policy may appeal their removal as provided in OSYSA Bylaw 14.

**OSYSA Bylaw Section 2-Addendum #1**

US Soccer Federation and US Youth Soccer have established a set of recommendations for field sizes based on age groups. Given the circumstances of each field and/or field complex which may have an impact on the establishment of each individual field (in any age group), these are the sizes that provide the full benefit to the development of the player.

<b>Field Size-length by width as measured in yards</b>	<b>Under-9s &amp; Under-10s</b>	<b>Under-11s &amp; Under- 12s</b>	<b>Under-13s &amp; Older</b>
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>65 x 45</b>	<b>80 x 55</b>	<b>130 x 100</b>
<b>Minimum</b>	<b>55 x 35</b>	<b>70 x 45</b>	<b>100 x 50</b>

These are the recommended number of players per team per age group:

	<b>Under-9s &amp; Under-10s</b>	<b>Under-11s &amp; Under- 12s</b>	<b>Under-13s &amp; Older</b>
<b>Number of Players</b>	<b>7 v 7</b>	<b>9 v 9</b>	<b>11 v 11</b>

US Soccer and US Youth Soccer established recommended goal sizes by age group. There may be slight differences in goal sizes as some are measured inside to inside and some are measured from outside to outside. Goals which are close to the dimensions are acceptable. Since goals last for prolonged periods and with the cost of replacement, goals do not need to be replaced just to meet these standards. When new goals are needed either as replacements or for additional needs, these sizes are the standards (as measured to outside of the goal for the small sided goals) and all purchases should reflect these sizes. Under-9s and Under-10s and Under-11s and Under-12s age groups should not use full sized goals (8 feet by 24 feet).

	<b>Under-9s &amp; Under-10s</b>	<b>Under-11s &amp; Under- 12s</b>	<b>Under-13s &amp; Older</b>
<b>Goal size-feet</b>	<b>6.5 x 18.5</b>	<b>7 x 21</b>	<b>8 x 24</b>

These are the recommended game lengths by age group:

	<b>Under-9s &amp; Under-10s</b>	<b>Under-11s &amp; Under- 12s</b>	<b>Under-13s &amp; Older</b>
<b>Playing times in minutes</b>	<b>2 x 25</b>	<b>2 x 30</b>	<b>2 x 35</b>

## **3.0 OSYSA PROGRAM REGISTRATION BYLAWS**

### **3.1 PURPOSE**

The basic requirements and definition of type of member association and leagues are established by OSYSA. There are two types of organizations in OSYSA, either recreational or competitive. All member associations and leagues must be classified as either a competitive program or a recreational program. Once each member association or league is classified, each program must follow procedures for their type of classification when registering players and teams with US YOUTH SOCCER and OSYSA. Any member association that has continuously organized both competitive and recreational programs may continue to sponsor those age and gender groups that they organized prior to January 1, 2002. Any OSYSA competitive member league or association may petition the OSYSA Board of Directors to allow that member league or association to establish a recreational division, (i.e. developmental and/or academy), organized by the competitive member league or association. Any such program shall follow all of the same bylaws that apply to all recreational member leagues or associations.

### **3.2 COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS**

**3.2.1** Member associations or leagues that allow coaches to select members of their teams are classified as competitive programs.

**3.2.2** Each member league must register all its players with OSYSA.

**3.2.3** Member competitive leagues or associations can accept for play in their programs, teams that have dual membership i.e. both in a US Youth Soccer program and an affiliate member organization of US Youth Soccer.

**3.2.4** All age groups and all divisions playing in any competitive program must pay the US YOUTH SOCCER coach and player pass competitive team registration fee established by the board of directors for competitive programs. That fee shall be \$21.00 per registered competitive player.

Each competitive league shall submit to OSYSA a complete listing of all players and coaches who are registered as members of their league. The described listing shall be submitted either electronically or in paper form to the OSYSA office to facilitate the prompt processing of the information. If the information is submitted in paper form, the submission shall be accompanied by a payment equal to \$.50 per name submitted.

**3.2.5** All individuals holding any of the positions as listed in Bylaw 12.3.1 and/or any of the positions listed in Bylaw 12.3.2, (if so required by the OSYSA RMC), will be required to complete the SafeSport education protocol and submit their personal information for a Background Check as outlined in Section 12 of these bylaws.

**3.2.6** All individuals holding any of the positions as listed in Bylaw 12.3.1 and/or any of the positions listed in Bylaw 12.3.2, (if so required by the OSYSA RMC), shall be responsible for the bi-annual payment of a Background Check Fee of \$18.00 as part of their registration process using the OSYSA statewide registration system.

**3.2.7** OSYSA member leagues, associated clubs, tournaments or organization employers who have employees who have employees, who hold a position in which they have unsupervised access to a child on a regular basis are responsible to ensure that all individuals who are under their direction or control

are in compliance with the provisions established by the requirements of Bylaws 3.2.5, 3.2.6 and 3.2.7. All organizations mentioned in the preceding sentence are subject to an audit of their compliance with the requirements of the Risk Management Program and SafeSport by the OSYSA Risk Management Coordinator or other members of the OSYSA Staff

**3.2.8** Each competitive league shall submit to OSYSA a complete listing of all players and coaches who are registered as members of their league. The described listing shall be submitted either electronically or in paper form to the OSYSA office to facilitate the prompt processing of the information. If the information is submitted in paper form, the submission shall be accompanied by a payment equal to \$.50 per name submitted.

### **3.3 RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS**

**3.3.** Member associations or leagues that assign players to teams are classified as recreational programs.

**3.3.2** Each member association or league must affiliate all players in their program with OSYSA /US YOUTH SOCCER. All players in all age groups and divisions playing in any recreational program must pay the recreational registration fee established by the board of directors for recreational programs. That fee shall be \$8.00 per registered recreational player.

Individuals who are only registered as a recreational coach, recreational team administrator, recreational club administrator, recreational team manager, recreational league athletic trainer, recreational league soccer trainers, a board member of an OSYSA member recreational league and/or any other adult the recreational league defines as being an adult who is in regular contact with youth athletes or youth referees shall not be charged the Background Check Fee as described in Bylaw 3.2.6.

Each recreational league shall submit to OSYSA a complete listing of all players and coaches who are registered as members of their league. The described listing shall be submitted either electronically or in paper form to the OSYSA office to facilitate the prompt processing of the information. If the information is submitted in paper form, the submission shall be accompanied by a payment equal to \$.50 per name submitted.

**3.3.3** Recreational programs are not required to issue US YOUTH SOCCER player passes nor use OSYSA forms for teams playing within their program. However, their teams without player passes are only permitted to play teams within their program.

**3.3.4** However, if recreational teams elect to play in authorized competition within the boundaries of OSYSA, they must be issued US YOUTH SOCCER players passes following the guidelines in the State Bylaws and must pay the competitive player registration fee for all players on all teams electing this right. The tournament guest player registration fee equal to the fee established by the Board of Directors for competitive players as shown in bylaw 3.2.4 must be paid for the players on the teams that will participate in any competitive event (i.e. US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup, tournaments). The coaches for these teams must also register and pay the coaches OSYSA registration fee following the coaches registration guidelines in these Bylaws. Teams within the recreational program that elect the right to play in competition outside of their program must pay the difference between the recreational fee and the competitive fee to OSYSA.

### **3.4 US YOUTH SOCCER MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES/ RESPONSIBILITIES**

**3.4.1** Only US YOUTH SOCCER /OSYSA registered teams playing in a sanctioned program can play in the US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup or OSYSA Presidents Cup.

**3.4.2** Only recreational programs that assign players to teams will be permitted to compete in the Ohio South sponsored American Cup Competition. The US YOUTH SOCCER player pass does not have to be issued to teams playing in the American Cup.

### **3.5 PLAYER REGISTRATION**

**3.5.1** Competitive and recreational leagues may use an internet based team, player, coach registration process in lieu of the procedures outlined in section 4.0, 5.0 and 6.0, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

- a) The internet based process contains all of the essential elements of registration as outlined in sections 4.0, 5.0 and 6.0 and that the output from that process; registration forms, rosters, passes, etc., are substantially similar to the standard OSYSA forms.
- b) The internet based process contains sufficient safeguards to maintain a completely accurate registration and financial accounting of the teams, players and coaches registered through the internet process.
- c) The internet based process is developed and maintained in such a manner that all of the records are in a secure environment.
- d) The internet based process allows a method by which the OSYSA office may verify the accuracy of the process and may retrieve the player, coach and team registration information.
- e) As part of the above described internet registration system, the use of an “electronic signature” is permitted provided such signature complies with Ohio law. Ohio law defines an electronic signature as, “an electronic sound, symbol, or process, attached to or logically associated with a contract or other record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.” This can be accomplished by having the signer complete any physical act, i.e. entering their date of birth, their last 4 digits of their social security number, mother’s maiden name, etc., to indicate their intent to sign the record.

**3.5.2** All leagues, both competitive and recreational, must establish within their rules and / or bylaws a requirement that any person who submits or uses or who permits the submission of or use of a fraudulent birth certificate, player registration form, coach registration form, team roster, travel permit, player pass, coach pass or other US Youth Soccer or OSYSA document shall, upon a finding that the complaint is valid, suspend any offending party, that is an adult, for a minimum of 3 years.

Lesser penalties shall be established by all leagues in Ohio South for any player for whom is submitted or used, a fraudulent birth certificate, player registration form, coach registration form, team roster, travel permit, player pass, coach pass or other US Youth Soccer or OSYSA document.

These requirements shall be applicable where the document was prepared or submitted during the use of an internet based registration system or through the use of a manual form.



**3.6** All players registered on a competitive team shall be registered to that team based upon the player's calendar year of their birth, beginning as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. No competitive player may participate in a team younger than their age as defined by USSF. A competitive player may play on a team that is older than their age as defined by USSF as permitted by the league rules where the team participates and in compliance with Section 20.0 of these OSYSA bylaws.

All competitive players, teams and leagues must comply with the age group chart as shown at the end of this section 3 in Addendum #2.



## OSYSA BYLAW SECTION 3 – Addendum #2



### Birth Year and Season Matrix

When determining the age group for a season, the year the season ends should be used for determining the birth year. Also note that the format “Age followed by and under” really means that age and younger. For example, 2008 Birth year in the 2016-17 seasonal year would be listed as under-9s. For more age-group information please reference:

<http://www.ussoccer.com/coaching-education/resources/us-soccer-player-development-initiatives-2016>

The following terms: 6 and under, 6U, Under 6, U6 and other variations of those terms are used interchangeably and have the same meaning throughout this manual.

Season	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
<b>Birth Year</b>									
<b>2020</b>									
<b>2019</b>									under-6s
<b>2018</b>								under-6s	under-7s
<b>2017</b>							under-6s	under-7s	under-8s
<b>2016</b>						under-6s	under-7s	under-8s	under-9s
<b>2015</b>					under-6s	under-7s	under-8s	under-9s	under-10s
<b>2014</b>				under-6s	under-7s	under-8s	under-9s	under-10s	under-11s
<b>2013</b>			under-6s	under-7s	under-8s	under-9s	under-10s	under-11s	under-12s
<b>2012</b>		under-6s	under-7s	under-8s	under-9s	under-10s	under-11s	under-12s	under-13s
<b>2011</b>	under-6s	under-7s	under-8s	under-9s	under-10s	under-11s	under-12s	under-13s	under-14s
<b>2010</b>	under-7s	under-8s	under-9s	under-10s	under-11s	under-12s	under-13s	under-14s	under-15s
<b>2009</b>	under-8s	under-9s	under-10s	under-11s	under-12s	under-13s	under-14s	under-15s	under-16s
<b>2008</b>	under-9s	under-10s	under-11s	under-12s	under-13s	under-14s	under-15s	under-16s	under-17s
<b>2007</b>	under-10s	under-11s	under-12s	under-13s	under-14s	under-15s	under-16s	under-17s	under-18s
<b>2006</b>	under-11s	under-12s	under-13s	under-14s	under-15s	under-16s	under-17s	under-18s	under-19s
<b>2005</b>	under-12s	under-13s	under-14s	under-15s	under-16s	under-17s	under-18s	under-19s	under-20s
<b>2004</b>	under-13s	under-14s	under-15s	under-16s	under-17s	under-18s	under-19s	under-20s	
<b>2003</b>	under-14s	under-15s	under-16s	under-17s	under-18s	under-19s	under-20s		
<b>2002</b>	under-15s	under-16s	under-17s	under-18s	under-19s	under-20s			
<b>2001</b>	under-16s	under-17s	under-18s	under-19s	under-20s				
<b>2000</b>	under-17s	under-18s	under-19s	under-20s					
<b>1999</b>	under-18s	under-19s	under-20s						
<b>1998</b>	under-19s	under-20s							
<b>1997</b>	under-20s								

## **4.0 TEAM REGISTRATION BYLAWS**

### **4.1 PURPOSE**

The basic requirement for registration of teams is established by US YOUTH SOCCER /OSYSA. Competitive leagues and association are responsible for registering teams for OSYSA and this set of Bylaws establishes a common procedure to create team rosters. Leagues and Member Associations are to refuse registration for teams until these Bylaws. Recreational programs do not need to follow these Bylaws.

### **4.2 LEAGUE ASSIGNED TEAM NUMBERS**

All member leagues and associations are to number their teams using the following procedure. In this manner, all teams within the state association will have the same basis of team numbering.

**4.2.1** The team number shall consist of:

- a) The league number [See list of league and association numbers],
- b) A "B" or "G" for boys or girls team,
- c) The next two digits of the year of birth of the oldest player on the team,
- d) The last is a two-digit number starting from 01 and increasing by one for each team in that age group. An example would be:

**2B0109**

This team number reflects the following: A boys' team in the Miami Valley Soccer Association playing in the 2001 age league, (oldest player on the team born between 8/1/2001 and 7/31/2002), and the ninth team assigned by this association to this age group.

### **4.3 LEAGUE ROSTERS**

**4.3.1** OSYSA will provide a standard team roster for use by all member competitive leagues or associations. A competitive league or association using an internet based registration system as outlined in Section 3.6 may design their own team rosters provided such rosters are in a similar format and provide the same information that the OSYSA standard team roster does. In addition, OSYSA will provide the necessary support forms: Roster Change Forms, Transfer Approval Forms, Player Quit Forms, and Tournament Guest Players Rosters.

**4.3.2** The league registrar is required to insure that all of the information (i.e., birth date, name, all players on roster, etc) is correct and accurate.

**4.3.3** The league registrar required to insure that all copies of the League Team Roster are validated with the OSYSA validation stamp

**4.3.4** Teams may not exceed 18 players on their Official Team Roster, except that under-13s and older teams may have a maximum of 22 players on their roster. All competitive teams must have a minimum of 7 players on their roster.

**4.3.5** US YOUTH SOCCER rules limit teams of member associations and leagues to five previously rostered players if they are participating in the State Cup Championship. However, if a team rosters less than 18 players, (22 players if under-13s or older team), at the beginning of the season, the team may add or transfer in as many players as needed to reach 18 players, (22 players if under-13s or older

team), on the roster. Adding players (who are not registered on any other US YOUTH SOCCER team) to reach 18 players, (22 players if under-13s or older team), the first time does not count against the five previously rostered rule. Any player that is currently registered with another US YOUTH SOCCER competitive team and is joining another team is a transfer. The Roster Change Form will provide the procedure to control the number of changes permitted by any team.

**4.3.6** Once the Team League Roster has been completed, a series of vertical parallel lines are to be drawn through the unused lines on the Team Roster (this is to also be done on Tournament Guest Rosters, and Roster Change Forms) so that no additional players can be added to that Roster form.

**4.3.7** Once the league registrar approves a League Roster, players can only be added to that the team's roster by the use of a Roster Change Form. Players cannot be dropped from a roster except as outlined in Section 4.4.

**4.3.8** Rosters with player's names crossed off are to be considered to be not validated rosters and are not acceptable for any US YOUTH SOCCER event (except for requesting travel permits to show which players have of their own choice elected not to travel).

#### **4.4 TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

**4.4.1** Once a player or a player's parent or guardian signs the player registration form and Ohio South player pass, the player is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless he/she requests and obtains a transfer.

**4.4.2** Players may only register once during a seasonal year. All other moves must be within the five previously rostered players Bylaw, as defined in section 2.11.3. If a player moves from one team to another team during the seasonal year it is a transfer.

**4.4.3** If a member league or association uses a computer based registration system changes can be made on the original roster provided:

- a. That a player being transferred out or quits is not longer listed on the team's roster
- b. If a players transfers in that it is clearly noted on the roster and the number of transfers does not exceed five (5). The limit of 5 transferred players only applied to teams playing the OSYSA State Cup.
- c. If a player is added to the roster (transfer or add) then the number of players on the roster cannot exceed the number of players authorized for that age of team.

In this case, a new roster can be printed and validated with the Registrar stamp.

**4.4.4** All member Associations and Leagues must approve all transfer requests that meet the Bylaws, i.e. no more than five previously rostered players, as defined in section 2.11.3, being on a team's roster per seasonal year and is within the member Association or League authorized transfer period.

**4.4.5** A transfer shall be defined as adding a currently registered and rostered US YOUTH SOCCER player (competitive or recreational) to the roster of another US YOUTH SOCCER team during the seasonal year. Transfers of players must be approved by the member league except as noted for member recreational Association and Leagues.

Transfers between teams will only be approved within the league-playing season and before the date that the league freezes the roster. Players not transferred within the approved period are bound to that team until the next seasonal year.

**4.4.6** All US YOUTH SOCCER registered players who switch between member associations or leagues must be transferred subject to the Bylaws of OSYSA.

**4.4.7** A member recreational association or league program may transfer players without limit between teams within their program. The transfer of players between recreational team or between a recreational team and a competitive team does not require the use of the Inter-Team Player Transfer form.

**4.4.8** If a player wishes to quit a team, the player may quit; no player can be forced to remain on a team. This player may transfer to another team if, (a) it is still within the period of time that transfers are permitted by the member League or Association, and (b) the team that the player is being transferred to have not exceeded the five player transfer rule, as defined in these Bylaws The five player transfer Bylaw only applies to teams who participate in the State Cup or Presidents Cup.

**4.4.9** If the player is unable to transfer, this player may still play for another team in tournaments that accept guest players as a Tournament Guest Player. This player may play for any team at any time without the permission of the team that he/she is bound to for the entire seasonal year (the team he/she quit) unless the team that the player quit has a playing commitment for the same time that the player wishes to play as a Guest Player in a tournament. In that event, the player must have the permission of the coach of the previous team in order to become a guest player since this player is bound to his/her the team for the seasonal year. If the coach does not give his/her permission, the player cannot play as a guest player since he/she is bound to his/her team until the new transfer period or until new player passes are issued for the next seasonal year. A player that has quit a team may register for another team in the next seasonal year without approval of the team that he/she quit.

**4.4.10** In any case outlined above, a player is deemed to have received permission from the coach to play in a conflicting event if the coach gives the player pass to the player or the coach of the other team. If the player pass is provided for play as a Tournament Guest Player, the player pass must be returned before the player can participate as a Tournament Guest Player in another tournament.

**4.4.11** In order to qualify for play; players must be on an approved team roster prior to playing in any of the teams US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup matches. Any player signing a player US YOUTH SOCCER Membership Registration form and US YOUTH SOCCER Player Pass is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless he/she requests and obtains transfer.

**b)** A player may be released (dropped by the coach) from a team by the coach only if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons: 1) The player has violated a USSF, US YOUTH SOCCER or OSYSA disciplinary rule. 2) The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance. 3) The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the seasonal year.

If none of the above reasons apply, the coach must keep the player on the roster. However for a release in each of these qualifying cases, the coach to affect the release must complete and sign a US YOUTH SOCCER player release form. If a player is to be dropped for one of the three reasons outlined above, the Roster Change Form must be validated by the league register. Players who are released (dropped by the coach) for one of the above listed three reasons, must be notified by the coach, in writing, prior to the player being removed from the roster. This notification can be by having the player sign a voluntary quit form or by sending a letter to the player, via certified mail. .

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Players cannot be dropped (removed for the roster) except for the three reasons outlined above.

c) Players may voluntarily elect to quit a team. If a player elects to quit a team and the coach of the team wishes to free up a spot on the roster for a new registration or transfer (within authorized time period), the coach is to submit an OSYSA Voluntarily Quit Form. The OSYSA Voluntarily Quit Form must be signed by both the player and the parent(s). If both do not sign the form, the Quit Form cannot be approved. Once approved by the member league or Association, the player may be removed from the roster and another player may be added or transferred under the Bylaws. If a player that quits a team wishes to play soccer during the same seasonal year they must return to their original team (if an opening exists) or transfer to another team (if within authorized time period). If the player that quits elects to transfer, the player must be transferred following the appropriate Bylaws of OSYSA and the member league or Association. A player must understand that by signing a voluntary quit that they are not intending to play soccer until at least the next seasonal year.

**4.4.12** Coaches of teams without playing commitments are to offer the opportunity to his/her players to become Tournament Guest Players. If the coach does not offer the opportunity, the tournament team coach may contact the player.

**4.4.13** When a coach gives permission for a player to participate, as a Guest Player for another team while the team does not have a playing commitment, that permission cannot later be withdrawn. If the coach accepts at a later date a conflicting playing commitment, the player must honor his commitment as a Guest Player.

If a player accepts a commitment as a guest player when his/her team does not have a playing commitment and does not seek permission of his/her coach, he/she must return to his/her team if the team later accepts a playing commitment.

## **5.0 US YOUTH SOCCER PLAYER BYLAWS**

### **5.1 PURPOSE**

The basic requirements for registration of players (and teams) are established by US Youth Soccer /OSYSA. Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. as the governing body is responsible for validating all US Youth Soccer Registration Forms and Cards for players within the geographical boundaries of Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. This responsibility is delegated by OSYSA to each member Association and league, as long as, all of the procedures as outlined are followed by each OSYSA member. Leagues are responsible for rostering teams. Leagues and Associations are to refuse rostering for teams and players when these Bylaws are not properly followed. (See Membership Bylaws)

### **5.2 LEAGUE REGISTRAR**

Each league will establish and maintain the position of League Registrar. Each Registrar will be responsible for administering these procedures and insuring that all US Youth Soccer Registration Forms and Cards issued meet standards as set forth. OSYSA must approve the appointment of league Registrars.

**5.2.2** At the direction of the league registrar, each league may appoint assistant and/or associate registrars as necessary to handle the number of players/teams registering each year.

**5.2.3** The league Registrar will be responsible for the action and validation of US Youth Soccer /OSYSA youth registration cards by any assistant and/or associate league Registrar(s).

**5.2.4** The OSYSA executive director or designee shall act as an assistant registrar for all competitive leagues that register teams from more than 1 district.

### **5.3 US YOUTH / OSYSA PLAYER AND COACH PASSES**

**5.3.1** Player and coach passes may not be sold by OSYSA to any player or coach that is registered on a team registered in an OSYSA member league or association.

**5.3.2** All checks for payment for player and coach registration will be paid by checks and made payable to OSYSA.

### **5.4 REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

**5.4.1** Except tournament guest players and coaches, all players and coaches must register and roster through the US Youth Soccer/OSYSA league in which they participate.

**5.4.2** Youth Players are permitted to roster once each seasonal year (Sept. 1 - Aug. 31). Players cannot be rostered with more than one team at one time during the Fall and Spring seasons. OSYSA does not permit dual US Youth Soccer registration.

**5.4.3** Each team must complete a US Youth Soccer Registration Form and Cards for players and coaches prior to the start of the season. Cards are valid for the entire seasonal year and expire on August 31 of each year.

**5.4.4** Player passes must carry the OSYSA Validation Stamp of the league in which the team is playing.

**5.4.5.** Players cannot be registered with an affiliated League or Association unless they are included on the official team roster.

Teams that participate in two different leagues are not to be issued two separate sets of player cards.

In the case of a team that plays in two leagues, one league will issue the player pass and the second league must counter stamp the player pass for their league.

Any player signing a player registration form is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless he/she requests a transfer or voluntarily quits.

Complete registration consists of properly completed and validated US YOUTH SOCCER Membership form, Player Pass, and an Official OSYSA Team Roster.

**5.4.6** If the registration material is not properly completed, it shall be rejected. Registration will be completed only when the material has been corrected and re-submitted.

**5.4.7 All teams shall follow the requirements for determining the age of a player as outlined in this section 5.4.7, as shown below:**

Proof of birth shall consist of a birth certificate or birth registration issued by the governing body within the State of birth, board of health records, state driver's license, passports, alien registration card issued by the United States government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, or a certification of birth abroad issued by the appropriate governmental agency, or a Certificate of Naturalization issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Hospital, religious or baptismal certificates are NOT acceptable as proof of birth. US Youth Soccer registration cards stamped INDOOR are NOT acceptable as proof of birth. The previous seasonal year US Youth Soccer Player Pass with picture attached is acceptable as proof of birth if used as outlined.

All players who wish to be registered on a competitive or tournament team or as a tournament guest player must provide a document, (either original or a legible copy), attesting to their date of birth and country of birth as outlined in bylaws 5.4.7 through 5.4.7.4

**5.4.7 (A) All professionally affiliated clubs (defined as clubs with legal, financial or de facto links to a professional team) shall continue to follow the requirements for determining the age of a player as outlined in this section 5.4.7 (A), as shown below:**

All players who wish to be registered on a competitive or tournament team or as a tournament guest player must provide a document, (either original or a legible copy), attesting to their date of birth and country of birth as outlined in bylaws 5.4.7.1 through 5.4.7.4

**5.4.7.1** If a player was born in the United States, then the only acceptable proof of age shall be one of the following types of documents:

- A birth certificate or birth registration issued by the governing body within the state of birth.
- Board of health record showing the birth date and which state within the United States the player was board.
- United States passport, which shows the dates of birth and country of birth.
- Other U.S. or state government document that shows date of birth and country of birth.
- The previous seasonal year's US Youth Soccer Player Pass with picture still attached if it was issued AFTER the 2016-2017 seasonal year.



**5.4.7.2** If the player was born outside of the United States, then any of the following documents are acceptable as proof of birth:

- Any certificate or document issued by the United States government that shows the date of birth including a US Consular Birth Certificate.
- Any certificate or document issued by a governmental agency of a country other than the United States that shows the date of birth.
- Passport issued by a country other than the United States, if the date of birth is shown on the passport.

**5.4.7.3** However, if any of the documents shown in bylaw 5.4.7.2 are used to document the date of birth of the player then an age appropriate International Transfer Clearance form must have been submitted to the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and an authorization to participate must have been received from U.S.S.F. prior to the player being able to register and/or be permitted to participate in any function of Ohio South or in any of Ohio South's member leagues or associations, other than attending tryouts. The authorization to participate must be included with the proof of birth that is submitted with the other player registration documents for that player.

**5.4.7.4** Hospital, religious, or baptismal certificates are NOT acceptable as proof of birth regardless of the country of birth. US Youth Soccer registration cards stamped INDOOR are NOT acceptable as proof of birth.

**5.4.8** Each OSYSA member Association or League will be responsible for checking and validating each player Registration Form and Card and team roster to insure that it has been properly completed. This will include all information, signatures, photos, validated birth dates, etc. in its proper location.

**5.4.9** Teams or players will not be allowed to compete in any games if all registration requirements are not met.

**5.4.10** Determination of the age of player is based on the calendar year of birth in which the seasonal year ends, not the year in which it begins. To determine the age of the player, his/her birth year is subtracted from the year in which the seasonal year ends. For example, if the fall season starts in 2016 which means the end of the seasonal year would be in 2017, then a player born in 2010 would be under-7s. 2017 minus 2010 equals under-7s.

**5.4.10.1** Under-7s players based on birth year and applicable ending seasonal year shall not be permitted to participate on competitive teams.

**5.4.10.2** Under-8s, under-9s, and under-10s competitive players cannot play up more than 3 years than their natural age group. This means that an under-8s player cannot play in an under-12s or older age group. An under-9s player cannot play in an under-13s or older age group. An under-10s player cannot play in an under-14s or older age group.

## **5.5 PREPARATION OF REGISTRATION CARDS**

**5.5.1** The following procedures will be required in entering the information on the US Youth Soccer Membership and Registration Form and Card.

**5.5.1.1** Cards must be printed in ink or typed. Cards in pencil will be rejected.

**5.5.1.2** Color Pictures must current and glued or printed to the registration cards. Staples or tape will not be acceptable. All player and coaches passes for competitive team must be laminated in plastic sleeves.

**5.5.1.3** If in the referee's opinion, the player's photo was over six months old at the time the registration card was issued, the referee will reject the photo on the field by crossing out the picture. The player will be permitted to participate in that game, but a new card with the fee charged must be issued prior to that player being able to compete in any future games.

**5.5.1.4** If the age of any player is challenged, the League Registrar may request additional proof of birth. This proof must be of an official nature such as an original or certified birth certificate. Old registration cards, copies of otherwise acceptable forms, and driver's license will not be accepted.

**5.5.1.5** Previous year's registration cards will not be accepted for proof of birth if the picture has been removed.

**5.5.1.6** Damaged cards (including those incorrectly filled out) may be returned for another card issued without charge.

**5.5.1.7** Every Player Pass will contain a OSYSA specified registration number.

## **5.6 LEAGUE ASSIGNED NUMBERS**

**5.6.1** All member league and association are assigned a league identification number for their use in assigning player numbers on the registration cards. The League or Association number is used as part of the Player Registration number placed on the US Youth Soccer Player Pass.

## **5.7 PLAYER NUMBER**

**5.7.1** Each player will be assigned an individual player number on his/her registration cards.

**5.7.2** Member Leagues *and* associations will have their teams assign each player an individual number. This number will be composed of the team number as designated in Section 4.2 followed by a last name alphabetically sequenced unique player number.

**5.7.3** A sample number would be **2B010905**

2 League Number – (In this case Miami Valley Youth Soccer Association)

G In this case a girl's team

01 Year of birth of oldest player (before 8/1)

09 Ninth team registered in that age group

05 Fifth player registered on this team.

## **5.8 LEAGUE TEAM ROSTER**

**5.8.1** Each team in every League will be required to have a OSYSA team roster listing all the players registered to that team.

**5.8.2** All additions, deletions (if deletion, - see Team Registration), and transfers to a team's roster must be handled by completing a Roster Change Form

**5.8.2.1** Addition of new players to a roster requires the Roster Change Form be submitted to the League Registrar for validation. A Player Membership and Registration form with validation of birth also must be submitted.

**5.8.2.2** Deletion of players requires that the Roster Change Form must be completed and provided to the League Registrar.

**5.8.2.3** Transfer of players between teams rostered in the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association requires a Roster Change Form to be completed and approved by the league registrar or assistant or associate league registrar. The old player pass issued to the player while on the previous team must be turned into the league registrar by the team that the player is transferring from at the same time that the Roster Change form is submitted. In addition, the coach must submit a completed OSYSA Player Transfer Form. Note: Rostered players who are changing teams between the Fall and Spring Sessions must be transferred.

**5.8.2.4** The league registrar or the league assistant or associate registrar will validate the Roster Change Form

**5.8.2.5** Transferred players will not be allowed to play for the new team until approval has been granted by the member League or Association. If the coach of the previous team approves the transfer, the player may play as soon as the Transfer Form has been approved. If the coach of the team from which the player is transferring disapproves of the transfer, the OSYSA Player Transfer Form will not be approved for a period of two weeks after its receipt by the league or association to which the player is transferring. The effective date of the transfer is the date that the coach of the transferring team signs the OSYSA Player Transfer Form or the date that it is signed by a representative of the league to which the players is transferring, (whichever is earliest). The two-week requirement begins with the date the transfer form is signed by coach, or team representative if the coach is unavailable, of the team the player is rostered with. The coach is required to immediately and promptly sign the form indicating his approval or disapproval and return it to the player.

If the form is not promptly signed by the coach, the player is to promptly notify the league to which the player is transferring and submit a copy of the OSYSA Player Transfer Form and a representative of the league to which the player is transferring will date the form as of the date it is received. This is the effective date of transfer and if it falls within the player's member League or Association authorized transfer date, the player will have met the transfer date established by his/her member League or Association and the League/Association must approve the transfer once it is submitted.

As part of the transfer process, the player pass for the team that the player is leaving must be turned in to the league that the player has left.

A transfer is the right of the player under US Youth Soccer rules. If the coach of the team from whom the player is transferring refuses to sign the form, or delays signing the form when asked, or does not give the player his/her player pass for use in the transfer process, the player may report the coach to the OSYSA Conduct Committee and the coach may be suspended for a period of up to 6 months following a hearing before the OSYSA Conduct Committee.

**5.8.2.6** If the transfer is approved, a new player pass with the properly revised player number will be issued for the transferred player. The new player pass will include the new assigned player number and team name.

**5.8.2.7** Players may quit and be removed from roster (if qualifying under the Bylaws - see Team Registration Bylaws). The Voluntarily Quit Form and a Roster Change Form must be completed and provided to the League Registrar in order for a player who has quit can be removed from the roster.

## **5.9 REGISTRAR'S VALIDATION STAMPS**

**5.9.1** All US Youth Soccer registration cards must be validated by a signature stamp of the OSYSA Registrar. Registration cards will not be valid until they are stamped by the League Registrar with the proper signature stamp.

**5.9.2** The OSYSA Executive Director will provide the number of needed signature stamps for each League prior to the start of the seasonal year or the start of the League's season.

**5.9.3** Each member Association or League will be responsible for the stamp(s) assigned to its care.

**5.9.4** The signature stamp for each League will include the expiration date and name or initials of the league. Leagues will not be allowed to validate cards for players and/or teams from other leagues, except by mutual consent of the involved leagues.

Teams may play in multiple leagues during the same seasonal year (Fall or Spring). All team's rosters (including guest player rosters if applicable) must be counter stamped (approved) by the League Registrar of all leagues in which they participate. Teams cannot be issued different player cards from different leagues.

## **5.10 LEAGUE GUEST PLAYERS**

**5.10.1** OSYSA competitive leagues may establish their own procedures which would allow, during league play only, properly rostered players from within an individual club to play for another team from within the same club, provided all US Youth Soccer and OSYSA age guidelines are met. Such players when they are participating with a team from the same club as the team that they are rostered to are known as Club Guest Players.

## **5.11 TOURNAMENT GUEST PLAYERS**

**5.11.1** Due to the fact that tournaments need to insure that teams who have entered into their tournaments will have sufficient players to participate, they may authorize teams to bring Tournament Guest Players to their event. Tournament Guest Players can only participate in tournaments that have authorized Tournament Guest Players in writing in advance of the tournament. This is normally done on the US Youth Soccer Application to Host Agreement.

**5.11.2** If the tournament permits guest players, coaches may contact other coaches of US Youth Soccer teams to see if registered players of that team wish to participate as a Tournament Guest Player. Players who are registered with a team may become a Tournament Guest Player for any other team if the tournament accepts guest players and if the team that player is registered to does not have a playing commitment during the period of time of the tournament. In these circumstances, the player may play without the approval of the coach of his/her team. If a player wants to play as a Guest Player for a team and the player's team has a playing commitment for the same period of time, the player cannot become a Tournament Guest Player without the approval of the coach the player is registered with. The player must honor his/her playing commitment to the team to which he/she is registered.

**5.11.3** Teams are not to contact players directly about becoming Tournament Guest Players. The coach of the tournament team is to contact the coach of the team that the player is registered with and determine if the team has a playing commitment. If no playing commitment exists, the coach of the player's team is to contact the player and determine if he/she wishes to participate as a Tournament Guest Player. It is the right of the player to elect to participate as a guest player if their team has no game commitment at the time the request is made and agreed upon.

**5.11.4** The coach of the team with whom the player is registered cannot refuse permission to play and stop the right of the player to become a Tournament Guest Player unless the team has a playing commitment. If no playing commitment exists, permission must be given. If the coach refuses to contact the players, the Tournament Team Coach may then (after discussion with the team coach) contact the player directly.

**5.11.5** If the player is registered on a OSYSA team and (1) is available to become a Tournament Guest Player, and (2) elects to participate, the coach of his/her team is to provide the player card to the tournament team coach. The player's pass is to be returned to the coach of the player's team immediately after the end of the tournament.

**5.11.6** Coaches may ask a non-registered player to become a Tournament Guest Player. OSYSA will register any non-registered player (at the established registration fee) and issue them a Tournament Guest Player Pass. This pass is only good during the seasonal year and is for play in tournaments that AUTHORIZE Tournament Guest Players. Players in bad standing cannot be Guest Players and have a Guest Players Pass issued. Only OSYSA can issue Tournament Guest Player Passes. Leagues and Associations are not to validate US Youth Soccer player passes for Tournament Guest Players.

**5.11.7** All players who participate as a guest player on a OSYSA team must have a US Youth Soccer Player Pass. All players who participate on a team who is an affiliate member of US Youth Soccer must have a player pass issued by that organization. No player is to participate without a player pass issued by the organization to which they belong.

**5.11.8** Guest Players on OSYSA teams cannot use as a Player Pass issued by any other soccer organization affiliated with US Soccer.

## **5.12 PLAYERS THAT HAVE PLAYED HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER**

**5.12.1** The Ohio High School Athletic Association has established Rules and Regulations concerning the playing of soccer by High School players outside of their High School season.

Ohio High School Athletic Association only permits five (5) players who played high school soccer in the previous Fall from the same high school to be on the same roster up until May 31 of the year. On and after June 1 through July 31, teams may have as many players from the same high school on their roster as they wish.

For member programs with a Spring season, the effect of the Ohio High School Athletic Association rule is to limit the teams to no more than five (5) players from each high school on their roster.

After June 1 through July 31 teams may use as guest players in tournaments and exceed the five (5) player rule (if the tournament accepts guest players).

The above described (5) player rule does not include high school seniors toward the maximum of 5 high school soccer players from the same high school who may be on the same OSYSA team. These

same rules limiting the number of players on a team also apply to those players who are on a middle school soccer team that is organized under the auspices of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

It is the coach's responsibility to insure that they do not violate the Ohio High School Athletic Association rule. The Ohio High School Athletic Association establishes the penalty for high school soccer players who violate their rules. While no one can predict the penalty, it most likely shall include suspension of one or more players for some or all of the high school soccer season.

To meet these regulations and not create problems for players who play high school soccer, the Coach Registration form reflects the necessary information needed to insure that the Bylaws of OSYSA are not violated by any team or player.

## **5.13 PLAYERS REGISTRATION – REGISTRAR INSTRUCTIONS**

### **5.13.1 PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Players Registration Bylaws is to insure that every team in each Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. sanctioned competitive League/Association has its players properly registered with US Youth Soccer. All League Registrars are to insure that each team properly completes the necessary US Youth Soccer Membership Registration form for each individual player on the team. In addition, the League Registrar is to insure that the League Team Roster is completed properly.

All league registrars and assistant and associate league registrars should thoroughly understand these instructions. This will permit Registrars to enforce the requirements of the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. as it relates to all coaches/managers under the Players Registration Bylaws (also see Player Registration Examples) and Membership Bylaws. If the requirements of the OSYSA Players Registration Bylaws and Membership Bylaws are not met, the registrar must refuse to complete the registration procedure.

Any questions concerning the Registration of players should be directed to the State Registrar or the OSYSA Executive Director.

### **5.14.1 US YOUTH SOCCER PLAYER PASS**

The US Youth Soccer Player Pass is issued by the US Youth Soccer for registration of players in the various State Associations such as the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc.. The player pass is used by the coach to provide proof that his/her club or team meets the requirements of playing and that the players have been approved for his/her club or team.

**5.14.2** The League or the associate or assistant Registrar is to check the proof of birth versus the players pass.

**5.14.3** There are no requirements that the Player and Coaches Pass be signed by the player or coach.

**5.14.4** The US Youth Soccer Player Registration also contains a Consent For Medical Treatment section. It is recommended that the parent(s) of the player sign this section. However, it is not a requirement and the player can be registered and his/her player pass validated if this section is not signed.

**5.14.5** The US Youth Soccer Player Registration Form also contains a waiver section where the parents agree to hold harmless all soccer organizations and coaches. It is a requirement of the program that this

section be signed by the parent(s) of the players. If this section is not signed the player pass for this player is not to be validated and the player cannot be registered until this section is signed by the parent(s).

## **5.15 TEAM'S LEAGUE ROSTER**

**5.15.1** Each league will provide each team with a League Team Roster for use in listing the players on the team roster.

**5.15.2** All copies of the league roster are to be made available to the League, assistant or associate Registrar at the time of player registration.

**5.15.3** The League or assistant or associate Registrar is to validate and approved the team roster after it has been verified as correct versus the US Youth Soccer Registration Cards (i.e., birth date, name, all players on roster, etc).

**5.15.4** All unused lines on the Team Roster are to be marked off so that no additional players can be written onto the Team Roster. Any changes to the Team Roster after the Team Roster has been validated by the League Roster are to be done via the Roster Change Form.

**5.15.5** The League Registrar or assistant or associate registrar is to stamp all copies of the League Team Roster with the OSYSA validation stamp and sign and date the League Team Roster.

**5.15.6** The League Registrar or assistant or associate registrar should insure that all the information required on the League Team Roster is entered and the information on the roster, player card, and the form all match. In addition, the information must be legible, so that the information contained on the form (both copies) can be read. If the form is incomplete, illegible, or improperly completed, the team is not to be registered. The material is to be sent back to the coach to be corrected.

**5.15.7** The league copy of this League Team Roster is to be given to the league following the instructions they have established.

## **5.16 DUTIES OF LEAGUE REGISTRARS AND ASSOCIATE OR ASSISTANT REGISTRARS AND ASSISTANT STATE REGISTRARS**

**5.16.1** Registrars must register players and approve Players Passes only during the period of time authorized by their league. Registrars must NEVER register players or issue Player Passes before or after the authorized period set by their league.

**5.16.2** League Registrar's must not register or approve Player Passes for players that want to go to tournaments. In other words, teams cannot have Player Passes approved unless they are playing in the League Registrar's league in the current season.

**5.16.3** Only the OSYSA State Registrar, the OSYSA Assistant State Registrars or the OSYSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR may approve Tournament Guest Player Cards and/or Tournament Guest Player Rosters or Tournament Teams. These cards must be stamped in red ink TOURNAMENT GUEST PLAYER and can only be used in conjunction with the Tournament Guest Player Roster as approved by one of the above listed OSYSA officials. See the section on Tournament Travel.

**5.16.4** During the Fall season, League Registrars may approve player passes for a team that will play in their league during the subsequent spring season (for example, a team of high school players for a

Fall tournament after the high school season is over). If a player is issued a pass pursuant to this rule, the player shall remain registered with the team for which they were issued a pass, unless they are transferred from that team or otherwise removed from the roster of that team as provided elsewhere in this manual.

**5.16.5** If a team registers for League Play and then drops from play, without participating in that league during the season for which they registered, the teams players passes must be picked up so that the team does not attempt to use them in tournament(s). Any such teams are to be reported to the Executive Director of OSYSA.



## **6.0 US YOUTH SOCCER COACH REGISTRATION BYLAWS**

### **6.1 PURPOSE**

A minimum of two coaches for every team entered into any Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. competitive member Association or League are required to complete the US Youth Soccer Membership and Registration form and coaches pass. The registration fee for coaches with teams playing in competitive programs is established by the Board of Directors.

The basic requirement for registration of coaches is established by OSYSA. Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. is responsible for validating all US Youth Soccer Registration Forms and passes for coaches. This responsibility is delegated by OSYSA to each league as long as the full procedures for registering coaches are followed by each league. Leagues are to refuse to register coaches and teams if all the requirements are not properly completed when the forms and cards are presented for validation.

### **6.2 COACHES PASS**

**6.2.1** Each team must register at least two coaches (and no more than three coaches) per team.

**6.2.2** Each coach, assistant coach and/or team manager listed on the Team Roster is required to be registered and to have a Coaches Pass. NO more than three Coaches Passes may be issued per team.

**6.2.3** The US Youth Soccer Coaches Membership and Registration form and coaches passes are to be completed following the procedures outlined in the Player Registration Bylaws. Each coach must have his/her picture attached to the pass in the same manner as the player pass.

**6.2.4** The coach's passes are to be given to the referee at each game along with the player passes.

**6.2.5** Only coaches holding a coaches pass may coach in a game. All of the coach's passes must be at the game for the coach to take an active part in the game.

**6.2.6** If a coach is sent off from a match, his/her card is to be submitted by the referee to the proper league official. If the coach is given an additional suspension, the league is to hold the coaches' card until the suspension is served.

**6.2.7** If all registered coaches of any team are sent off from a game, the game is to be suspended. The league will then evaluate the circumstances and determine the outcome of the game. Only coaches with coach's passes can continue a game. If all registered coaches are given additional suspensions and cannot be at the next game, the League will determine what action will be taken.

**6.2.8** In the event that one or more of the coaches for the team cannot be at the game, a replacement, (i.e. substitute), may be selected but only if the replacement is in compliance with Section 19 of these Bylaws. The referee must be notified of the change before the game begins and the replacement(s) must be properly identified. Only one replacement is permitted per coach's card.

**6.2.9** In the event that a replacement coach is sent off from a game (red carded), the registered coach is to serve any suspension issued by the league for the actions of the replacement coach.

**6.2.10** No replacement is permitted for a coach that has been sent off and is serving his/her suspension.

**6.1.11** If a team wishes to have a coach's pass issued for an additional coach, this may be done if the team does not have three coaches already registered. In the event that the team has three coaches registered, they may turn in one card and have an additional coach pass issued.

**6.2.12** To replace or to add coaches from the previous fall or to add coaches in the current season, the coach's pass must be turned in to the League Registrar and the validated League Roster form must be presented to show the number of coaches that have been already registered.

**6.2.13** New coaches may be added or currently registered coaches may be dropped from the team roster at any time during the season.

**6.2.14** Individuals may register as a coach on more than one team, but must have a separate coaches' pass for each team. Any red card issued only applies against the coach's pass for the team where the red card occurred. However, if the coach is suspended by his/her member League or Association or by OSYSA, the suspension is for all coach's passes.

**6.2.15** In addition to having a minimum of at least 2 coaches and a maximum of 3 coaches registered for each team as required above, any club of 3 or more teams may apply for one or more Director of Coaching, (D.O.C.) pass(es) for their club.

**6.2.15.1** A maximum of 4 coaches, either coaches registered to the team that is participating in the game or coaches using a D.O.C. pass may be on the team's/coach's sideline during a game.

**6.2.15.2** If a club has between 3 and 10 teams, inclusively, the club may apply for one D.O.C. pass. If a club has between 11 and 15 teams, inclusively, the club may apply for 2 D.O.C. passes. If a club has between 16 and 20 teams, inclusively, the club may apply for 3 D.O.C. passes. If a club has more than 20 teams, the club may apply for a maximum of 4 D.O.C. passes

All D.O.C. passes are only valid in the seasonal year in which they are issued.

D.O.C. passes, as developed by the OSYSA office, will only be issued by the OSYSA office and only after receipt of all the following items:

- a) A payment of \$50.00 per pass to be issued
- b) Confirmation from the OSYSA member league(s) that the Club is a member in good standing of that league
- c) Confirmation from the Club Secretary that the coach is approved by the Club to receive a Director of Coaching Pass
- d) Verification that the Club has an updated listing on the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association Web Page under league and club directory
- e) A current full color 2" x 3" passport style photograph of the coach
- f) Confirmation that the coach has at least a USSF "D" license or an NSCAA National license
- g) Confirmation of the submission of a Risk Management Form.
- h) Confirmation of compliance with Section 19 of these bylaws.

**6.2.15.4** The D.O.C. pass is valid only for the person to whom it was issued and is not transferable to any other person, at any time, for any reason. No person may be substituted for the person to whom the D.O.C. pass was issued.

**6.2.15.5** Any person to whom a Director of Coaching pass has been issued and who is wearing the pass on a neck lanyard visible to the outside may be in the team area during any league or OSYSA State Cup game and is permitted to act as a third or fourth coach for that team.

**6.2.15.6** Any person to whom a Director of Coaching pass has been issued and who is in the team area as a Director of Coaching during any league, OSYSA State Cup or tournament game and is sent off, then that person shall be required to immediately leave the area of the field as directed by the referee. In addition, that person shall be prohibited from attending, in any capacity, (either as a coach or as a Director of Coaching), the next game of the team in which the person was sent off. Furthermore, the Director of Coaching pass shall be turned over to the referee or other event official and sent to the OSYSA for further handling and disposition. The person to whom the Director of Coaching pass was issued, shall upon confirmation by the member league, OSYSA State Cup Chairperson or tournament director that the D.O.C. was sent off, shall be fined by OSYSA the amount of \$100.00.

**6.2.15.7** Any person to whom a D.O.C. pass has been issued and who is sent off from 3 or more games that have been organized by OSYSA and/or any of its member leagues, counted accumulatively, while at those games as a Director of Coaching, shall be ineligible to receive a D.O.C. pass for the following seasonal year.

**6.2.15.8** The use of the D.O.C. pass is specifically permitted at the State Cup tournament and all OSYSA sanctioned tournaments. Any OSYSA league may choose not to recognize the D.O.C. pass and any rights and privileges that are associated with the D.O.C. pass.

## **7.0 TRAVEL BYLAWS**

### **7.1 PURPOSE**

Participation in all soccer competitions (tournaments or friendly games) played by OSYSA/US Youth Soccer players and teams outside the boundaries of Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. against teams who are members of other US Youth Soccer State Associations must be reported on the OSYSA website ([WWW.OSYSA.COM](http://WWW.OSYSA.COM)). Each team is responsible for reporting the details of their travel to tournaments or friendly games outside of the OSYSA boundaries. Once all of the required information has been recorded on the OSYSA website, a Permission to Travel can be printed.

In addition, in order to participate in all soccer competitions (tournaments, friendly games, but not league games played by OSYSA/US Youth Soccer players and teams against teams who are members of organizations who are affiliate members of US Soccer (AYSO, SAY, US Soccer Clubs, Super Y League) INSIDE or OUTSIDE of the boundaries of OSYSA must provide Notification of Participation. Failure to provide this notification may have impact of your OSYSA insurance coverage. All teams that are going to participate in events sponsored by affiliate US Soccer Members should review the insurance section of this manual.

**7.1.1** Permission to Travel will only be authorized for participation in US Youth Soccer sanctioned tournaments, friendly games or exhibition games.

**7.1.2** All participation, outside of play in OSYSA sanctioned programs, is under the jurisdiction of the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. Teams that travel/participate and do not record their plans on the OSYSA website and print out a Permission to Travel form or a Notification of Participation may lose their insurance coverage (see Insurance Section)

**7.1.3** Permission to Travel is not required for a team's regularly scheduled league games that are located outside of OSYSA. Permission to Travel is required for all other games (except US Youth Soccer Ohio South National Championship Competition) that a team may play outside of the boundaries of OSYSA against teams who are members of other US Youth Soccer State Associations.

**7.1.4** Notification of Participation is required for all tournament or friendly games played against teams who are affiliate members of US Soccer inside or outside of the boundaries of OSYSA.

### **7.2. PERMISSION TO TRAVEL/NOTIFICATION OF PARTICIPATION**

**7.2.1** The following procedures must be followed in all cases when an OSYSA/US Youth Soccer registered team is going to participate in competition (games or tournaments) outside of the boundaries of Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. against teams who are members of other US Youth Soccer State Associations or inside or outside of the boundaries of OSYSA against teams who belong to organizations who are affiliate members of US Soccer (AYSO, SAY, US Soccer Clubs, Super Y League).

**7.2.2** The OSYSA Website ([WWW.OSYSA.COM](http://WWW.OSYSA.COM)) is to be used to report the team's plans (Permission to Travel or Notification of Participation). Once all of the information requested on the website is provided and a Permission to Travel or Notification of Participation can then be printed out.

**7.2.3** If Guest Players are authorized for the event they are to be recorded on the OSYSA website ([WWW.OSYSA.COM](http://WWW.OSYSA.COM)) on a Tournament Guest Player Roster. Once the guest players are registered a copy of the validated Tournament Guest Player Roster can be printed. As an alternative, the Coach

may complete a manual Tournament Guest Player Roster, sign it and it is acceptable for reporting tournament guest players. However, the coach must maintain a copy to use in the event of an insurance claim by any of the guest players who participated on the team. Insurance coverage may be lost for any guest players if they are not recorded on the OSYSA website or the coach and tournament cannot provide a copy of a Guest Player Roster which was submitted prior to play.

All guest players must have a US Youth Soccer Player Pass (issued for the players team or by OSYSA as a Guest Player) in order to be covered by the insurance. Teams that used players who are not registered with US Youth Soccer/OSYSA are subject to disciplinary action by OSYSA.

**7.2.4** The Permission to Travel form and supporting material must be submitted to the Tournament. The submission date for the Permission to Travel for friendly games is established by the host.

**7.2.6** Guest players must be listed on OSYSA Website or on the manual Tournament Guest Player Roster. These players are authorized to travel only if the request for event authorizes guest players in writing in their tournament material. This authorization on the approved US Youth Soccer "Application to Host" application is sufficient.

**7.2.7** Additional Guest players (if authorized by the tournament) may be added to the team for the tournament any time prior to the start of the tournament. If a team wishes to add guest players they are to be reported on the OSYSA website or an additional Tournament Guest Player Roster is to be completed. The additional Guest Player roster is to be forwarded to the tournament. OSYSA players can only be guest players if their team does not have a playing commitment conflicting with the tournament.

**7.2.8** No more than 18 players, (22 players if under-13s or older team), may be listed on any roster. If guest players are being added using the Tournament Guest Player Roster, the team must indicate on the roster completed for the tournament and their validated League Roster the players not playing in the tournament. On the team's league roster, those players not attending the tournament are to be marked off.

### **7.3 INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL**

Travel to international locations is the responsibility of the United States Soccer Federation. The following are the requirements that they have established that apply to all members of US Soccer and all affiliate members. (US Youth Soccer, SAY, AYSO, US Soccer Clubs, Super Y League, etc.).

**7.3.1** Travel to foreign countries requires submission of the application to travel to the District Commissioner or the OSYSA office at least 120 days prior to the start of play. Team applying for travel outside of the United States must also include a check for \$25.00 payable to the United State Soccer Federation, a completed copy of the US Youth Soccer Application for Travel form and a completed Ted Stevens & Amateur Sports Act form. This material must be submitted at least 120 days in advance of the event to the District Commissioner (recommend 150 days). Four (4) copies of the sanctioning form for the event, the team's validated league roster and guest player roster must be submitted along with the Application for Travel.

If the application is submitted less than 120 days in advance of play in foreign countries, the application for travel will then be submitted to US Soccer who will make the determination if they will approve any application. SPECIAL NOTE: For Requests for Travel for travel outside of the US submitted to the Executive Director to the State Office, in lieu of four copies of the material requested and the

stamped envelope, you may include one (1) copy of each and a check or money order for \$2.50 to cover the cost of stamps and copy expenses.

#### **7.4 UNAUTHORIZED TRAVEL**

**7.4.1** Since OSYSA requires that all teams must have Permission to Travel or provide Notification of Participation. Appropriate disciplinary action may be taken if a team travels without obtaining the required permission to travel or making the notification of participation. In addition, the OSYSA insurance benefits available to players, teams, coaches, etc. may not be applicable.

#### **7.5 MEDICAL RELEASE AND INSURANCE**

It is a recommendation of OSYSA that all teams that travel carry with them medical forms providing authority for the coach or manager to arrange for medical treatment in the event of injury. While the OSYSA insurance plan provides secondary medical coverage, coaches are also responsible to recommend that all players on the team carry their own medical insurance

## **8.0 TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING BYLAWS**

### **8.1 PURPOSE**

The basic requirement for sanctioning of tournaments is established by US Youth Soccer/OSYSA. OSYSA is responsible for sanctioning all US Youth Soccer tournaments in Central and Southern Ohio. OSYSA is responsible to insure that US Youth Soccer established standards are complied with by all sanctioned tournaments conducted within the OSYSA boundaries. The intent of the US Youth Soccer/OSYSA sanctioned tournament procedure is to set a standard of tournament play which all teams entering can expect in terms of age eligibility, match play and rules and procedures.

US Soccer regulation 601 states that teams of affiliate members of US Soccer, such as AYSO, SAY, US Club Soccer and Super Y Leagues, **MAY** play against each other. Regulation 601 does not state that we **MUST** play against any teams of these organizations. The decision to invite teams from these affiliate member programs of US Soccer is a decision of each individual tournament. If tournaments are going to invite teams from affiliate members, they must comply with the requirements established for the teams of these affiliate member organizations as outlined in this section. Tournaments are required to review the Insurance section of this manual.

All games outside of sanctioned league play are under the direct jurisdiction of the OSYSA Inc. The State Commissioner shall insure that all Tournament Sanctioning Bylaws are adhered to and enforced.

### **8.2 REQUIRED PROCEDURES**

**8.2.1** Only OSYSA member leagues and associations in good standing can be considered as hosts for tournaments. Only US Youth Soccer registered teams, teams registered with other US Soccer members or foreign teams registered with their own national association are permitted (if specified on the sanctioning form) to participate in OSYSA sanctioned tournaments.

**8.2.2** All proposed tournaments must have approval in advance from OSYSA and from their hosting league or association. Tournaments conducted within the boundaries of OSYSA must complete US Youth Soccer Y-09 Application to Host Tournaments or Games. Supporting materials as outlined in these Bylaws must be submitted to OSYSA State Commissioner at least 120 days before the tournament.

Based on the affiliation of the teams that will be accepted there are two separate types of tournaments, Restricted Tournaments and Unrestricted Tournaments.

Restricted Tournaments are tournaments which only accept teams that are registered with Ohio South and/or other US Youth Soccer National State Associations.

Unrestricted Tournaments are tournaments which accept teams from any US Soccer youth affiliate, including but not limited to; AYSO, SAY, US Club Soccer, and Super Y-League. If a tournament accepts teams from a US Soccer affiliate other than from a US Youth Soccer National State affiliate, then the tournament must accept all teams regardless of their affiliation with US Soccer and must do so on an equal basis.

In addition, there are other requirements for members of US Soccer outlined in these **bylaws** that must be followed if they are invited.

The US Youth Soccer Tournament Hosting Agreement is to be completed by each sanctioned Member organization of OSYSA who is requesting sanctioning of a tournament. Only sanctioned member Associations and Leagues who are direct members of OSYSA, may submit an application. Any teams, or clubs that are a member of a sanctioned member of OSYSA must have their sanction request approved by their Member League or Association before it can be approved by OSYSA. If the member League or Association approves a club to operate a sanctioned tournament, the member Association or League must provide a written statement prior to the OSYSA sanctioning to the State Commissioner, confirming the member Association's or League's agreement to host the tournament. The member Association or League is responsible for the conduct of the event by their member club. This responsibility includes, but is not limited to, proper compliance with all Bylaws and financial responsibility in the event of some type of failure by the Association or League's club.

**8.2.3** The Application to Host Tournaments or Games must include any exceptions to US Youth Soccer Rules, such as length of game and authorization of guest players. This information is to be listed in the Bylaws Modification Section. Once this information has been provided to the potential visiting teams, it cannot be changed by the tournament except in the case of emergencies such as bad weather. The OSYSA State Commissioner must approve all other changes.

**8.2.4** The following must be completed and submitted to OSYSA with the Application to Host Tournaments or Games found on the OSYSA website:

- a) Anticipated Number of divisions;
- b) Maximum number of teams that will be accepted for play;
- c) Number of fields
- d) Set of tournament playing rules;
- e) Letter of Agreement and commitment from Referee Assignor

**8.2.5** All Applications to Host Tournaments or Games are to specify club teams and/or tournament teams with a number of specified guest players. If guest players are not authorized on the application to host and distributed with the invitation to submit an application, guest players are not to be permitted to play in the tournament. "Select teams," means state, regional, or national select teams.

**8.2.6** The rules of the tournament must specify that the roster for all teams entering the event cannot be changed after the start of the tournament.

**8.2.7** Only teams with US Youth Soccer player passes or whose players are registered in a league that is a part of a state or national association that is member of US SOCCER are to be permitted to play in any OSYSA tournament. Players with affiliate US Soccer members must have a player pass from their association.

**8.2.8** OSYSA sanctioned competitive tournaments may not accept under-7s and younger teams.

**8.2.9** OSYSA sanctioned tournament games (exclusive of overtime play) shall be organized so that:

- a) Under-10s and younger teams can play a maximum of 100 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- b) Under-11s and under-12s teams can play a maximum of 120 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- c) Under-13s and under-14s teams can play a maximum of 140 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- d) Under-15s and under-16s teams can play a maximum of 160 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- e) Under-17s, under-18s, and under-19s teams can play a maximum of 180 minutes of scheduled play per day.



### 8.3 NUMBER OF TEAMS

**8.3.1** Due to the shortage of referees to cover games in tournaments, it may be necessary to restrict the number of teams that will be permitted to enter any tournament.

**8.3.2** If in the opinion of the State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA), the number of referees available to support the number of teams in a tournament(s) on any date is not sufficient, the tournament(s) may be restricted to the number of teams that it may accept.

**8.3.3** If the SYRA determines that the total need for referees exceeds those available, he is authorized to establish the total number of teams that the tournament(s) may accept. This limit may be in total or in any single age group.

**8.3.4** If two or more tournaments are scheduled for the same time period and the number of teams must be restricted, each tournament must be reduced by the same percentage. The percentage reduction is to be determined based on the total number of teams that can be supported by referees. The percentage reduction is to be based on the number of teams that can be supported and applied equally to each tournament based on the number of teams entered in the tournament(s) last year. This percentage reduction does not apply to a new tournament. But OSYSA may limit the number of teams in a new tournament.

### 8.4 STATE ACTION

**8.4.1** Upon review, the State Commissioner will grant approval to hold the tournament if all of the material is properly submitted within the authorized time and if the SYRA acknowledges that there are an adequate number of referees for the tournament to be held. The application, if approved, will be returned to the hosting organization for distribution with the letter of invitation. If the number of teams is to be restricted, the tournament will be notified by the State Commissioner as well as the notice contained in the agreement letter from the SYRA.

**8.4.2** If the tournament intends to invite foreign teams, including teams from Canada and Mexico, **the tournament will forward all required fees and** documentation to OSYSA. OSYSA, if they approve the request, will forward the documentation and fees to U.S. Soccer for approval.

### 8.5 TOURNAMENT ACTION

**8.5.1** The Tournament is required to take certain actions in conjunction with providing information about their tournament to other affiliated organizations.

**8.5.1.1** No invitations may be distributed until OSYSA has approved the tournament application form. The fully approved application must accompany all invitations **and/or shown on the tournament website.**

**8.5.1.2** The tournament must require that an approved league and tournament roster and Permission to Travel forms(applicable for all out of state/country teams) be submitted prior to the start of the tournament. In addition, if teams of affiliate member US Soccer organizations are invited they ***MUST*** also provide a roster, which cannot be changed after the start of their first game of the tournament and a letter signed by their US Soccer affiliate member that they are in good standing with their organization.

**8.5.1.3** Tournaments must require that all coaches of the participating teams are to be in compliance with Section 19 (Concussion Awareness Training) and Section 12 (Risk Management) of these OSYSA By-Laws.

**8.5.1.4** If the tournament is going to allow guest players, they must also require that the accepted team submit a Tournament Guest Player Roster to properly identify guest players. This roster may be the Tournament Guest Player Roster sent by the tournament to accepted teams or it may be a separate guest player roster developed by the tournament or authorized by another state association. No matter which guest player roster is used, it must clearly show which players are guest players. Once the tournament's first game begins, rosters (either 18 or 22 player rosters), cannot be changed.

**8.5.1.5** The purpose of these two rosters, a team's league roster and a guest player roster, is to assure that guest players, (if authorized), are properly identified by the team.

**8.5.1.6** Teams cannot be allowed to play in the tournament if they are not properly registered with their US Youth Soccer state or national association and/or do not have permission to travel to other US Soccer affiliates.

**8.5.2** All tournaments should include in their tournament rules the procedures for dealing with weather delays and field closures.

**8.5.3** Medical personnel or athletic trainers should be available at all tournament sites. If a player receives treatment from the tournament's medical personnel or athletic trainer, the medical personnel or athletic trainer should complete a form indicating their recommendation if the player should not return to participate in the tournament. OSYSA Bylaw Section 19 must be followed.

## **8.6 TOURNAMENT REFEREES**

**8.6.1** The appointment of a US SOCCER certified Referee Assignor must be approved by the State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA). In addition, the OSYSA and the SYRA must agree with the Tournament Referee Assignor that a sufficient number of referees are available to cover all tournament games. If there is a conflict as to the sufficiency of the number of referees, the SYRA shall make the final determination.

**8.6.2** A US SOCCER certified Referee Assignor is responsible for ensuring that US Youth Soccer rules are followed. This includes ensuring modifications noted in the Application to Host Tournament and Games are followed.

**8.6.3** The tournament is to assign only currently licensed US Soccer officials.

**8.6.3.1** The Tournament is responsible for ensuring that all out of state referees are currently in compliance with Section 19 of these OSYSA By-Laws (Concussion Awareness Training) before they can be assigned to a game.

**8.6.3.2** Within 30 days after the conclusion of the tournament the Tournament Referee Assignor shall submit an Ohio South Referee Assignor's Post Tournament Report form to the SYRA. This form, when submitted to the SYRA shall contain the following information:

- a) The number of teams in each age/gender group that the tournament was approved to accept
- b) The number of teams in each age/gender group that the tournament accepted

- c) The number of games in each age/gender group that were officiated with only 2 USSF certified referees, (used 1 club Assistant Referee)
- d) The number of games in each age/gender group that were officiated with only 1 USSF certified referee (used 2 club Assistant Referees).

All Tournament Referee Assignors, as a representative of the tournament, are required to submit the above information prior to this the tournament being sanctioned for the following year.

The Ohio South Referee Assignor's Post Tournament Report only applies to tournaments sanctioned by OSYSA.

## **8.7 TOURNAMENT PROBLEMS**

**8.7.1** Teams traveling from other state or national associations are under the jurisdiction of their registering state association. Tournaments sanctioned in the geographic boundaries of OSYSA are under the jurisdiction of OSYSA.

**8.7.2** All players sent off or coaches dismissed from tournament games must be reported by the referee to the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee is responsible for reporting all ejections, or any other irregularities to the OSYSA State Commissioner.

**8.7.2.1** Any player dismissed from a game for exhibiting signs or symptoms of a concussion must not be permitted to participate in the remainder of the game. The referee is to retain the player's pass and submit it along with a report to the Tournament Committee. It is then the responsibility of the Tournament Committee to assure that Section 19 of these OSYSA By-Laws is followed. The player's pass shall be returned to the team when compliance with the Concussion Bylaw has been met or at the conclusion of the team's play in the tournament

**8.7.3** All players and coaches sent off the field (red card) are to sit out at least their next game. In the event of serious issues, the tournament is to hold a conduct hearing to determine if additional penalties should be assessed.

**8.7.4** Players who are sent off or coaches dismissed from the last game of a tournament are prohibited from participating in their next league or tournament game. Passes of players sent off and coaches dismissed shall be returned to the team, unless the send-off is the result of violent conduct or assault, in which case the card and an Official Conduct Report will be sent directly to OSYSA for distribution to their State Association.

**8.7.5** Tournaments are required to submit to the State Commissioner the "POST Tournament Report" within 10 days of the conclusion of the tournament. Failure to provide this report and the required information may result in the tournament not being sanctioned for the next year.

## **8.8 SMALL SIDED TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING BYLAWS**

**8.8.1** All the Bylaws regarding the sanctioning of regular tournaments also apply to the sanctioning, organization and operation of small-sided tournaments, except as follows:

**8.8.1.1** Small-sided tournaments may schedule more than two (2) games per day for any team, provided that;

- a) Under-10s and younger teams can play a maximum of 100 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- b) Under-11s and under-12s teams can play a maximum of 120 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- c) Under-13s and under-14s teams can play a maximum of 140 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- d) Under-15s and under-16s teams can play a maximum of 160 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- e) Under-17s, under-18s, and under-19s can teams play a maximum of 180 minutes of scheduled play per day.

**8.8.1.2** Players of all ages may participate in small sided games.

**8.8.1.3** All requirements and restrictions outlined in the tournament sanction section also apply to small-sided events.

## **8.9 FRIENDLY GAMES**

**8.9.1** All proposed friendly games with teams from other state or national associations must **provide notice to OSYSA** at least 7 days before the friendly game(s), with the details of the event, (i.e. date, time, location, names of teams, gender of teams and their ages

**8.9.1.1** Teams who belong to organizations who are affiliate members of US Soccer may be invited to participate in friendly games. Independent teams may not participate in Friendly games (see Section 15 – Insurance).

**8.9.1.2** Permission to Travel is required for all teams that travel from outside the boundaries of OSYSA or from teams who are affiliate members of US Soccer and a letter from their National, State or Local organization authorizing their participation in any friendly game that is hosted by any sanctioned member organization within OSYSA.

**8.9.1.3** Player passes and authorized Permission to Travel must be verified by the host of the games.

**8.9.1.4** Fees charged to the teams in the friendly games must be used for the benefit of the participants (i.e. referee reimbursement, food and/or drinks provided to the participants). Any excess funds must be returned at the end of the friendly games on an equal basis to the participating teams.

**8.9.1.5** Permission to Travel is required for OSYSA teams that travel to play in any friendly game outside the boundaries of OSYSA. This requirement applies even if the OSYSA team is going to play against a team that belongs to a affiliate member of US Soccer. If a Permission to Travel is needed, it can be printed from the OSYSA Website ([WWW.OSYSA.COM](http://WWW.OSYSA.COM))

**8.9.1.6** Friendly games meeting the following criteria will be exempt from the tournament sanctioning procedures described in the OSYSA State Manual. Teams cannot play more than two equivalent games on the one-day of competition.

a) The friendly games must not generate funds exceeding the amount needed to cover the expenses of the games.

b) The purpose of the games must be to provide practice games for participants.

c) A friendly game competition cannot take place on more than two consecutive days. All of the games during the two days of the competition must be against the same teams.

d) No awards, trophies, medals, ribbons etc. may be given. No programs may be printed for the games. No advertising or sponsorships may be obtained for the games. No t-shirts, medallions or gifts may be sold or distributed at the games.

e) A maximum of 5 teams per age group per gender may participate in friendly games. If the number of teams in the Friendly Games exceeds this number of teams per age group, the event is no longer an OSYSA sanctioned event. If this occurs the OSYSA insurance will not provide any coverage for any of the teams or players.

**8.9.1.7** Teams are not permitted to playoff ties in overtime in friendly games. Teams are not permitted to play in “championship” games to determine an age group winner during friendly game competitions. Clubs/teams hosting and/or participating in unauthorized competitions, or allowing participation by unregistered players or by teams not authorized to travel may be declared "not in good standing" and precluded from travel and from US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup competition for a time determined by the state association.

## **8.10 TOURNAMENT PLANNING**

**8.10.1** To permit OSYSA member leagues and associations and their associated clubs, to better plan their tournaments, OSYSA will establish an online process by which existing tournaments can post information regarding their tournament to an OSYSA tournament calendar of planned tournaments up to three calendar years in advance. The type of information that would be included in the calendar is:

- a) The name of the tournament
- b) The tentative dates that the tournament is planned to be held.
- c) The ages and genders of teams that will be invited to the tournament
- d) The approximate number of teams in each individual age and gender group that will be invited to the tournament

## **9.0 REFEREE BYLAWS**

### **9.1 PURPOSE**

The basic rules of play for OSYSA member leagues and associations are covered under FIFA/US SOCCER /US YOUTH SOCCER rules of play. The following are the Bylaws for all referees to follow in administering OSYSA games.

### **9.2 GENERAL**

**9.2.1** All OSYSA competitive games will be officiated by the diagonal system of control/three- person FIFA/US SOCCER /US YOUTH SOCCER referee system, except as noted in Sections 9.2.3a and/or 9.2.3.b. All assigned referees and assistant referees are to be US SOCCER licensed officials.

**9.2.2** The assigned referee is to be older than the players of the assigned game. Since all games are to be officiated by referees with current US SOCCER licenses, referees may be asked to show their current US SOCCER Referee Registration ID card.

**9.2.3** It is not acceptable to officiate games by any system other than the diagonal system of control/three-person system except:

a. Recreational programs may elect to assign:

- 1) three officials using the diagonal system of control/three-person system or,
- 2) two referees using a two whistle system or
- 3) just one referee to officiate a game.

b. Small-sided competitive games may elect to assign:

- 1) three officials using the diagonal system of control/three-person system or
- 2) just one referee to officiate a game.
- 3) two referees using a two whistle system at the 7v7 format or smaller

**9.2.4** In the event that one or more of the assigned assistant referees do not show up for the assigned game, the referee, (a.k.a. game official), must approve or appoint club lines person(s).

### **9.3 PLAYER, REFEREE AND SPECTATOR SAFETY**

**9.3.1** Safety of the participants is one of the most important functions of a referee. The game officials (a.k.a. referees), must take all the actions necessary to protect the safety of everyone in the field.

**9.3.2** When lightning is sighted or thunder is heard by the Referee and/or Assistant Referees, the Referee is to immediately suspend the game and direct the players and coaches leave the field and take appropriate cover in cars or other proper structures.

**9.3.3** Games that have been suspended for lightning are not to be re-started until all of the lightning has left the area, i.e. no sooner than thirty (30) minutes after the last sighting of lightning or the last sound of thunder, whichever occurs last.

**9.3.4** For any other dangerous weather situations the game must be suspended and everyone directed to moved to safety.

**9.3.5** The referee must not start games, or must stop the game, if field conditions would result in danger to the players. The referee may stop the game if continued play would result in damage to the playing

field. However, closing of a field also may be done by the field coordinator or other league, association, tournament, club or team administrator who is responsible for the field.

## **9.4 GAME PREPARATION**

**9.4.1** It is the responsibility of the game officials to check the field of play prior to the start of the game.

**9.4.2** The game officials must check and determine that both goals are properly anchored and if not, the game shall not be started until each goal is securely anchored. The condition of the field, nets, corner flags, and line markings must also be inspected prior to the start of the game.

**9.4.3** The game officials must individually check the US YOUTH SOCCER player passes prior to the game. The pass is to be checked for the following:

- (1) that the age of each of the players is correct for age of game,
- (2) that the picture of player is current,
- (3) that the expiration date of US YOUTH SOCCER player pass is current,
- (4) that it includes the validation signature of OSYSA State Commissioner, and
- (5) that the validation signature includes the proper league identification. In tournament games, player passes may be from another US YOUTH SOCCER State Association, another USSF affiliate member association or a FIFA member national soccer association.

**9.4.4** The game officials must also check each OSYSA coaches pass prior to the game. The pass is to be checked for the following:

- (1) which individuals are authorized coaches,
- (2) that the pass is for the team playing the game,
- (3) that it includes the validation signature of OSYSA State Commissioner, and
- (4) that the validation signature includes the proper league initials. In tournament games, coaches' passes may be from another US YOUTH SOCCER State Association, another USSF affiliate member association or a FIFA member national soccer association.

**9.4.5** Each player pass and each coach pass shall remain in the game officials' possession until the end of the game. The game officials are not to return the individuals player pass or coach pass for any player or coach who is red carded or found to be in violation of any rules or regulations of FIFA/US SOCCER /US YOUTH SOCCER and/or the member league, association or tournament.

**9.4.6** No team is permitted to dress more than 18 players at any game. This limit shall also apply to any under-13s or older teams that may have a roster of up to 22 players. No more than 18 different players may play for a team in any one game. If more than 18 different players take part in the game, the game is to be suspended and the details reported to the appropriate league, association, or tournament, administrator.

**9.4.7** No team is permitted to have more than three (3) coaches each with a validated coach pass, plus a person holding a validated Director of Coaching Pass as provided in Section 6.2.15. In the event that all registered coaches are sent off from the game, the game is to be suspended and the details reported to the proper league, association tournament administrator. The game cannot continue without a registered coach on the sideline. A substitute coach is not permitted to replace a coach sent off during a game. If a coach of the team has a validated coach pass and is not at the game for any reason (except for having received a red card in the previous game), a substitute may use that coach's pass for that game. The registered coach is responsible for the actions of the substitute and must serve any penalty given to the person acting in his/her behalf.

## **9.5 GAME PAYMENT**

**9.5.1** All game officials can expect to be paid for their services unless they have waived this fee and are donating their services.

**9.5.2** Payment for fees will be by the method approved by the league, association or tournament. For example, the league, association or tournament may require each team to present the game fee to the referee prior to the start of the game. In this case, the fee is to be paid in the exact dollar amount due by each team. The Referee is responsible for paying the Assistant Referees and/or Fourth Official at the rates established by the league, association or tournament. Another example would be payment by cash or check for all games officiated by game officials during a specific period of time.

**9.5.3** Payment for the OSYSA US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup or Presidents Cup games may be made by check after conclusion of the US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup or Presidents Cup play. Some tournaments may also issue payment after the tournament is concluded.

## **9.6 REFEREE RESPONSIBILITIES - GAME ACTIONS**

**9.6.1** If problems occur during a game, it is the Referees' responsibility to promptly provide written documentation of actions that occurred during the game:

**9.6.2** The referee is to submit within the second business day a written report detailing the circumstances of all red cards issued or coach dismissals, as well as retaining the US YOUTH SOCCER player's pass or coach's pass. Both the report and the US YOUTH SOCCER pass are to be forwarded to the appropriate individual of the member leagues, associations, or tournaments. If established by the member leagues, associations, or tournaments copies of the referee's report can be sent to other applicable individuals.

**9.6.3** The referee must submit a written report directly to the appropriate member league, association, or tournament, administrator detailing the circumstances of all games that are suspended for reasons other than weather.

**9.6.4** The referee is to submit a written report to the SYRA within 24 hours detailing any assault or abuse of a game official. A copy is to be forwarded to the OSYSA State Office.

## **9.7 OSYSA/US YOUTH SOCCER PLAYER/COACH PASSES**

**9.7.1** Play of the game by properly registered individuals is a key responsibility of the referee. The referee must understand the function and use of the US YOUTH SOCCER Player Pass as it relates to each member Association or League.

**9.7.2** To participate in a member Association or League game, a player must be registered with OSYSA, must have an OSYSA/ US YOUTH SOCCER player pass, and must be listed on the official team roster or a member League, Association or tournament guest player roster

Each player of any team listed on the team's official roster (or guest player roster), but at the field without a valid US YOUTH SOCCER player pass, is required to sign a sheet of paper and include his/her phone number, address, birth date, and birth location in the presence of the referee. This signed sheet of paper is to be submitted by the referee to the appropriate authority.



**9.7.3** The validation stamp on the picture side of the US YOUTH SOCCER player pass contains the identifying initials of the OSYSA member league or association, except as provided in Section 5.10. For example the initials MVYSA appears for Miami Valley Youth Soccer Association. In addition, the team's roster also includes the identifying stamp of the member Association or League. These stamps indicated that the player pass and roster has been validated for play in that specific OSYSA member league or association. However, teams can participate in two leagues at the same time or a team may switch league between seasons. In these two cases, the identifying Stamp of both member Leagues and Association will be found the team's roster (and guest players roster if applicable). The referee shall not allow a player to participate in the game if these identifying stamps are not present on the team's roster(s) from the member Association(s) or League) for which the game is being played.

**9.7.4** It is the responsibility of each team to bring their US YOUTH SOCCER player and coach passes and a copy of their League Roster (and guest player roster if applicable) to every game. Rosters must be made available to the referee upon request.

**9.7.5** If the referee determines that a picture of a player was over six months old at the beginning of the current seasonal year {seasonal year runs from Sept. 1 to August 31), the picture should be marked out in ink with a "X". The player is to be permitted to participate in the game.

If a player presents a card with the picture already "X"ed out, a referee in a prior game has already determined that the picture is over the authorized age and, as such, that player is not to be permitted to participate in the game.

**9.7.6** If the age of a player shown on the player pass is older than the age group of the teams playing, then that player shall not be allowed to participate in the game. The player's pass is to be retained by the referee and submitted to the appropriate league, association, or tournament official, along with a written report detailing the circumstances.

**9.7.7** If the US YOUTH SOCCER player does not have an OSYSA validation stamp on the picture side of the player pass, the player shall be allowed to play in the game as long as he/she is listed on the team's official roster. If the player is not listed on the roster, he/she shall not to be permitted to play. In either case the player's pass is to be retained by the referee submitted to the appropriate league, association, or Tournament official.

**9.7.8** If the US YOUTH SOCCER player pass is stamped "TOURNAMENT GUEST PLAYER" the player is not to be allowed to participate in a league game. These player passes are for tournaments play only and are not valid for league games.

**9.7.11** OSYSA sanctioned tournaments may permit the use of Tournament Guest Players during their tournament games. If the tournament rules permit guest players, US YOUTH SOCCER player passes stamped TOURNAMENT GUEST PLAYERS are authorized for use only during the tournament. In addition, any valid US YOUTH SOCCER player passes from other teams may be used for players who are guest players for that tournament. All player passes (either Tournament Guest passes or passes from other teams) must be current and valid for the year and authorized by the home state association / US YOUTH SOCCER.

**9.7.12** For US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup or Presidents Cup games, only players with OSYSA/US YOUTH SOCCER player passes for those teams are permitted to play. Tournament guest players are not permitted to play in US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup or Presidents Cup games.

**9.7.13** If the OSYSA/US YOUTH SOCCER player pass has an expired date, the card is to be retained by the referee and forwarded to the appropriate league or association official. The player is not to be allowed to play in the game.

**9.7.14** Teams that play in two or more different leagues may have and use player passes that are validated by the other league(s). These player passes may be used if the team's roster (and guest player roster if applicable) are counter stamped and approved by both OSYSA member leagues or associations.

## **9.8 PROTESTS**

**9.8.1** Problems and errors do happen on a soccer field. When such problems occur the game officials are responsible for providing an accurate and true picture of exactly what happened without regard to whether they are wrong or right. Protest procedures exist to provide for the correct application of the Laws of the Game of Soccer in every situation. Protests are not intended to prove whether the game officials are right or wrong.

**9.8.2** A Coach wishing to file a formal written protest must notify the referee of this intention. The notification shall be made in a courteous manner, on the field, during and/or by the conclusion of the game. The referee is to notify the opposing coach that a protest of the game is being filed.

**9.8.3** After a formal protest is submitted the referee shall provide a written report to the OSYSA member league or association official requesting the report outlining all the appropriate details concerning the protest. This information is to include the time of game when the problem occurred, the score at that time and the score at the conclusion of the game.

**9.8.4** Member leagues, associations, and tournaments, may set standards if they are going to accept protests. If member leagues, associations and tournaments elect to accept protest, they must be based on misapplication of the Laws of the Game of Soccer, the bylaws of OSYSA and / or the rules of member leagues, associations, or tournaments. Judgment calls by game officials are not a basis for protests.

## **9.9 GAME ENFORCEMENT**

Referees are to enforce the laws and regulations of the game as outlined by FIFA/US SOCCER /US YOUTH SOCCER including playing Bylaws that are modified in writing by OSYSA and/or the OSYSA member league(s), association(s), or tournaments.

## **9.10 MISCONDUCT BY A GAME OFFICIAL**

**9.10.1** In conjunction with USSF Policy 531-10 "Misconduct by Game Officials", OSYSA shall delegate jurisdiction of an allegation of misconduct by a game official, as defined in USSF Policy 531-10, Sections (A) and (B), to the Ohio South State Referee Committee (OSSRC). Jurisdiction shall include the imposition of appropriate penalties.

## **9.11 MISCONDUCT TOWARD A GAME OFFICIAL**

**9.11.1** In conjunction with the USSF Policy 531-9 "Misconduct Toward Game Officials", OSYSA may conduct a hearing for acts pertaining to any alleged assault or abuse upon any game official

pursuant to the defined criteria set forth in the USSF policy. Any appeal of an adverse decision under this section shall be handled by the USSF/OSYSA Appeals Committee.

## **10.0 US YOUTH SOCCER OHIO SOUTH STATE CUP/PRESIDENTS CUP/GOVERNORS CUP BYLAWS**

### **10.1 PURPOSE OF US YOUTH SOCCER OHIO SOUTH STATE CUP/PRESIDENTS CUP /GOVERNORS CUP**

The US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup (hereafter referred to as State Cup) and the US Youth Soccer Ohio South Presidents Cup (hereafter referred to as Presidents Cup) and the Ohio South Governors Cup (hereafter referred to as Governors Cup) are the most important team competitions conducted by the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (OSYSA) or by any Member within OSYSA. As such, these competitions require that each member team and league shall support the State Cup, Presidents Cup and Governors Cup as their first priority. These three OSYSA organized tournaments, (State Cup, Presidents Cup and Governors Cup) shall be known collectively as “state tournaments”.

These Bylaws are designed to supplement the US Youth Soccer National Championship rules and National Presidents Cup rules and establish the procedures followed by OSYSA.

### **10.2 OPERATION OF STATE TOURNAMENTS**

The State Cup will offer primary competition in the following age groups for both boys and girls; under-19s, under-18s, under-17s, under-16s, under-15s, under-14s, under-13s, under-12s, and under-11s.

The Presidents Cup will offer primary competition in the following age groups for both boys and girls; under-19s, under-18s, under-17s, under-16s, under-15s, under-14s, under-13s, under-12s, and under-11s.

The Governors Cup will offer primary competition in the following age groups for both boys and girls; under-19/18s, under-17s, under-16s, under-15s, under-14s, under-13s, under-12s, and under-11s.

As determined by the OSYSA Board of Directors, the state tournaments may be run simultaneously.

Team competition in the State Cup and Presidents Cup will be one loss and out format until there are 16, 12, 8, 4, or 2 teams remaining. Then the State Cup and Presidents Cup will be round robin format until the semi finals and finals which will be one loss and out format.

All teams applying to the Ohio South Governors Cup will be accepted into the event and placed in group play. Governors Cup will be round robin format until the semi finals and finals which will be a one loss and out format.

**10.2.1** Prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, the OSYSA President will appoint, subject to advice and consent of the Board of Directors, a chairperson and an assistant chairperson for each of the state tournaments. Upon 30 days notice of such action, by a 2/3's affirmative vote of the OSYSA board members who are present at a meeting of the OSYSA Board of Directors, the chairperson or assistant chairperson of any state tournament may be removed from their position with the tournament.

**10.2.1.2** The OSYSA Executive Director working with the OSYSA Director of Coaching, the OSYSA SYRA, chairperson and assistant chairperson of each of the state tournaments shall recommend to the OSYSA Board of Directors for their approval the:

- a) team entry fees for the state tournaments.
- b) Play dates for the state tournaments (consistent with the State tournament Bylaws).
- c) Referee fees for the state tournaments.

The function of the State Tournament Committee(s) shall be:

- a) To seed the teams as determined by each state tournament committee.
- b) To operate the state tournaments.
- c) To submit recommendations for changes/improvements via the state tournament Chairperson(s) to the OSYSA Board of Directors and to perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.

The OSYSA Office staff will be responsible for establishing the schedules based on the seeding done by the state tournament committee(s) using the sites selected. The OSYSA office will post the state tournament schedules on the OSYSA website. All semi finals and finals shall be scheduled as shown in Appendix One.

**10.2.2** In both the State Cup and Presidents Cup round robin format, teams will be seeded into brackets of four (4) teams each. If there are 16 teams, the teams with the best record in each bracket will advance to the semi finals. If there are 12 teams, the teams with the best record in each bracket will advance to the semi finals plus one team (wildcard) from one of the three brackets which has the best remaining record. If there are 8 teams, the team with the best record in each bracket and the team with the second best record in each bracket (as wildcards) will move to the semi finals. If there are 4 teams, the two teams with the best records will move to the finals. If there are 2 teams, they will compete in a single loss and out competition. The determination of teams with the best records or second best records is based on the procedures listed in 10.7.4 and 10.7.5.

Governors Cup may accept an odd/uneven number of teams in an age group. Those teams may also be seeded and placed into round robin play. If an odd/uneven number of teams have been accepted into a division, not all teams may play each other and/or cross over games may need to be played. The teams with the highest points total in round robin play per 10.7.4 and 10.7.5 will be advanced to the semi finals or finals depending on the number of teams entered into that particular division.

**10.2.3** In State Cup or Presidents Cup, if for any reason there are other than 16 teams, 12 teams, 8 teams, 4 teams or 2 teams in an age division additional pre-play games will be scheduled and played prior to the round robin weekend. There will be no round robin play if there are only 2 teams in a particular age division.

### **10.3 TEAM ENTRY**

**10.3.1** Only a registered US Youth Soccer team that is in good standing, the majority of whose players are registered within the boundaries of OSYSA and plays in an OSYSA sanctioned league in the current seasonal year may enter one of the state tournaments, but not multiple. All teams that submit an application will be accepted if they are in good standing with OSYSA.

Teams must compete in a four team OSYSA League or Association and must be scheduled for and play at least a three game league schedule against teams registered inside the OSYSA boundaries.

These games must be played by the conclusion of the league determined season. Teams that don't compete as outlined in 10.3.1 cannot enter into the State Cup or Presidents Cup.

**10.3.1.1** OSYSA teams that comply with these rules and play in the US Youth Soccer National League or the Region II Midwest Regional League may enter and play in the State Cup or Presidents Cup. The State / Presidents Cup Chairperson may grant an exception to the 3 game requirement for OSYSA teams participating in the US Youth Soccer National League or the Midwest Regional League in the event of extenuating circumstances. At no time may the exception go below the US Youth Soccer National Championships requirement.

**10.3.1.2** Teams must play State Cup or the Presidents Cup in their home state. This is determined by where at least 50% of their players reside and register. (Players must always first register in their home state before rostering to any another state).

**10.3.2** Each team that enters the State Cup or Presidents Cup must submit a copy of their validated roster from their USYS sanctioned Member League. Teams must have at least nine (9) primary registered players on their team roster to enter the state tournaments. The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between league competitions and state tournament competitions as well as at Regional and National Championships competitions by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to the rosters at each level of the competitions.

**10.3.3** All rosters must meet the standards as outlined in these bylaws. For example a new player cannot be added to the roster by writing the player's name on the roster but instead must make use of a Roster Change form. If the validation on the roster is revoked, the team will not be permitted to participate until a new roster with roster change form is validated by the team's league and it is submitted to the State Cup Chairperson.

**10.3.4** At the time a team's National Championships competition roster for competitions at the State Association level is determined under this rule, the team may not have more than 5 rostered youth players who were previously rostered during the current seasonal year with a club other than the club of which the team is a member. Teams that are not participating in the state tournaments may have an unlimited number of previously rostered players on their team.

**10.3.5** The state tournament event rosters are frozen 3 business days prior to the kick off of the team's first state tournament game. A player may only play for one team in a state tournament in any seasonal year. A youth player may be on the National Championships roster of only one team at each level of the National Championships competitions during any seasonal year. A youth player who was rostered to a team of a club at a National Championship competition level that does not advance to the next level and who has been issued a club pass of that club in accordance with this policy may be rostered to another team of that club at the next level of the National Championship competitions. Subject to the foregoing, and subject to the provisions of Rule 221, Section 1 (5), at each level of the National Championships competitions, a team may add to its National Championship roster for that level as many registered youth players holding club passes of that club of which a team is a member as the team or its club determines so long as the roster does not exceed 22 players. A team may not change the club of which it is a member at any time after the commencement of the National Championship competitions and in any event only in compliance with the Bylaws of the State Association of which the club is a member.

**10.3.6** Teams must submit their entries by the deadline established by the State Cup/Presidents Cup Chairperson.

**10.3.7** Teams may withdraw from the state tournaments up to 30 days prior to the start of play without penalty. If a team withdraws before the application deadline, the entry fee will be returned. If a team withdraws after the application deadline, that team's entry fee will not be returned and may be fined and / or placed in bad standing as determined by the State Tournament Conduct Committee. The State Tournament Conduct Committee may also determine that any team that withdrew is ineligible to participate in the following year's state tournaments.

**10.3.8** If any team forfeits any game in state tournament play, the team or the club that sponsored the team may be fined and/or placed in bad standing and the team may be prohibited from entering the following year's state tournament as determined by the State Tournament Conduct Committee.

**10.3.9** Any team or club that does not pay the fine(s) specified by bylaw 10.3.7 and 10.3.8 may be considered in bad standing and the team may not be permitted to play in any future state tournament or games until fines are paid as determined by the State Tournament Conduct Committee.

**10.3.10** Teams that have forfeited two or more games in any US Youth Soccer game since the conclusion of the previous year's Ohio South portion of the state tournaments or have forfeited a game in the previous year's state tournaments may not be eligible to enter the current year's competition.

**10.3.11** Players and coaches who are under suspension following a hearing before the OSYSA Conduct Committee or the OSYSA State Tournament Conduct Committee shall not be permitted to participate in the state tournaments until such time as the suspension has been completed.

**10.3.12** For teams competing in the under-14s and under-15s age groups, each player on the team must be:

- a) Of the age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year, or
- b) Of the age in either of the next 2 younger age groups of that age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year.

For the teams competing in the under-16s, under-17s, under-18s, and under-19s age groups, each player on the team must be:

- a) Of the age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year, or
- b) Of the age of any younger age group, through the under-14s age group, of that age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year

## **10.4 REFEREES**

**10.4.1** OSYSA is responsible for assignment of referees to all state tournament games.

**10.4.2** OSYSA is responsible for payment of referee fees for all state tournament games beyond the preliminary level (except the first game in the round robin where each team pays half of the referee fee). Participating teams are responsible for payment of referee fees for all preliminary district games and the first round robin game.

## **10.5 SCHEDULING**

**10.5.1** It shall be the intent of the state tournament committees to create the basis for a schedule that presents the best opportunity for the best teams to advance through the tournament.

**10.5.2** State tournament games take precedence over all scheduled league and association games. All games scheduled by member Leagues and Associations are required to be re-scheduled to permit all teams to compete in state tournaments play. No member League can forfeit any game of any team for the day that the team is playing in the State Cup or Presidents Cup.

**10.5.3** Teams participating in one of the state tournaments shall not be scheduled to play any more than two games on any one day during the state tournaments.

**10.5.4** The State Cup Committee shall determine the seeds (numbering between 2 and 16 seeds) for the State Cup with all other participating teams' opponents to be decided by a double blind draw. The Presidents Cup Committee and the Governors Cup Committee are authorized to determine the placement of teams in their respective tournaments. If seeding is utilized in either the Presidents Cup or the Governors Cup, all other participating teams' opponents shall be decided by double blind draw. When, due to the number of teams who have entered the state tournaments, it becomes necessary to have pre-play games (a.k.a play-in games), the state tournament committees shall give weight to scheduling these pre-play games as intra-district play to minimize excessive travel by the teams.

**10.5.5** In State Cup, no games will be scheduled on the last day for district play in games. The last day will be used as a rain date. Any games not played as a result of weather or field conditions on the rain date will be scheduled to play the next day and will continue to be scheduled by day until completed.

**10.5.6** The draw meeting will be held as scheduled by the state tournament committees. Any games that have not been played will have their position in the bracket drawn for the game winners in their age group and gender. State Cup teams that have not finished their district play in games will not be a seeded team for the competition. The State Cup Committee will determine the seeded teams from the winning teams that have completed their necessary district play in game(s).

**10.5.7** All state tournament games will be scheduled or re-scheduled as needed. Protests, weather, field conditions, or any other reason that would cause a variance in the playing schedule will require that teams must play those matches prior to the next round.

## **10.6 US YOUTH SOCCER STATE TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES**

**10.6.1** Any protest must be presented in writing to the State Tournament Chairperson or their representative within one (1) hour of the completion of the game in protest, except as noted in section 10.6.2. If the Chairperson or his/her representative is not available at the site of the game, protests must be submitted, via e-mail to the OSYSA office at OFFICE@OSYSA.COM within four (4) hours of the completion of the game that is being protested. All protests must be accompanied by a \$175.00 bond that will be returned only if the protest is upheld. If the protest is being submitted via e-mail to the OSYSA office, the protest must include a statement acknowledging that the required \$175.00 bond will be submitted to the Chairperson or the OSYSA office within 24 hours of the submission of the protest. Protests based upon the judgment of referees will not be entertained. Misapplication of Laws of the Games may be a valid basis for a protest.

**10.6.2** A protest regarding the use of an ineligible player may be made by anyone at any time during the current year's:

- Ohio South State Tournaments
- US Youth Soccer Midwest Presidents Cup Regional or National Championship



- US Youth Soccer National Championship at either the Regional or National level

Any protest against any team that has already been eliminated from any of the current year's events as listed in the 3 bullet points shown in the preceding sentence shall not be entertained. Although a protest may not be entertained by the State Cup/Presidents Cup Chairperson due to the lateness of the filing of the protest, the Chairperson may report any misconduct by any OSYSA player, coach or team, including the use of an ineligible player, during any portion of the current year's events as listed in the 3 bullet points shown to the OSYSA Conduct Committee for their consideration.

Upon receipt of any protest, the state tournament chairpersons shall refer the matter to the State Tournament Conduct Committee for a hearing in the matter. The State Tournament Conduct Committee, after holding an open and fair hearing in which all parties to the protest shall be provided an opportunity to be heard, shall make a determination as to the validity of the protest. If the State Tournament Conduct Committee determines that an ineligible player participated in a state tournament game, the validity of any protest may be appealed to the OSYSA Appeals Committee as outlined in Section 14.0 of these bylaws.

If the determination by the State Tournament Conduct Committee requires the forfeit of the protested game, the winner as determined by their decision will advance in the state tournament. If the team that was determined to have lost the game upon which the protest was based has already participated in the next game of the competition, their opponent in the last game in the competition played by the team shall be declared the winner and shall be allowed to proceed in the competition.

**10.6.3** All teams should have their Player and Coach Passes with photographs attached and duly authorized by OSYSA as provided elsewhere in these bylaws at all games of the OSYSA state tournaments. Teams without their OSYSA/US Youth Soccer player passes at an OSYSA state tournament game should be handled in the following manner:

- If the game is a self scheduled game at which no representative of the OSYSA State Tournament Committee is present, a coach from the team is authorized to take one or more photographs of the players whose passes are not at the game to verify the identity of the game's participants.
- If a representative of the OSYSA State Tournament Committee is present at the game, that representative is authorized to take one or more photographs of the players whose passes are not present at the game to verify the identity of the game's participants.

If either of the preceding scenarios occur, the team that did not have the coach or players passes at the game, shall have one business day from the scheduled start of the game where the passes were not available to produce those passes and verify the identity of the game's participants to the satisfaction of a representative of the State Tournament Conduct Committee. Teams failing to comply with the requirements of the preceding sentence shall be subject to dismissal from the current state tournament or fined as determined by the State Tournament Conduct Committee.

**10.6.3.1** Any team participating in any of the OSYSA state tournaments that does not have their coach and/or player passes at a state tournament game shall be fined by OSYSA \$100.00, payable prior to the team's next game in the state tournament or within 14 days, whichever comes first.

**10.6.4** Any team that has modified an official approved event roster will not be permitted to participate in the state tournament until a properly validated roster has been approved by OSYSA.

**10.6.5** Any player who is red carded in his/her last league game prior to his/her next State Cup or Presidents Cup game is not required to serve his/her red card penalty in the next Cup game that his/her

team participates. However, they must sit out their next game(s) in the league in which they received the red card. The sole exception to the foregoing two sentences is if the red card that was issued during any league game or tournament game for either Violent Conduct or for Fighting. If the reason for the red card was for either Violent Conduct or for Fighting, then the player may not participate in their next two games whether it is a league game, tournament game or state tournament game. The team that the player is registered with may be required to document that the 2 game suspension was served.

**10.6.6** If a player receives a red card in a US Youth Soccer National Championships game, they are required to serve the penalty in their next US Youth Soccer National Championships match. If the team is eliminated from US Youth Soccer National Championships competition the penalty must be served in his/her teams' next US Youth Soccer National Championships Competition match. Players sent off will remain on the bench unless asked to leave the area by the referee.

**10.6.7** All issues or conflicts are to be referred to the State Tournament Chairpersons for review and consideration under the Bylaws of OSYSA.

## **10.7 US YOUTH SOCCER OHIO SOUTH STATE TOURNAMENTS PLAYING BYLAWS**

**10.7.1** All games will be played under FIFA laws of the game as modified US Youth Soccer and/or OSYSA.

**10.7.1.1** Substitutions for the Under 14 and younger age groups in State Cup play and in all age groups in Presidents/Governors Cup play shall be unlimited.

**10.7.1.2** Substitutions for under-15s and older age groups in State Cup play will be allowed a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team in each game during each half of play and during overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during that same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.

**10.7.1.3** Substitution(s) for either team may occur at any stoppage of play with the approval of the referee.

**10.7.1.4** If a player is removed from the game and no substitute enters the game for the player (team plays short), the original player may re-enter the game. Entry shall be at a normal substitution point (with approval of the referee) or at any point during the game if the referee signals for the player's re-entry.

**10.7.2** All games played as part of a round robin format may end in a tie at the end of regulation. All games played in a one loss and out format must end with a winner and if a game is tied at the end of the regulation play, overtime periods and then penalty kicks will apply as outlined in 10.7.15.

**10.7.3** The standings of teams within brackets are based upon the number of points earned in qualifying games. Teams earn points as follows:

- ❖ Three (3) points for a win (including forfeits)
- ❖ One (1) point for a tie, and
- ❖ No (0) points for a loss.

**10.7.4** In the Round Robin, if teams are tied on the basis of points earned, the team's placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria.

- a) Winner of head to head competition (this criterion is not used if more than two teams tied).
- b) Winner of most games.
- c) Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of four goals per game.
- d) Fewest goals allowed.
- e) Kicks from the penalty mark.

*Note:* If more than two teams are tied, the sequence will be followed until a team is eliminated. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at point "b" above until the tie is broken.

**10.7.4.1** Any team that forfeits a game will not be allowed to advance out of their group to the semifinals thus forfeiting all group games. In this situation the team forfeiting will receive a “loss” for all group games and a zero to four goal differential. All other teams in the group will receive a “win” and four goals to zero goal differential against the forfeiting team including all other games that may have already been played.

**10.7.5** For brackets requiring a wildcard for semi-final play, team placement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:

- a) Team with most points.
- b) Winner of head to head competition (this criterion is not used if more than two teams are tied).
- c) Winner of most games.
- d) Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum of four goals per game.
- e) Fewest goals allowed.
- f) Kicks from the penalty mark.

*Note:* If more than two teams are tied, the sequence will be followed until a team is eliminated. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at point "c" above until the tie is broken.

**10.7.6** If a player or coach is sent off from an Ohio South state tournament game, that player or coach will be ineligible to participate in the team’s next Ohio South state tournament game. No substitution will be permitted for a sent off player during the game that the player was sent off.

If all of the carded coaches of a team are sent off, the game will be suspended and the details reported to the state tournament chairperson. The state tournament chairperson shall record the game as a forfeit by the team whose coaches were all sent off.

**10.7.7** In the event that any ejection occurs in the teams last state tournament game, the official game report for the sent off player/coach will be held and forwarded to the OSYSA office.

**10.7.8** If any player or coach is penalized additional games by the Conduct Committee of his/her member Association/league, the player or coach will not be permitted to participate in the US Youth Soccer state tournament matches until the penalty has been served.

**10.7.9** If in the opinion of the state tournament chairperson the reason for the send off is of such a nature that the one or two (for fighting or violent conduct) game suspension is not a sufficient penalty, the incident is to be reported to the Chairperson of the Conduct Committee for consideration of further penalties. The player or coach should be notified that the complaint was forwarded. The player or

coach's card is to be returned after the automatic penalty assigned under these bylaws is served in the state tournament games. If the Conduct Committee awards additional penalties, the player or coach's card must be surrendered at that time. The Chairperson's report to the Conduct Committee must be forwarded within two weeks of the alleged incident.

**10.7.10** In state tournament competitions, unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed if neither team is at fault and play has not reached the beginning of half time. If play is stopped during the second half and play cannot be resumed and if neither team is at fault, the state tournament chairperson may deem the game complete or that it is to be replayed in its entirety. However, if play is stopped at any time due to one of the teams being adjudged to be at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the state tournament chairperson whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

**10.7.11** A minimum of seven players constitute a team. A (10) minute grace period will be extended beyond the scheduled kick off time if seven players are not available. A team with seven players must start the game as soon as seven (7) players are at the field. If at the end of the 10-minute grace period the team does not have seven (7) players, the referee will not start the game and will report the failure of the team to show to the state tournament chairpersons or their representative, in which the chairperson will declare a forfeit by the team short players. (For all under-12s and below teams, 5 players constitute a team and will follow all of the same procedures as stated above using the 5-player rule.)

**10.7.12** Each player must wear an official uniform with a number on the back of the player's jersey. The number is to be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Goalkeepers are not required to have a number on their uniform. Each number must be different. In the event of a color conflict, the home team will change to an alternate set of jerseys. All players must wear shin guards, socks covering the shin guards, appropriate footwear, shorts, and a jersey. All teams must wear uniforms that conform to acceptable standards for state tournament play. Games will be suspended by the referee, if in their judgment the uniforms worn by the team are not acceptable for competition. The state tournament chairperson will forfeit the game if they support the referee's opinion regarding the unsuitability of the offending team's uniforms.

**10.7.13** At every level of the National Championships competitions, a player or team official at a game site to participate in a game of the competitions may only have on the outer wear of the player or team official a name, logo, or other identifying mark of a youth soccer organization that is US Youth Soccer, a State Association or other member of US Youth Soccer, a member of a State Association, or an organization that is a member of an organization that is a member of a State Association. A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization must be removed, replaced, or covered before the player or team official may continue to remain at the game site for the game.

**10.7.14** All games played as part of a round robin format may end in a tie at the end of regulation. All games played in a one loss and out format must end with a winner and if a game is tied at the end of the regulation play, overtime periods, as shown below, will be played.

**10.7.15**

Age Group Size	Players on Field	Length of game	Overtime Periods	Ball
Under-11s/12	9 v 9	Two 30 minute halves	Two 10 minute periods	4
Under-13s/14	11 v 11	Two 35 minute halves	Two 10 minute periods	5
Under-15s/16	11 v 11	Two 40 minute halves	Two 15 minute periods	5
Under-17s-U19	11 v 11	Two 45 minute halves	Two 15 minute periods	5

## **10.8 US YOUTH SOCCER OHIO SOUTH STATE TOURNAMENT TROPHIES**

**10.8.1** The players of first and second place teams in the State Cup and President's Cup shall receive individual awards and the team coach or manager will receive a team award for first and second place.

## **10.9 US YOUTH SOCCER MIDWEST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS ROSTERS**

**10.9.1** All OSYSA state tournament champions and any wild card teams advancing to the Midwest Regional Championships must have their Event Roster validated by the OSYSA Executive Director and all US Youth Soccer player passes must be laminated.

**10.9.2** US Youth Soccer Player Passes and Approved Event Rosters are required at all US Youth Soccer Regional Championship games.

**10.9.3** The Midwest Region provides a US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships manual. All State Championship teams and other teams attending the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships are to receive a copy of this manual. All teams are to study and understand all of their requirements at the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships.

## **10.10 US YOUTH SOCCER MIDWEST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**10.10.1** OSYSA State Cup Champions (under-19s, under-18s, under-17s, under-16s, under-15s, under-14s and under-13s) will be scheduled to play in the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships. These games are scheduled each year in a different member US Youth Soccer State Association belonging to the Midwest Region. This competition features the State Cup Champion from each of the 14 Midwest State Associations that make up the membership of the US Youth Soccer Midwest Region.

**10.10.2** All US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup champions are required to play in the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships. If a State Cup Champion (or wild card team(s)) does not participate, the team will be placed in bad standing and will be fined. Teams that refuse to participate in Regional Competition may not enter the State Cup the following year. Teams that cannot participate in the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships should not enter the State Cup.

**10.10.3** Each year each member State Association may be placed in a blind drawing to have the right to enter a wild card team(s) into an age group that has an odd number of entries. The second teams may be dropped from the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships if more than 60 days prior to the start of the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships any other State Association team withdraws making the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships an even number of teams (not counting the extra team entered from the State Association).

**10.10.4** If OSYSA is the host State for the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships and if less than 30 days from the start of the competition a State Association withdraws a team from any Age Group making that Age Group an uneven number (counting any second team from any State Association), the OSYSA will have the right to enter a second team in the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships to make the tournament even numbers.

## **10.11 US YOUTH SOCCER MIDWEST PRESIDENTS CUP COMPETITION**

**10.11.1** Presidents Cup Champions (under-19s, under-18sm under-17s, under-16s, under-15s, under-14s and under-13s) will be scheduled to play at the US Youth Soccer Midwest Presidents Cup. These games are scheduled each year in a different member US Youth Soccer State Association belonging to The Midwest Region. This competition features the Presidents Cup Champions from each of the 14 Midwest State Associations that make up the membership of the US Youth Soccer Midwest Region.

**10.11.2** All Presidents Cup Champions in the age groups offered by the Midwest Region are required to enter and play in the US Youth Soccer Midwest Presidents Cup. If an OSYSA Presidents Cup Champion does not participate, the team will be placed in bad standing and will be fined. Teams that refuse to participate in Regional Competition may not enter the OSYSA State Cup or Presidents Cup the following year. Teams that cannot participate in the Regional Competition should not enter the Presidents Cup competition.

## **10.12 FIELD STATUS**

**10.12.1** Determination of field status as to its playing condition first rests with the organization providing the fields. Prior to any decision to close the field, they should consult with the OSYSA representative. Their decision is final. If the host organization approves the fields for play, the field may be canceled at a later time if the host organization deems the conditions to have changed. The referee may suspend games when he/she considers the field unsafe or unplayable.

**10.12.2** In the event of inclement weather, everything possible will be done to provide games to teams that travel. However, games cannot be guaranteed. Teams that travel to US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup or Presidents Cup locations do so at their own risk of games being canceled due to weather or other circumstances.

## **10.13 MATCH MANIPULATION**

**10.13.1** Teams failing to compete in the spirit of the competition or are involved in the manipulation of a game result are subject to forfeiture and disqualification from all levels of the competition including the OSYSA state tournament as well as at the Regional or National level.

(1) If failing to compete is observed and confirmed, the competition authority representative will give notice to the offending team or teams.

(2) If corrective action is not taken, the team or teams will be subject to disqualification.

## **10.14 STATE TOURNAMENT CONDUCT COMMITTEE**

**10.14.1** For the purposes of adjudicating protests, determining player eligibility, matters of misconduct and other similar matters during the operation of the OSYSA state tournament, an OSYSA State Tournament Conduct Committee shall be formed. The members of this committee shall be:

- The Chairperson of each of the state tournaments and their co-chairperson
- The OSYSA Executive Director
- The OSYSA Director of Coaching
- Up to three members of the OSYSA Board of Directors

**10.14.2** If any person holding any of the above positions is unable to serve on the State Tournament Conduct Committee, then that person shall be authorized to appoint an alternate to serve in their place for the duration of their absence from the committee.

**10.14.3** Any person holding any of the positions listed in bylaw 10.14.1 or any alternate as authorized by bylaw 10.14.2 shall recuses themselves from any decision that involves a team or club that they associated with, either as the protesting party or as the party that is the focus of the matter under consideration.

**10.14.4** For any matter involving one of the state tournaments, the chairperson of that tournament, or their designated alternate, shall act as Chairperson of the committee and as such shall not have a vote in making any decision regarding the matter under consideration.

**10.14.5** For any matter under consideration by the State Tournament Conduct Committee, at least 3 or more persons holding the positions listed in 10.14.1 or their designated alternate, not including the chairperson or his designated alternate, shall participate in the making of any decision regarding the matter under consideration.

**10.14.6** In matters under consideration by the State Tournament Conduct Committee regarding player eligibility, the committee may take in to consideration whether the violation was intentional or just a minor clerical error and whether or not the violation had a material impact on a game.

## **APPENDIX ONE**

### Four Team Division

#### Championship

Winner of Bracket "A" versus Second Place of Bracket "A"

### Eight Team Division

#### Semi Finals:

Winner Bracket "A" versus Runner Up Bracket "B"

Winner Bracket "B" versus Runner Up Bracket "A"

#### Championship

Winners of each Game above

### Twelve Team Division

#### Semi Finals:

Winner Bracket "A" versus Wildcard Winner

Winner Bracket "B" versus Winner Bracket "C"

If wildcard comes from Group A, then

Winner Bracket "A" versus Winner Bracket "C"

Winner Bracket "B" versus Wildcard Winner

#### Championship

Winners of each game above

### Sixteen Team Division

#### Semi Finals:

Winner Bracket "A" versus Winner Bracket "D"

Winner Bracket "B" versus Winner Bracket "C"

#### Championship

Winners of the two games above

- ❖ In the case of an odd number of teams in Governors Cup, the formulas above will not be used and instead participants will advance to the Semi-Finals and Finals per rule 10.2.2.



## **11.0 KOHL'S AMERICAN CUP BYLAWS**

### **11.1 PURPOSE**

The Kohl's American Cup Competition is the most important team competition conducted by the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. or by any Associations within OSYSA for teams in our recreational Leagues and Associations. As such, this competition requires that each member recreational team, League and Association shall support the American Cup as a priority.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: OSYSA MAY CHANGE THE RULES OF THE COMPETITION AS NECESSARY TO ENHANCE THE PLAYING OF THIS EVENT. THE RULES SHALL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL TEAMS ENTERING THE COMPETITION.**

Each year the Kohl's American Cup Chairperson will appoint a volunteer Association, League, Club, or teams to host the one or more American Cup age groups within their home location that year.

The Kohl's American Cup may offer competition in the following age groups for both boys and girls; under-18s, under-17s, under-16s, under-15s, under-14s, under-13s, under-12s, under-11s, under-10s, under-9s, under-8s.

Team competition in the Kohl's American Cup may be a one loss and out format.

### **11.2 TEAM ENTRY**

**11.2.1** Each recreational member League and Association in OSYSA may enter up to 4 teams in each age group in the American Cup.

**11.2.2** Teams from competitive member Leagues and Associations cannot enter into the American Cup.

**11.2.3** Teams entered into the Kohl's American Cup will play within their District until a winner is determined for each age group.

**11.2.4** The winner in each District for each age group will play in the Kohl's American Finals of the Kohl's American Cup against other District winners.

**11.2.5** Each team that enters the Kohl's American Cup must submit a copy of their validated and certified League Roster.

**11.2.6** If any team forfeits any game, for any reason, (including but not limited to: having an ineligible player participate in the competition, failure to participate in a scheduled game of the competition), in the Kohl's American Cup play, the team may be fined, in amount to be determined by the Kohl's American Cup chairperson.

**11.2.7** Any team that does not pay the fine(s) will be considered in bad standing and the team will not be permitted to play in any future OSYSA Cup, League or Association games until fines are paid.

**11.2.8** Only duly registered players on the roster of the team prior to the start of play can compete in the Kohl's American Cup. Guest players are not permitted in the American Cup competition.

### **11.3 REFEREE FEES**

**11.3.1** The State Association is responsible for payment of all referee fees for the American Cup games in the finals. Member leagues and Associations are responsible for the referee fee of their teams in the District Competition.

### **11.4 SCHEDULING**

**11.4.1** It is the intention of the State Association to attempt to schedule all finals of all Age Groups at the same location on the same day.

**11.4.2** Kohl's American Cup games take precedence over all scheduled League and Association games. All games scheduled by member Leagues and Associations are required to be re-scheduled to permit all teams to compete in American Cup play. No member League or Association can forfeit any game of any team for the day that the team is playing in American Cup competition.

**11.4.3** Teams cannot be scheduled to play any more than two games on any one day and shall not exceed the following maximum standards.

- a) Under-10s and younger teams shall play a maximum of 100 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- b) Under-11s and under-12s teams shall play a maximum of 120 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- c) Under-13s and under-14s teams shall play a maximum of 140 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- d) Under-15s and under-16s teams shall play a maximum of 160 minutes of scheduled play per day.
- e) Under-17s and under-18s teams shall play a maximum of 180 minutes of scheduled play per day.

**11.4.4** Teams will be scheduled in both District and State level play of the American Cup by blind draw.

**11.4.5** Member Recreational Leagues and Associations must have determined their entry / entries for the American Cup by the end of the third week in October. These teams must be available to compete in Kohl's American Cup play.

### **11.5 AMERICAN CUP PROCEDURES**

**11.5.1** Any protest must be presented in writing to the Kohl's American Cup Chairman or his/her representative within one (1) hour of the completion of the game in protest. All protests must be accompanied by a \$100.00 bond, which will be returned only if the protest is upheld. Referees judgment cannot be a basis for a protest.

**11.5.1.1** Protests involving the participation of an ineligible player in the Kohl's American Cup will follow the same procedures as found in section 10.0

**11.5.2** All players must be properly registered to the team prior to the start of the Kohl's American Cup.

### **11.6 AMERICAN CUP PLAYING BYLAWS**

**11.6.1** Games will be played under FIFA Laws of the game as modified by USSF/USYS.

**11.6.2** Any player or coach sent off from a game will be ineligible to participate in the team's next game. At the discretion of the Kohl's American Cup Chairperson, the suspension may be increased and could result in ineligibility for more than one game. No substitution will be permitted for an ejected player during the game that the player was ejected.

In the event that any ejection occurs in the team's last game, the information on the ejected player will be held and forwarded to the team's league. The ejected player will be required to serve his/her one game (or more depending up the circumstances) suspension in his/her next league game(s).

**11.6.3** If a game has been started and then is suspended due to weather or other conditions, and cannot be completed that day, the game will be rescheduled and replayed in its entirety.

**11.6.4** A ten (10) minute grace period will be extended beyond the scheduled kickoff time if a team fails to field the minimum number of players as outlined in this section 11.6.4. A team with the described minimum must start the game as soon as the described minimum number of players are at the field. If at the end of the ten (10) minute grace period, a team does not have the described minimum number of players, the referee will not start the game and will report the failure of the team to show up with the described minimum number of players to the Kohl's American Cup Chairperson. The Kohl's American CUP Chairperson shall declare the game forfeited.

**11.6.4.1** For teams that will be playing either 11 v 11 or 10 v 10, the minimum number of players shall be 7.

**11.6.4.2** For teams that will be playing either 9 v 9 or 8 v 8, the minimum number of players shall be 6.

**11.6.4.3** For teams that will be playing either 7 v 7 or 6 v 6, the minimum number of players shall be 5.

**11.6.4.4** For teams that will be playing 5 v 5, the minimum number of players shall be 4.

**11.6.4.5** For teams that will be playing 4 v 4, the minimum number of players shall be 3.

**11.6.5** Each player must wear an official uniform with a number on the back of the shirt. Each number must be different. The goalkeeper's are not required to have a number on the jersey. In the event of a color conflict, one of the teams will change to an alternate set of jerseys. If both teams have an alternate set, the team to switch will be determined by a toss of a coin.

**11.6.6** All games must end with a winner. If the games are tied at the end of the regulation play, a single overtime period, consisting of two, (2), 5 minute halves for under-12s and younger teams and two, (2), 10 minutes halves for under-13s and older teams, will be played to conclusion as outlined in the FIFA rulebook. In the event that penalty kicks (as defined in FIFA rule book0) must be used to determine a winner in any game after the overtime period has been played, the following format will be as follows:

a) Each team will select five (5) players to kick -only players on the field at the conclusion of the 2nd overtime period may be selected to kick.

b) Teams will alternate kicks -first team to kick will be determined by a referees coin toss.

- c) If the score remains tied after five (5) kicks, teams will alternate players to take one kick at a time until a winner is determined.
- d) All eligible players must kick before any player can repeat.
- e) Goalies may be changed after any shot.

If all of the players on the field have taken a kick without determining a winner, the players not playing on the field will kick one at a time until a winner is determined. If a player has been injured during the game and has not returned to the game, he/she will not be required to kick. If a winner has not been determined by the time that all players on the team have kicked, the process will start over and continue until a winner has been determined.

## **12.0 RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

### **12.1 PURPOSE**

To protect and provide a safe and healthful environment for children participating in OSYSA's sanctioned soccer clubs, associations, leagues, programs, and tournaments.

Ohio Revised Code 109.575 provides:

*At the time of a person's initial application to an organization or entity to be a volunteer in a position in which the person on a regular basis will have unsupervised access to a child, the organization or entity shall inform the person that, at any time, the person might be required to provide a set of impressions of the person's fingerprints and a criminal records check might be conducted with respect to the person. Not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section, each organization or entity shall notify each current volunteer who is in a position in which the person on a regular basis has unsupervised access to a child that, at any time, the volunteer might be required to provide a set of impressions of the volunteer's fingerprints and a criminal records check might be conducted with respect to the volunteer.*

*Effective Date: 03-22-01*

Ohio South Youth Soccer Association implements the requirements of Ohio Revised Code 109.575 and Federal legislation, Public Law 115-126, (a.k.a. S.534), in an effort to provide a safe environment for the participants in our programs and events.

### **12.2 BACKGROUND**

As our society's awareness increases about the risks associated with individuals working with children who abuse their authority by committing sexual, physical, mental, and emotional abuse, there is a need to provide a means of protection. In August of 1994, the United States Youth Soccer Association approved the Kidsafe Program and placed it into effect immediately. As a part of this program, each State organization is to develop a written program outlining safety guidelines and procedures.

On August 17, 2018, US Youth Soccer adopted a revised Risk Management Policy for all participants in all US Youth Soccer activities including those of the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, (a.k.a. - OSYSA). That policy is shown in APPENDIX A to this Section 12 and is incorporated into this Section 12. It is that US Youth Soccer Policy along with the standards of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, as well as Ohio Revised Codes 109.574 and 109.575 that is the basis for this OSYSA Risk Management Program.

### **12.3 APPLICABILITY**

This program is applicable either as a requirement or as a recommendation to all adults who are employees and and/ or volunteers within OSYSA and all of its member leagues, associations, sanctioned tournaments and its participating clubs as defined below.

**12.3.1** Individuals holding one or more of the following positions are required by US Youth Risk Management Policy, dated August 17, 2018, Section 102(a) to comply with all sections of this RMP.

- a) OSYSA Board members,
- b) OSYSA Executive Director,
- c) OSYSA Director of Coaching,

- d) Directors of Coaching of individual soccer clubs,
- e) Coaches, (Both Competitive and Recreational Coaches),
- f) Assistant Coaches, (Both Competitive and Recreational Assistant Coaches),
- g) Soccer Trainers (individuals who are not a registered coach but have contact with one or more OSYSA registered players on a regular basis as defined in Section 12.3.3).
- h) Team Manager / Team Administrator,
- i) Program Administrator,
- j) Athletic Trainer,
- k) Organization Employee, who holds a position in which they have unsupervised access to a child on a regular basis,
- l) Tournament Organizer / Director,
- m) Members of a Board of Directors of OSYSA any Member League,
- n) Members of a Board of Directors of individual soccer clubs that have one or players registered in Ohio South,
- o) OSYSA employees or OSYSA Independent Contractors who hold a position in which they have unsupervised access to a child on a regular basis,
- p) OSYSA Risk Management Coordinator and Alternate State Risk Management Coordinator,
- q) OSYSA Conduct Committee Chairman and all members of any OSYSA Conduct Committee.

**12.3.2** It is recommended that individuals holding one or more of the following positions submit or be required to submit an application to this RMP. Following such submission, the individual for whom the submission was made shall be subject to all of the provisions of this RMP. . In the future, one or more of the positions listed in the Section 12.3.2 may be changed, at the discretion of OSYSA Board of Directors, from one of the “recommended” positions as shown in section 12.3.2 to one of the “required” positions as shown in Section 12.3.1.

- a. All local RMC's and their respective alternates,
- b. **and any other individual, age 18 or older, acting in an official capacity and who may have the opportunity to have direct and unmonitored access to children who are involved with any approved or sponsored program of US Youth Soccer or of Ohio South or any member of Ohio South .**

**12.3.3** The term “on a regular basis” as used in this Section 12.3 and elsewhere in this Section 12, shall mean an adult who can reasonably be expected to be in contact, (this includes but is not limited to physical, verbal, via text or e-mail) with any youth athlete or other than their own child, more frequently than once per week.

The term, “has unsupervised access to a child” as used elsewhere in this Section 12, shall, as stated in Ohio Revised Code 109.574, mean either or both of the following situations:

- No other person eighteen years of age or older is present in the same room with the child.
- If outdoors, no other person eighteen years of age or older is within a thirty-yard radius of the child or has visual contact with the child.

All individuals who hold a position as listed in Section 12.3.1 should make every effort to avoid being in any situation where they have unsupervised access to a child, (i.e., they are alone with a youth athlete, as defined above), other than their own child.

Consistent disregard of this guidance may give rise to a degree of concern of the adult’s awareness of the intent of this Risk Management Program. This directive is being provided for the protection of all involved individuals.

Each of the aforementioned individuals as shown in the first sentence of this Section 12.3 must apply to the OSYSA Risk Management Program, (a.k.a. RMP), and receive approval from OSYSA before they may participate in any program or event of OSYSA or of its member leagues or of any club associated with OSYSA.

This RMP does not apply to club linesmen or substitute coaches if they are in the presence of another adult.

The United States Soccer Federation has determined that each member association must comply with all USSF organizational rules. However, each member, including OSYSA, has the right to establish their own membership requirements. In addition, the United States Federal court has ruled that a private non-profit educational organization, such as OSYSA, has the right to set eligibility requirements for their membership. Consistent with the above, OSYSA shall restrict its membership in accordance with this RMP.

This RMP shall only be applicable to those individuals who hold one or more of the positions within OSYSA as listed in the first paragraph of this Section 12.3.1 or 12.3.1 who have applied to be part of OSYSA in one of those positions. If an individual is notified that they are subject to disqualification pursuant to this RMP, that individual may withdraw their application for approval by OSYSA. Upon withdrawing their application for approval, no further action shall be taken against said individual regarding this RMP, except that the organization for whom the individual was associated shall be notified of the withdrawal of individual's application.

## **12.4 RESPONSIBILITIES**

**12.4.1** Each local Club/Association/League President will:

- a) Designate a local Risk Management Coordinator (RMC) and an alternate to serve as a liaison to the OSYSA Risk Management Coordinator.
- b) Confirm that all individuals required to participate in the program comply with the RMP.
- c) Confirm that all complaints of abuse are investigated and reported to the OSYSA RMC.
- d) Confirm that the Club/Association/League complies with all provisions of this RMP.

**12.4.2** Each local Risk Management Coordinator will:

- a) Serve as a liaison to the OSYSA RMC.
- b) Refer for investigation all complaints of abuse and report findings to their Club/Association President and to the OSYSA RMC, if action is needed.
- c) Confirm that the Club/Association/League complies with all provisions of this OSYSA RMP.

**12.4.3** The OSYSA Staff shall oversee compliance with the RMP by all OSYSA member leagues, associations, clubs, teams.

**12.4.4** The OSYSA Board of Directors shall appoint the OSYSA RMC and an Alternate RMC.

**12.4.5** The OSYSA Risk Management Coordinator, with the assistance of the OSYSA office staff, will:

- a) Ensure background checks are completed for all individuals to whom this RMP is applicable.
- c) Periodically review and make recommendations to the OSYSA Board of Directors to update this program as needed.
- d) Provide an executive summary, as needed, of the RMP at the OSYSA Annual General Meeting.
- e) Ensure that the completed applications are kept on file for a minimum of three (3) years and a maximum of four (4) years. All matters involving a disqualification shall be kept on file for a minimum of twenty (20) years and a maximum of 99 years. All files that are required to be

kept on file by pursuant to this RMP, as specified in the preceding sentence may be kept in either in paper format or in electronic format.,

- f) Distribute on a periodic basis appropriate educational material regarding the OSYSA RMP.
- g) Be responsible for any media contacts involving the OSYSA RMP.

**12.4.6** The OSYSA Director of Coaching will:

- a) Serve as a liaison to the OSYSA RMC for the ODP program.
- b) Serve as the Local RMC for the ODP program
- c) Serve as the Local RMC for any OSYSA organized competitive league.
- d) Perform the functions as listed as the responsibilities of the local RMC.

## **12.5 GENERAL PROCEDURES**

**12.5.1** All individuals who hold one or more of the positions within OSYSA as listed in Section 12.3.1 or who have applied to be part of OSYSA in one of those positions must comply with the RMP upon initial application and upon any renewal of any application as set forth in Section 12.5.3. The completion of the application shall be considered part of the approval process. OSYSA and its member leagues, associations, or clubs in their sole and absolute discretion, may require employees, volunteers, staff members, or other individuals holding one of the positions listed in Section 12.3.2 in their own organization to complete the renewal process more frequently than is required by this RMP, but no more than annually.

The OSYSA RMC shall be authorized to designate members of the OSYSA office staff to review each application for completeness and to report to the OSYSA RMC if an applicant has not completed the application, has indicated that they have been involved in a disqualifying event or a background check or other information is received indicating that the applicant is subject to disqualification pursuant to this RMP.

**12.5.2** If the information on the RM application is incomplete, the individual submitting said application is automatically prohibited from participating in all OSYSA events or programs and all OSYSA Member events or programs. This prohibition shall remain in effect until a properly completed RM application has been received and a background check on the individual has been completed.

If the information on the RM application has not been completed truthfully, either knowingly or not, the individual submitting said application is automatically prohibited from participating in all OSYSA events or programs and all OSYSA member events or programs for a period of not less than 1 year.

**12.5.3** Persons holding one or more of the positions listed in Section 12.3, if required to do so, within OSYSA shall complete an OSYSA Risk Management application upon their initial appointment to one or more of the listed positions and during July of the second year following their initial appointment. Subsequent Risk Management applications for individuals holding one or more of the listed positions must be submitted on two-year intervals thereafter. The approval of any individual holding a position as listed in Section 12.3 to participate in any OSYSA member league, association, tournament or other event shall expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> of the second year following their initial or subsequent submission of a Risk Management application.

Teams, clubs, and other individuals listed in Section 12.3 and who are participating in OSYSA events but are not registered with OSYSA or OSSRC are not subject to the provisions of this RMP,



(i.e. out of state registered teams and their coaches participating in OSYSA sanctioned tournaments).

**1254** Background checks will be made on all of those individuals who have submitted an application, unless withdrawn as provided for in the last paragraph of Section 12.3.

**1255** All information provided to OSYSA on an application, complaint, investigation, or background check will be held in strict confidence. Persons who violate this confidence shall be removed from their position as either OSYSA RMC, local RMC, or their respective alternates. The information gathered as part of this program shall not be disseminated, for any purpose, except:

- a) Pursuant to an order from a court of law.
- b) Upon a specific written request from a public law enforcement agency.
- c) Upon a specific written request from a youth sports organization.

**1256** Background checks may include one or more of the following; a statewide or multi-state arrest and/or criminal conviction record check; a sexual offender registry check in the county or state in which the individual resides, a check of a clerk of courts records and/or by using the services of a third-party provider. In order that a background check be properly completed, all individuals who are covered under this program may be required to provide a set of impressions of their fingerprints and may be required to provide their Social Security number.

**1257** An internet-based process that would allow the application, qualification and disqualification of coaches, administrators, and other covered persons, for the OSYSA RMP shall serve as the sole means of application to the OSYSA RMP.

## **12.6 BACKGROUND CHECKS**

**12.6.1** When required by this OSYSA RMP or when the OSYSA RMC otherwise deems it prudent to do so the RMC may determine that it is in the best interest of the youth players and -of OSYSA, the OSYSA RMC may conduct or cause to be conducted background checks of any person holding a position as listed in Section 12.3.

**12.6.2** If while conducting a background check, information is obtained that an individual for whom this RMP is applicable was convicted of a misdemeanor crime that would lead to their disqualification under this program and that conviction was subsequently expunged or sealed by a court of law, then for the purposes of this RMP that conviction shall be considered as to have not occurred.

## **12.7 DISQUALIFICATIONS**

**12.7.1** In the event the RMC has a reasonable belief either through the results of a background check or otherwise, that an individual to whom this RMP is applicable is being investigated by or has been arrested, charged, plead no contest to and/or convicted of, by an appropriate legal authority of a crime as listed in Section 12.7.2 or 12.7.3 below, then the RMC shall immediately issue a disqualification of said individual from service with or involvement in OSYSA or any of its member leagues, association, clubs, teams or sanctioned tournaments as described below in Sections 12.7.1.1, 12.7.1.2 and 12.7.1.3.

**12.7.1.1 Automatic Disqualifications.** Automatic Disqualifications are disqualifications of

applicants who have been convicted of any of the offenses as set forth in Section 12.7.2.

**12.7.1.2 Conditional Disqualifications.** Conditional Disqualifications are those disqualifications that are for an individual who have been arrested for and/or charged with a crime in a court of law or who the RMC has a reasonable belief is being investigated by a law enforcement agency and that if found guilty of that crime would be cause for an Automatic or Supplemental Disqualification. If the criminal charge is subsequently dropped or if the RMC has a reasonable belief that the investigation is closed or lacked merit, the conditional disqualification may be rescinded and the individual may be permitted to participate in OSYSA events and programs. In such situations, a decision by the RMC to not allow the individual to return to service may be appealed to the OSYSA Conduct Committee and then a subsequent appeal to the OSYSA Appeals Committee.

**12.7.1.3 Supplemental Disqualifications.** Supplemental Disqualifications are disqualifications that are for an individual who has been convicted of a crime other than a crime listed in Section 12.7.2 but nevertheless was a crime that was contrary to the effective and proper management of OSYSA. Those crimes are listed in Section 12.7.3.

**12.7.1.4** Any person who is disqualified pursuant to this RMP shall not be eligible to participate in any OSYSA event or program or any OSYSA member event or program in any position as listed in Section 12.3 unless that disqualification is rescinded or overturned.

**12.7.2** The following list of specific crimes shall be grounds for disqualification under this RMP. Crimes may be added to or deleted from these lists only upon approval of the OSYSA Board of Directors.

- 2903.01 Aggravated murder.
- 2903.02 Murder.
- 2903.03 Voluntary manslaughter.
- 2903.04 Involuntary manslaughter.
- 2903.11 Felonious assault.
- 2903.12 Aggravated assault.
- 2903.13 Assault.
- 2903.16 Failing to provide for a functionally impaired person.
- 2903.21 Aggravated menacing.
- 2903.34 Patient abuse or neglect.
- 2905.01 Kidnapping.
- 2905.02 Abduction.(or 2905.04, if prior to 7/1/96)
- 2905.05 Criminal child enticement.
- 2907.02 Rape.
- 2907.03 Sexual battery.
- 2907.04 Unlawful sexual conduct with minor.
- 2907.05 Gross sexual imposition.
- 2907.06 Sexual imposition.
- 2907.07 Importuning.
- 2907.08 Voyeurism.
- 2907.09 Public indecency.
- 2907.19 Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor
- 2907.21 Compelling prostitution.

- 2907.22 Promoting prostitution.
- 2907.23 Enticement or solicitation to patronize a prostitute; procurement of a prostitute for another.
- 2907.25 Prostitution - after positive HIV test.
- 2907.31 Disseminating matter harmful to juveniles.
- 2907.32 Pandering obscenity.
- 2907.321 Pandering obscenity involving a minor.
- 2907.322 Pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor.
- 2907.323 Illegal use of minor in nudity-oriented material or performance.
- 2911.01 Aggravated robbery.
- 2911.02 Robbery.
- 2911.11 Aggravated burglary.
- 2911.12 Burglary.
- 2919.12 Unlawful abortion.
- 2919.22 Endangering children.
- 2919.23 Interference with custody. (if prior to 7/1/96, see 2905.04)
- 2919.24 Contributing to unruliness or delinquency of a child.
- 2919.25 Domestic violence.
- 2923.12 Carrying concealed weapons.
- 2923.13 Having weapons while under disability.
- 2923.161 Improperly discharging firearm at or into a habitation, in a school safety zone or with intent to cause harm or panic to persons in a school building or at a school function.
- 2925.02 Corrupting another with drugs.
- 2925.03 Trafficking, aggravated trafficking in drugs.
- 2925.041 Illegal assembly or possession of chemicals for manufacture of drugs.
- 2925.05 Funding, aggravated funding of drug or marihuana trafficking.
- 2925.06 Illegal administration or distribution of anabolic steroids.
- 2925.11 Possession of controlled substances.
- 3716.11 Placing harmful or hazardous objects in food or confection.

**12.73** A conviction for any of the following offenses shall be sufficient cause to disqualify a person from service with OSYSA as a supplemental disqualification:

- 2903.041 Reckless homicide.
- 2903.15 Permitting child abuse.
- 2903.211 Menacing by stalking.
- 2903.22 Menacing.
- 2903.341 Patient endangerment.
- 2905.11 Extortion.
- 2905.12 Coercion.
- 2905.32 Trafficking in persons.
- 2905.33 Unlawful conduct with respect to documents.
- 2907.04 Unlawful sexual conduct with minor.
- 2907.19 Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor.(formerly 2907.12)
- 2907.24 Soliciting - after positive HIV test - driver's license suspension.

- 2907.33 Deception to obtain matter harmful to juveniles.
- 2909.02 Aggravated arson.
- 2909.03 Arson.
- 2909.04 Disrupting public services.
- 2909.05 Vandalism.
- 2909.22 Soliciting or providing support for act of terrorism.
- 2909.23 Making terroristic threat.
- 2909.24 Terrorism.
- 2911.13 Breaking and entering.
- 2913.02 Theft.
- 2913.03 Unauthorized use of a vehicle.
- 2913.04 Unauthorized use of property - computer, cable, or telecommunication property.
- 2913.041 Possession or sale of unauthorized cable television device.
- 2913.05 Telecommunications fraud.
- 2913.06 Unlawful use of telecommunications device.
- 2913.11 Passing bad checks.
- 2913.21 Misuse of credit cards.
- 2913.31 Forgery - Forging identification cards or selling or distributing forged identification cards.
- 2913.32 Criminal simulation.
- 2913.33 Making or using slugs.
- 2913.34 Trademark counterfeiting.
- 2913.40 Medicaid fraud.
- 2913.41 Defrauding a rental agency or hostelry.
- 2913.42 Tampering with records.
- 2913.43 Securing writings by deception.
- 2913.44 Personating an officer.
- 2913.441 Unlawful display of law enforcement emblem.
- 2913.45 Defrauding creditors.
- 2913.46 Illegal use of food stamps or WIC program benefits.
- 2913.47 Insurance fraud.
- 2913.48 Workers' compensation fraud.
- 2913.49 Identity fraud.
- 2913.51 Receiving stolen property.
- 2917.01 Inciting to violence.
- 2917.02 Aggravated riot.
- 2917.03 Riot.
- 2917.31 Inducing panic.
- 2919.121 Unlawful abortion upon minor.
- 2919.123 Unlawful distribution of an abortion-inducing drug
- 2919.224 Misrepresentation relating to provision of child care.
- 2919.225 Disclosure and notice regarding death or injury of child in facility.
- 2921.03 Intimidation.
- 2921.11 Perjury.
- 2921.12 Tampering with evidence.

- 2921.13 Falsification - in theft offense - to purchase firearm.
- 2921.14 Making or causing false report of child abuse or neglect.
- 2921.21 Compounding a crime.
- 2921.32 Obstructing justice.
- 2921.321 Assaulting or harassing police dog or horse or service dog.
- 2921.34 Escape.
- 2921.35 Aiding escape or resistance to lawful authority.
- 2921.36 Illegal conveyance of weapons, drugs or other prohibited items onto grounds of detention facility or institution.
- 2921.51 Impersonation of peace officer or private police officer.
- 2923.01 Conspiracy.
- 2923.122 Illegal conveyance or possession of deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance or of object indistinguishable from firearm in school safety zone.
- 2923.123 Illegal conveyance of deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance into courthouse - illegal possession or control in courthouse.
- 2923.162 Discharge of firearm on or near prohibited premises.
- 2923.32 Engaging in pattern of corrupt activity.
- 2923.42 Participating in criminal gang.
- 2925.041 Illegal assembly or possession of chemicals for manufacture of drugs.
- 2925.09 Unapproved drugs - dangerous drug offenses involving livestock.
- 2925.13 Permitting drug abuse.
- 2925.141 Illegal use or possession of drug paraphernalia.
- 2925.22 Deception to obtain a dangerous drug.
- 2925.23 Illegal processing of drug documents.
- 2925.24 Tampering with drugs.
- 2925.36 Illegal dispensing of drug samples.
- 2925.55 Unlawful purchase of pseudoephedrine or ephedrine product.
- 2925.56 Unlawful sale of pseudoephedrine or ephedrine product.
- 2927.12 Ethnic intimidation.
- 959.13 Cruelty to animals.
- 959.131 Prohibitions concerning companion animals
- Embezzlement of an amount that would constitute a felony.
- Felony Operating Vehicle under the Influence of alcohol or drugs – OVI, OMVI, DUI, or other similar offense.

**12.7.4** A conviction of a crime that occurred outside the State of Ohio, similar in nature to those crimes listed in Section 12.7.2 or 12.7.3 shall be considered as if the crime had occurred in Ohio under a comparable Ohio statute. In addition, a conviction of a crime pursuant to a federal statute, similar in nature to those crimes listed in Section 12.7.2 or 12.7.3, shall be considered as if the crime had occurred under a comparable Ohio statute.

**12.7.5** Lesser-included offenses of the crimes listed in 12.7.2 and 12.7.3 shall not be cause to disqualify an individual under this RMP.

**12.7.6** Individuals who are listed on any sexual offender registry shall be permanently disqualified from participating in any OSYSA event or program.

**12.7.7** The OSYSA RMC or Alternate OSYSA RMC shall notify any individual of their

disqualification under this RMP in writing via certified US mail with a return receipt and an additional copy being sent via U.S. Regular mail. The notification shall include:

- a. The reason for the disqualification.
- b. The manner by which the decision to disqualify may be appealed.
- c. A description of OSYSA action to be taken if an appeal of the disqualification is not received within fourteen (14) calendar days from the date of the notification.
- d. A copy of any report of a background check or other source of information upon which the disqualification is based.
- e. An Authorization to Communicate via E-mail application, as described in Section 12.8.1.10.
- f. List of rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.
- g. A statement that the producer of the background check is not responsible for any decisions made by OSYSA.
- h. Name and contact information for the company conducting the background check

In addition to sending all of the above described information to the individual via certified US Mail with a return receipt and regular US Mail, the RMC or alternate RMC may, but shall not be required to send the same information via electronic mail.

**12.7.8** If within 14 calendar days after the date of service of the disqualification notice, the applicant does not provide notice, in writing, to the OSYSA RMC of his intention to dispute the disqualification, then the OSYSA RMC shall notify the appropriate local President and the appropriate local RMC, in writing, as follows:

"Pursuant to the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association Risk Management Program, (name of individual) is disqualified from any and all service with your organization, volunteer or otherwise, that would allow (name of individual) to have contact with any OSYSA registered player."

No other information shall be given to the local President or to the local RMC regarding the disqualification of the individual.

#### **12.7.9**

**12.7.10** Should the individual notify the OSYSA RMC, in writing, within the 14 calendar days as described in Section 12.7.7 that the disqualification is being disputed, then an Appeal of the disqualification may be made pursuant to Section 12.8.

### **12.8 APPEAL OF DISQUALIFICATION**

**12.8.1** Any individual who has been disqualified under the OSYSA RMP shall have the right to appeal the disqualification to the OSYSA Conduct Committee provided the disqualification is disputed in a timely manner as specified in this Section 12. The request for an Appeal must be submitted in writing and sent to the OSYSA Executive Director, via certified mail with a return receipt requested, within 14 calendar days of the date that the applicant provided notice of his intent to dispute the disqualification. When a request for an Appeal is made, a hearing shall be held within 30 calendar days of the date the request was sent to the OSYSA Executive Director.

**12.8.2** If the disqualification is an Automatic Disqualification, the OSYSA Conduct Committee in hearing the appeal of the disqualification pursuant to this OSYSA RM Program shall only consider whether the individual who was disqualified had in fact:

- a. Been convicted of one or more of the crimes listed in Section 12.7.2 or 12.7.3 or
- b. Been convicted of a crime outside the State of Ohio or of a federal crime that is similar to the crimes listed in Section 12.7.2, or
- c. Been listed on any sexual offender registry, or
- d. Been provided information that was not truthful on their Risk Management application.

**12.8.3** If the disqualification is an Automatic Disqualification as shown in Section 12.7.2 or if Section 12.8.2 is applicable, then the Conduct Committee shall not return or overturn the disqualification and shall not return the individual to service. The Conduct Committee must comply with all provisions of this Section 12 without exception.

**12.8.4** If the disqualification is a Conditional Disqualification and if the OSYSA Conduct Committee determines that the individual who is appealing the disqualification has a current criminal charge pending in a court of law or if the RMC has a reasonable belief that an investigation by a law enforcement agency is pending and that if the disqualified individual is found guilty of a crime would lead to an Automatic Disqualification, the OSYSA Conduct Committee shall uphold the disqualification, pending disposition of the matter.

**12.8.5** If the disqualification is a Supplemental Disqualification as shown in Section 12.7.3, the individual may appear before the OSYSA Conduct Committee to request a modification of the period of the disqualification. Any such request may be made at any time and the OSYSA Conduct Committee shall consider such a matter. Upon hearing the matter, the OSYSA Conduct Committee is authorized to establish a specific period of time for the disqualification. The disqualification shall be established with a minimum period of time of 3 years and a maximum of 10 years from the date of the final adjudication of the criminal case that led to the disqualification, including but not limited to any probation or other form of community control.

If the applicant who is attempting to have his/her Supplemental Disqualification modified knowingly provides false information to the OSYSA Conduct Committee then that applicant shall be permanently disqualified from participating in any OSYSA event or program or any OSYSA Member event or program.

**12.8.6** If the OSYSA Conduct Committee denies the disqualified individual's request for reinstatement following their Supplemental Disqualification to service within OSYSA or for a modification of their Supplemental Disqualification, that decision to deny the disqualification or modification may be appealed by the disqualified individual to the OSYSA Appeals Committee pursuant to Section 14 of the OSYSA bylaws. If the OSYSA Conduct Committee approves the disqualified individual's request for a modification of their disqualification, that decision to approve the disqualification may be appealed by the OSYSA RMC to the OSYSA Appeals Committee pursuant to Section 14 of the OSYSA bylaws. The disqualified individual shall remain disqualified from service within OSYSA until the OSYSA Appeals Committee renders its decision. The appeal request must be submitted to the Chairperson of the Appeals Committee within 14 days of the date that the Conduct Committee rendered its decision. Failure to submit the appeal to the OSYSA Appeals Committee in a timely manner will preclude the matter from further consideration.

**12.8.7** If the OSYSA Appeals Committee denies the disqualified individual's request for reinstatement to service within OSYSA or for a modification of their disqualification, that decision to deny the disqualification may be appealed by the disqualified individual to the OSYSA Board of Directors. If the OSYSA Appeals Committee approves the disqualified individual's request for a modification of their disqualification, that decision to approve or disapprove the disqualification or modification may be appealed by the OSYSA RMC or Alternate RMC to the OSYSA Board of Directors. If appealed by either party, the disqualified individual shall remain disqualified from service within OSYSA until the OSYSA Board of Directors renders its decision. The appeal request must be submitted to the OSYSA President within 30 days of the date that the Appeals Committee rendered its decision. Failure to submit the appeal to the OSYSA President in a timely manner will preclude the matter from further consideration.

**12.8.8** If either the disqualified individual who was disqualified pursuant to Section 12.7.3 or the OSYSA RMC requests that the OSYSA Board of Directors consider an appeal of the reduction or elimination of the period of disqualification for an individual then by a majority vote of the OSYSA Board of Directors, the Board of Directors may consider the matter in Executive Session at the next scheduled Board of Directors meeting. In considering whether to grant the requested appeal, the OSYSA Board of Directors shall have access to all relevant documents and/or information in order to properly evaluate the appeal. The review by the OSYSA Board of Directors may only be conducted during an in-person board meeting and will be a "document only" review. The disqualified individual shall not be present. The decision by the OSYSA Board of Directors shall be by majority vote, shall final and binding on all parties, and shall not be subject to further appeal.

This process of an appeal to the OSYSA Board of Directors shall only be applicable to those individuals for whom Section 12.8.14 was the basis for their appeal.

**12.8.9** All persons who hold one or more position as listed in Section 12.3, subsections (a), (b), (c), (p) or (q), shall be ineligible for a modification of their Risk Management disqualification as provided above as long as they hold a position as listed in Section 12.3, subsections (a), (n), or (p).

**12.8.10** By this section, the OSYSA Board of Directors directs that the sole purpose in establishing a process by which a disqualified individual may request a hearing before the Conduct Committee and all subsequent appeals is to ensure that the disqualified individual has been removed from service within OSYSA by the OSYSA RMC pursuant to this RMP.

The Conduct Committee shall only consider whether or not the specific Bylaws as outlined in this RMP have been followed. If the Conduct Committee determines that one or more of the conditions listed in Section 12.7 exists for the disqualified individual, the Conduct Committee shall uphold the disqualification and shall determine that the individual shall remain disqualified from service within OSYSA or as otherwise provided by this RMP.

Only if the Conduct Committee determines that none of the conditions listed in Section 12 exists, shall the Conduct Committee determine that the decision to disqualify the individual should be overturned and that the individual is no longer disqualified from service from within OSYSA consistent with section 12.8 of this policy.

**12.8.11** For the purposes of this Section 12.8 only, all correspondence between the parties in this matter shall be sent via certified mail with a return receipt and the date sent shall be considered as the postmark date of the letter. The individual who is subject to a disqualification may waive their right to be notified via certified mail and may instead request subsequent correspondence regarding the disqualification via electronic mail by submitting a signed and dated request to that effect to



the OSYSA RMC via the OSYSA office.

**12.8.12** If the OSYSA Conduct Committee overturns the disqualification of the individual, then the OSYSA RMC shall be authorized to appeal that decision to the OSYSA Appeals Committee as provided in Section 14.0. When the OSYSA RMC submits an appeal of the decision of the OSYSA Conduct Committee to overturn a Risk Management disqualification, the requirement to submit a \$50.00 appeal bond shall be waived.

**12.8.13** The members of the OSYSA Conduct Committee and the OSYSA Appeals Committee shall respect the confidentiality of their respective proceedings.

**12.8.14** If an individual has been previously disqualified from service within OSYSA pursuant to this RMP and if any of the following conditions exist, that individual may apply to the OSYSA Conduct Committee through the OSYSA RMC to have their disqualification rescinded and/or modified as provided in this RMP:

- a. The conviction of the crime which was the basis for their disqualification was overturned or reversed upon appeal by a court of law or
- b. Due to a change in this OSYSA's RMP or
- c. The conviction was that gave rise to the disqualification was a misdemeanor and that misdemeanor is not listed in Section 12.7.2 or was one of the crimes listed as a cause for a supplemental disqualification as shown in Section 12.7.3 and the conviction for the referenced crime was subsequently expunged.

**12.8.15** The provisions of this RMP regarding disqualification of an individual or reinstatement of a disqualified individual shall be retroactive and/or prospective in application. Any disqualified individual that meets the requirements for reinstatement may apply for reinstatement.

## **12.9 ABUSE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

**12.9.1** All complaints received by any individual listed in Section 12.3 against individuals who are alleged to have abused their authority by committing sexual, physical, mental or emotional abuse of a youth athlete must be reported by the individual listed in Section 12.3 to the appropriate law enforcement agency and/or child protection agency within 24 hours of the receipt of such a complaint. For the purposes throughout this section 12.0, a youth is defined as any person under the age of 18.

12.9.1.1 If a report of child abuse to law enforcement, communication of this report to the U.S. Soccer integrity hotline at <https://www.ussoccer.com/integrity-hotline> or (312) 528-7004 and the U.S. Center for SafeSport at <https://safesport.org/response-resolution/report> must also be made.

**12.9.1.2** Additional information may also be found on the Ohio South website at: [http://www.osysa.com/forms\\_resources/safesport/](http://www.osysa.com/forms_resources/safesport/)

Failure to comply with these reporting requirements may subject the individual who has a responsibility to make such reports subject to civil and/or criminal penalties.

**12.9.1.3** Retaliation in all forms by any person against any individual who has made a good faith report of misconduct is strictly prohibited. Persons who engage in such retaliation may be subject

to discipline / sanctions up to and including permanent disassociation with OSYSA, its member leagues, clubs, teams, as determined by the OSYSA Conduct Committee.

**12.9.2** The matter must also be reported in writing to the local Club/Association/League President and/or local RMC and the OSYSA office within 3 days.

**12.9.3** Upon receipt of a complaint, the OSYSA RMC shall conduct a background check of the individual about whom the complaint was made.

**12.9.4** If an abuse charge is formally lodged against an individual, as defined in Section 12.3 with the Police, a criminal background check may also be conducted. If an abuse charge is formally lodged against an individual, the individual may be suspended pursuant to this Section 12 until the case is resolved (USSF/USYS Rule 4043). At this point, the OSYSA RMC must inform the individual of their status and rights in writing.

**12.9.5** Each complaint will be reviewed by the OSYSA RMC to determine the appropriate action in accordance with this RMP. Upon reaching a decision, the individual must be informed and provided information on the appeal process in writing in accordance with this RMP.

**12.9.6** The United States Soccer Federation has defined emotional misconduct / mental injury as more than just one incident unless that single incident is inordinately extreme in nature. The definition of mental injury as stated by U.S.S.F. is:

*Harm to a child's psychological or intellectual functioning, which may be exhibited by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal or outward aggressive behavior, or a combination of those behaviors, which may be demonstrated by a change in behavior, emotional response or cognition.*

As used in this Section 12.9.6, the term "inordinately extreme in nature", shall be defined as any act of omission or commission where by a reasonable person would conclude, based upon available evidence, that serious physical and/or emotional harm was caused to any person by which the act of omission or commission shocks the conscience of a reasonable, knowledgeable, and otherwise disinterested person.

## **12.10 DATA AND INFORMATION SECURITY**

**12.10.1** All appropriate steps must be taken to ensure that previously submitted paper copies of completed applications and all paper and electronic reports or storage media generated as part of the OSYSA RMP, shall be maintained in a secure manner in the OSYSA office or elsewhere. Access to those copies, reports, and storage media shall be limited to the OSYSA, RMC, the Alternate RMC, appropriate legal counsel, and those members of the OSYSA staff who have been delegated to assist in the administration of the OSYSA RM program.

**12.10.3** If it becomes known to OSYSA, that the integrity of personally identifiable data collected as part of the OSYSA RM program has become compromised, OSYSA shall immediately take all available steps to identify the degree by which the data was compromised. OSYSA shall within seven, (7), days notify all persons whose data may have been compromised via e-mail, letter, or by contacting the media as deemed appropriate by the RMC, and/or the OSYSA President.

**12.10.4** .When personally identifiable information is no longer needed to further the aims of the OSYSA RM program, as provided in 12.4.4 (g), that information whether it is in paper form or electronic form shall be destroyed by shredding or by other means as to make the information indecipherable.

**SECTION 12 – APPENDIX A**



**Risk Management Policy**

**(August 17, 2018)**

### **Section 101. Introduction, Purpose, and Applicability**

- (a) The Risk Management Policy of US Youth Soccer further clarifies the US Youth Soccer Bylaw Article VI, Section 2 and establishes the minimum standards by which US Youth Soccer and all Organization Members will adhere in an effort to collectively avoid or minimize the potential impact of forecasted risks.
- (b) The Risk Management Policy applies to US Youth Soccer and all Organization Members to include Affiliate, Associate and State Association (Bylaw Article IV).

### **Section 102. Risk Management Program**

- (a) US Youth Soccer and all Organization Members must establish and monitor a risk management program which, at a minimum, uses an employment/volunteer disclosure statement for all volunteers and employees defined as any person (to include, but not limited to, coach, team manager, board member, program administrator, referee, athletic trainer, organization employee, tournament organizer) age 18 and older acting within an official capacity and who may have the opportunity to have direct and unmonitored access to children who are involved with any approved or sponsored program of US Youth Soccer or the Organization Member or member of the Organization Member.
- (b) All Organization Members are to offer and provide sexual abuse awareness and prevention training and are to require every adult to report abuse and or suspected abuse within a 24-hour period.

### **Section 103. Background Checks**

- (a) US Youth Soccer and all Organization Members must, at a minimum, complete a background check every other year on every individual defined as a volunteer or employee in Section 102 (a) in addition to complying with state and federal law regarding the quality and frequency of required background checks.
- (b) For US Youth Soccer, every background check must, at a minimum, require the individual to meet the criteria provided by the National Council of Youth Sports.

### **Section 104. Indemnification Agreement**

- (a) As a condition of membership, to the extent permitted by law, each Organization Member agrees that it shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless US Youth Soccer, its Board of Directors, officers and employees, volunteers, and its sponsors from any and all claims that arise from, or are attributed to, the negligence of an Organization Member, its directors, officers, employees, referees or volunteers. If requested by US Youth Soccer, each Organization Member agrees that it will execute a formal, written, Indemnification Agreement.

- (b) US Youth Soccer agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Organizational Member, its Board of Directors, Officers and Employees, Volunteers and its Sponsors from

any and all claims that arise from or are attributed to, the negligence of US Youth Soccer, its officers, directors, employees or volunteers.

**Section 105. Liability Insurance**

- (a) Each Organization Member shall obtain a Comprehensive General Liability Policy (“GL Policy”) with minimum limits of not less than \$1,000,000 dollars per occurrence / \$2,000,000 aggregate and an Umbrella Liability policy (“UL Policy”) with minimum limits of not less than \$5,000,000 per occurrence / \$5,000,000 aggregate.
- (b) Both the GL Policy and UL Policy shall provide liability insurance coverage, to include sexual misconduct coverage, for the Organization Member, all of its leagues, clubs, teams, referees, coaches, registered players, directors, officers, staff and volunteers. Both policies shall be endorsed to specifically name United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc. DBA US Youth Soccer as an additional insured.
- (c) Immediately following the annual renewal of its GL Policy and UL Policy, each Organization Member must submit to US Youth Soccer a certificate of insurance evidencing compliance with the insurance requirements contained in this Section.

## **13.0 CONDUCT COMMITTEE BYLAWS**

### **13.1 PURPOSE**

The Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. has control, authority and responsibility to handle misconduct of players and coaches in ODP events, US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup games and play in sanctioned Tournaments, friendly games and other related soccer activities of OSYSA that are not organized by an OSYSA member league or association.

The authority to take action for misconduct in any of these games shall be exercised by the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. through the OSYSA Conduct Committee. Member Associations or Leagues may also take action for misconduct in these games, if the OSYSA Conduct Committee does not do so within 30 days of the incident. However, tournaments shall establish a Conduct committee that is authorized to penalize players, coaches or teams for any misconduct at their event. Such penalties are to be served during remaining tournament games. If the player, coach or team being penalized is a member of any OSYSA member league or association the penalties may carry over into league games. If the coach or player players, coaches or teams are a member of an OSYSA member league or association other than the one that sponsored the tournament or games, or is a member of another State/National Association or affiliate member of US Soccer, the alleged incident is of a serious nature or the sanction that is to be imposed cannot be served during the tournament is to be reported to the OSYSA office for distribution to the OSYSA Conduct Committee, or other appropriate parties, to assign penalties that would go beyond any tournament games.

Any penalties awarded by the OSYSA Conduct Committee against OSYSA players, coaches or teams, shall be served in games of the member association or league or any other US Youth Soccer sanctioned games.

### **13.2 US YOUTH SOCCER OHIO SOUTH STATE CUP, PRESIDENTS CUP, LEAGUE, TOURNAMENT AND FRIENDLY GAME RESPONSIBILITY**

**13.2.1** Operating authorities are to hold head coaches responsible for the actions of the players, assistant coaches, and spectators associated with their team and head coaches are required to take all precautions to prevent spectators and/or players and/or assistant coaches, associated with their team, from threatening, assaulting or harassing the officials and opposing players before, during or at the conclusion of the game.

**13.2.2** Operating authorities must establish rules dictating that players and/or coaches that receive a red card during a game are required to sit out the team's next league game(s). Coaches may not be at the field, in any capacity, during the game(s) that they are required to sit out. Players who are required to sit out a game(s) due to a red card suspension may attend the game(s), but cannot be in uniform.

**13.2.3** If a red card is awarded for violent conduct as described in the referees report, the operating authority is to require that a minimum two game suspension served by the party(ies) that actually struck the other party(ies). This suspension must be served in the next two games in which the player or coach is scheduled to participate, whether it is a US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup game, tournament game or league game. If the penalty cannot be served in the remaining games of the tournament or State Cup and the player or coach is from an Ohio South member association or league then the player or coach must serve the minimum two game suspension in the next league games of the league that initially registered the player during the current seasonal year.

**13.2.4** All Tournament Directors, US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup Chairperson, or the Host Game official must refer any penalties that cannot be served, or any other breach of conduct of a serious nature by any player or coach, to the OSYSA office. Written reports from the referee and from the operating authority or responsible tournament official must be provided to the OSYSA office within 3 business days of the date of the incident for distribution to the appropriate parties.

**13.2.5** If the party(ies) involved in the alleged incident is from a National State Association other than Ohio South Youth Soccer Association Inc., the OSYSA office shall forward all written material received regarding the alleged incident to the home National State Association or affiliate member of US Soccer within fourteen (14) calendar days of its receipt from the operating authority or other party.

**13.2.6** All reports of misconduct made to the Conduct Committee shall be in the format as required by OSYSA. These reports must include the name of the teams, of the players, of the coaches and of all other persons involved in the alleged incident, as well as their addresses, if known. In addition, the report to the Conduct Committee must contain sufficient details to allow the Conduct Committee to ascertain the facts of the alleged incident.

### **13.3 REPORTS**

**13.3.1** If an incident is reported to have occurred outside the boundaries of OSYSA, the report must be received within ninety (90) calendar days of the reported incident.

**13.3.2** The OSYSA office shall forward copies of all material to the Chairperson of the Conduct Committee, to the members of the Conduct Committee and to all other appropriate parties, including the president of the OSYSA league or association that registered the player, coach or team in OSYSA, who is the subject of the complaint to be heard by the OSYSA Conduct Committee, as soon as it is received and prior to the date that the filed report must be considered by the Conduct Committee.

**13.3.3** If a report of misconduct is not received within the deadlines specified within this Section 13.0, the reported offense will not be considered by the Conduct Committee.

### **13.4 CONDUCT COMMITTEE**

**13.4.1** The Chairperson of the Conduct Committee, who shall be nominated by the OSYSA President and confirmed by the OSYSA Board of Directors shall be the non-voting Chairperson of the Conduct Committee and be responsible for providing interpretation of the FIFA Laws of the Game, US Soccer rules, US Youth Soccer rules and OSYSA Bylaws as they are applicable.

**13.4.2** The Chairperson of the Conduct Committee shall appoint the members of the Conduct Committee. This committee shall consist of three (3) voting members. The Conduct Committee shall be responsible for investigating and hearing any reported breaches of conduct by players, coaches, or others.

**13.4.3** No member of the Conduct Committee may be directly affiliated with any member of any organization directly involved in the issue brought before the Conduct Committee. The Chairperson of the Conduct Committee shall appoint alternate members who will serve in the event of conflict of interest or if a member is unavailable. The members of the Conduct Committee may be re-appointed as necessary. The Conduct Committee shall be comprised of parties of different primary backgrounds, such as referee, coach, and administrator, and shall be from at least 3 different OSYSA Districts. In the event the Conduct



Committee Chairperson is directly involved in the alleged incident, the OSYSA President will appoint an Alternate Conduct Committee Chairperson for that hearing.

**13.4.4** Other players, coaches, club officials, member association or league officers or directors or , tournament directors may file written complaints with the Chairperson of the Conduct Committee against any party involved in OSYSA games or other soccer related activities as outlined. Such complaints must be filed within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date of the incident in question by submitting a written report to the OSYSA office.

If the party(ies) involved in the incident does not file the written complaint within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date of the game in question, the complaint will not be accepted and no further action shall be taken.

**13.4.5** The Chairperson of the Conduct Committee, shall notify, in writing, via certified U.S. Mail, the party(ies) involved in the conduct hearing of the complaint that was filed. The involved parties shall be given a copy of the referees (or other party(ies) written report(s). The involved party(ies) may respond in writing to the reported incident. Such response must be received within fourteen (14) calendar days of the receipt of the notice of the Conduct Committee investigations. If the responding party(ies) do not respond within the time limit to the Conduct Committee, the hearing will be conducted and the involved party(ies) will have forfeited their right to provide information on the incident to the Conduct Committee .

The Conduct Committee shall report to any member league or association, in writing, the names of the parties involved in the alleged incident that are members of their league or association..

During the time that the Conduct Committee is conducting their investigation and hearing, the red card penalties shall be served by the involved party(ies).

**13.4.6** All reports and information to the Conduct Committee shall be in writing. The Conduct Committee may require written reports from any other party(ies) involved in the reported incident. All party(ies) affiliated with OSYSA are required to submit written reports if they receive a written request for the Chairperson of the Conduct Committee to do so. Failure of any party(ies) to comply with this request shall result in immediate suspension from all OSYSA activities or other disciplinary sanctions.

**13.4.7** The Conduct Committee must hear the complaint within twenty-eight (28) calendar days of the date that the material was due from the responding party(ies). The responding party may elect to either file all of his/her response to the alleged incident in writing, or may at his/her option elect to personally appear. If the responding party desires a personal appearance with the Conduct Committee, he/she must request this option within seven (7) calendar days of the notification from the Conduct Committee. The Conduct Committee hearing may be tape recorded or video recorded by any party to the hearing, but the minutes of the hearing as reported by the Conduct Committee shall be considered by all parties to be the official record of the proceedings.

**13.4.8** Conduct Committee hearings on matters of misconduct are administrative proceedings only and should not be construed to be a legal hearing as found in a state or federal court.

**13.4.9** Only evidence submitted prior to or at the hearing pursuant to Bylaws of OSYSA may be taken into consideration in deciding the matter before the Conduct Committee.

**13.4.10** The Conduct Committee may issue additional penalties, beyond those that may have already been imposed pursuant to other sections of these OSYSA bylaws, singularly or in combination as follows:

a) Additional suspension for up to 30 years. If the decision of the OSYSA Conduct Committee is to suspend an individual for more than 5 years, the decision to suspend the person for a term of more than 5 years, (but not the actual determination made by the Conduct Committee), the OSYSA Board of Directors must either concur with the term of the suspension as imposed by the Conduct Committee or alternately the OSYSA Board of Directors may reduce the term of the suspension. The vote to either concur with the term of the suspension or to reduce the term of the suspension shall be by an affirmative vote of the majority of the OSYSA Board of Directors at the next meeting of the OSYSA Board of Directors following the decision of the Conduct Committee.

b) Probation not to exceed five years.

c) Issue written reprimands.

d) Make recommendations for further penalties to the OSYSA Board of Directors.

e) For referee assault, the Conduct Committee shall suspend the party(ies) for at least one year from USSF/USYS activities pursuant to USSF Rule 3.2.8.3, if the referee that was assaulted is an adult and for a minimum of 3 years if the referee that was assaulted is a youth.

**13.4.11** The involved party(ies) shall be notified of the action of the Conduct Committee within fourteen (14) calendar days after complaint is heard.

**13.4.12** If the Conduct Committee awards additional game(s) penalties, **the penalties** shall be served during next US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup, Tournament or member league or association game(s) of the involved party(ies).

**13.4.13** Any action taken by the Conduct Committee may be appealed to the OSYSA Appeals Committee as provided in Section 14.0 of this manual. If an appeal is filed, the Conduct Committee must provide a copy of its report and all supporting written reports to the OSYSA Appeals Committee and the involved party(ies) within fourteen (14) calendar days of the notice of appeal being submitted to the OSYSA Appeals Committee Chairperson.

**13.4.14** Based on the notice of an appeal to the OSYSA Appeals Committee being submitted in a timely fashion, any penalty imposed by the Conduct Committee (other than the red card penalties) shall be stayed pending the appeal.

**13.4.15** The OSYSA Appeals Committee shall hear the appeal based on the Bylaws contained in the Section 14.0 of this manual.

**13.4.16** If a party(ies) is suspended for assault of a referee, all appeals from the players, coaches and teams from that incident shall go directly to the Secretary General of US Soccer. Details of the incident and the Conduct Committee's report shall be provided by the Conduct Committee to the Secretary General of US Soccer.

## **14.0 APPEALS PROCEDURE BYLAWS**

### **14.1 PURPOSE**

The Amateur Sports act requires that OSYSA must provide, with fair notice, the opportunity for a hearing to any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official before declaring such individual ineligible to participate. To meet these requirements, the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. has the authority and responsibility to handle appeals of adverse action against players, coaches, managers, officials, officers, teams and members by their member leagues and associations or organizations or committees of the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association.

Every member league and association of the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association shall be responsible for taking action for any misconduct by any member of their organization for matters that occurred within the control of its organization. All member leagues and associations and Ohio South Youth Soccer Association organizations and committees must provide a procedure to provide for the due process of its members.

It is the policy of OSYSA to provide due process to all members of OSYSA. All involved individual(s), that are subject to the provision of this Section 14, in any appeal process shall be entitled to have copies of all materials involving the incident, to have the process conducted within the time lines established by the entity (OSYSA member league or association) that held the initial hearing in the matter under appeal, and to have the right within the designated time limits established to provide comment and/or evidence concerning the incident. In addition, if any member league, association, or OSYSA Committee, pursuant to their own Bylaws or procedures, holds a hearing on a person, team or club not listed above, then that person, team or club has a right to appeal any adverse decision reached by the member league, association or OSYSA Committee using the procedures as outlined in this Section 14.

Failure to comply with any procedural requirements as outlined in this Section 14 may result in a reversal of any adverse decision that is reached by the entity that held the initial hearing and / or in any disciplinary sanctions being imposed.

For the purposes of this Section 14, the Appealing Party in a dispute shall be the person(s) or entity(ies) which is the subject of disciplinary or procedural action and the Responding Party is the entity which took the disciplinary or procedural action that is the subject of the appeal.

If the Responding Party does not meet the required time deadlines in handling the reported incident, then the matter will be decided in favor of the appealing party. If the Appealing Party does not meet the required time deadlines, the appeal will be dismissed.

### **14.2 APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**14.2.1** The Chairperson of the Appeals Committee shall appoint, as needed, an Appeals Committee consisting of at least three (3) individuals. The Appeals Committee shall be responsible for investigating and hearing any accepted appeal of actions taken by member leagues and associations or other committees or organization of Ohio South Youth Soccer Association.

**14.2.2** No member of the Appeals Committee may be connected with any member of an organization involved in an issue brought before the Appeals Committee.

**14.2.3** The Appeals Committee shall be comprised of individuals of different primary backgrounds, such as referee, coach, and administrator and shall be from different OSYSA Districts.

**14.2.4** The Appeals Committee Chairperson shall be a non-voting position responsible for providing interpretation of the rules and regulations for organizations involved in the appeal. In the event that the Appeals Committee Chairperson is directly involved in the matter that is before the Appeals Committee, the OSYSA President shall appoint an alternate Chairperson for the appeal that is before the Appeals Committee.

**14.2.5** The Appeals Committee shall conduct the appeals only through a review of the documents and statements submitted by the Appealing and Responding parties to the appeal. No “in person” hearing(s) with the Appealing and /or Responding Party(ies) will be held by the Appeal Committee except as provided in Section 14.3.13. No additional testimony beyond that was gathered at the initial hearing will be reviewed by the Appeals Committee.

### **14.3 MANNER OF APPEAL**

**14.3.1** Appeals beyond the level of the club, league or association shall be made by filing a notice of appeal (see sample form), in a form designed by OSYSA. The Appealing Party shall send the Notice of Intent to Appeal to the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association Appeals Committee Chairperson in care of the OSYSA Office.

**14.3.2** The Notice of Intent to Appeal shall be complete and shall be signed by the appealing party. The Appealing Party(ies) shall file his/her Notice of Intent to Appeal, in writing, with the Appeals Committee Chairperson in care of the OSYSA office within seven (7) calendar days of the date of receipt of written notification of adverse action from his/her member Association or League or Ohio South committee or organization. A \$300.00 fee is to accompany the Notice of Intent to Appeal when it is submitted, except as provided in Section 12.8.4. The fee will be returned if the appeal is upheld. At the same time, a copy of the Notice of Intent to Appeal shall be sent by the Appealing Party to the other (Responding) party in the matter under appeal.

**14.3.3** The Notice of Intent to Appeal shall also include a list of documents placed in evidence at the original hearing, using the form (Appeal Document Directory) as prescribed by OSYSA. The directory shall indicate what documents are held by the Appealing Party and what documents are held by of the Responding Party. The documents shall be numbered sequentially starting with document #1 as the original appeal and document #2 as the decision rendered following the initial hearing. Additional documents that are relevant to the matter under appeal are also to be listed on the Appeal Document List and numbered in the order that they were received by the Appealing Party.

**14.3.4** The Appealing Party(ies) may request copies of all material held by the Responding Party that is connected to the appeal. The Responding Party must furnish copies of the material requested by the Appealing Party(ies) at the same time that the material is submitted to the Appeals Committee. If the Responding Party does not furnish the Appealing Party(ies) the material within the time specified below, a decision shall be entered in favor of the Appealing Party(ies).

**14.3.5** Failure of the Appealing Party(ies) to provide copies of all material to the Responding Party within the time period specified will result in dismissal of the appeal.

**14.3.6** The Responding Party shall mail all relevant material to the Appeals Committee Chairperson in care of the OSYSA office, within fourteen (14) calendar days after receipt of the submission by the Appealing Party(ies). Copies of this submission and requested material held by the Responding Party that was requested by the Appealing Party(ies) must be given to the Appealing Party(ies) within this same time limit.

If the Appealing Party(ies)'s requested material is held by the Responding Party, the Appealing Party(ies) has fourteen (14) calendar days following the receipt of the material held by the Responding Party to submit material based on the new information provided by the Responding Party.

**14.3.7** The actual appeal, which may be in letter or memorandum form, must be sent by the Appealing Party to the OSYSA Appeals Committee Chairperson, in care of the OSYSA office, within fourteen (14) calendar days after the Notice of Intent to Appeal was first sent to the OSYSA Appeals Chairman. A copy of the actual appeal must also be sent to the Responding Party at the same time.

The appeal must include a statement of errors that have been made in the case which provide the basis for the appeal, including the specific rule of the OSYSA member league or association, or the rule of the OSYSA organization or committee, or the rule of OSYSA, or the rule of US Youth Soccer, or the rule of USSF that was not followed, if any, in rendering the decision that is under appeal. The statement must specifically include all grounds for the appeal and must refer to the documents listed in the Appeals Document Directory.

**14.3.8** Either Appealing or Responding Parties may submit additional written material (other than the opportunities to submit materials as outlined above) concerning the appeal or material submitted by either party. However, all material must be received by the Appeals Committee prior to the Appeals Committee's review of the appeal. Copies of any such material submitted to the Appeal Committee Chairperson must be provided to the other party to the dispute within the same time limits.

**14.3.9** All reports to the Appeals Committee Chairperson shall be in writing. All correspondence sent to the Appealing Party, the Responding Party and to the OSYSA Appeals Committee Chairperson or OSYSA office in all matters concerning an appeal shall be sent via certified U.S. Mail with a return receipt.

**14.3.10** The Appeals Committee must review the appeal within sixty (60) calendar days from the time the Notice of Intent to Appeal was first sent to the OSYSA Appeals Committee Chairperson in care of the OSYSA office.

**14.3.11** All parties to this appeal shall be notified of the action of the Appeals Committee within fourteen (14) calendar days after the appeal is reviewed by the Appeals Committee. The names of the Appeals Committee will be listed. The chairperson, by written notification, will notify all parties of the decision of the Committee.

**14.3.12** Any penalty assessed by the member league or association or OSYSA organization or committee shall be stayed until the Appeals Committee notifies the Appealing Party and the Responding Party of its decision. If the decision of the Appeals Committee upholds or modifies in part the determination by the OSYSA member league or association or OSYSA organization or committee that held the initial hearing, then the penalty assessed following the initial hearing or as modified by the Appeals Committee shall be imposed, effective immediately. If the Appeals Committee completely overturns the penalty that was imposed following the initial hearing then no penalty may be imposed by the Responding Party against the Appealing Party for the matter under consideration in the appeal. The Appeals Committee may also

remand the matter for a rehearing by the entity which took the disciplinary or procedural action that is the subject of the appeal.

**14.3.13** In any matter that is brought to the OSYSA Appeals Committee involving the current year's US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup in which either the Appealing Party or the Responding Party has not been eliminated from the competition, the Chairperson of the Appeals Committee shall be empowered to hold an expedited "document only" review or at the discretion of the Appeal Committee Chairperson an "in-person" hearing to resolve the issue in a timely manner as to have a minimal impact on the US Youth Soccer Ohio South State Cup Championship.

In order to hold the expedited hearing, the Chairperson of the Appeals Committee is authorized to call a meeting of the OSYSA Appeals Committee within 72 hours of receipt of the Notice of Intent to Appeal. The appeal and all relevant documentation may be delivered to the Chairperson of the Appeals Committee in care of the OSYSA office either by certified U.S. Mail with a return receipt or by hand delivery. Any person having an interest in the appeal may present any relevant documentation to the Appeals Committee for their consideration.

The Appeals Committee shall render its decision within 48 hours of the conclusion of the expedited hearing.

#### **14.4 FURTHER APPEAL RIGHTS**

**14.4.1** The decision of the Appeals Committee may be appealed to the USSF Appeals Committee. Written appeal must be filed within five (5) calendar days of the receipt of the decision as rendered by the OSYSA Appeals Committee. The Notice of Intent to Appeal must be given to the Responding Party(ies) (both the original party and OSYSA) at the same time. The Appeal to the USSF Appeals Committee must follow the procedure established by the USSF Administrative Rules Book. Copies of these procedures are available upon request from the Ohio South State Office.

#### **14.5 APPEALING PARTY OBLIGATION AND APPEAL DOCUMENTATION**

**14.5.1** Within fourteen (14) calendar days after the mailing of the Notice of Intent to Appeal, the Appealing Party shall send the actual appeal in the form as described in Section 14.3.4 to the Appeals Committee Chairperson in care of the OSYSA office and to the Responding party.

**14.5.2** Appeal documentation shall include the following:

- a) Copies of all documents stated on the Notice of Intent to Appeal to be in the hands of the appealing party. No additional evidence, not listed in the Notice of Intent to Appeal, may be submitted without the advance permission of the Chairperson of the Appeals Committee.
- b) Arguments supporting the appealing party's position on each of the issues.
- c) Statement that a copy of the appeal documentation has been mailed or delivered to the Responding party.

#### **14.6 RESPONDING PARTY OBLIGATIONS**

**14.6.1** Within fourteen (14) calendar days after receipt of the Notice of Intent to Appeal the Responding Party shall send the Appeals Committee and the appealing party(ies) copies of the documents stated in the

Notice of Intent to Appeal to be held by Responding Party or an explanation of the absence of the documentation.

**14.6.2** Within fourteen (14) calendar days after receipt of the actual appeal in the form as described in Section 14.3.4 the Responding Party shall send its arguments of the issues to the Appeals Committee Chairperson in care of the OSYSA office and the appealing party(ies).

## **14.7 POWERS OF THE OSYSA APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**14.7.1** The Appeals Committee is not empowered to require any member league, association, or OSYSA organization or committee to change any of their procedures for handling disputes that would be subject to the OSYSA Appeals Procedures. The OSYSA Appeals Committee Chairperson may make such recommendations on behalf of the Appeals Committee to the member league, association, or OSYSA organization or committee and/or to the OSYSA Board of Directors.

**14.7.2** The Appeals Committee is not empowered to rule on the credibility of the testimony provided at the initial hearing. The determination as to the credibility of the witnesses and of written documentation presented at the initial hearing shall be the sole province of the entity that held the initial hearing.

**14.7.3** Questions regarding OSYSA appeals procedures must be submitted, in writing, to the OSYSA Appeals Committee Chairperson.

**14.7.4** Consideration of appeals will be limited to the specific facts, Bylaws and procedures at issue. Matters not relevant to the appeal will not be considered by the OSYSA Appeals Committee.

## **14.8 Mediation**

**14.8.1** At the same time the Appealing Party submits the Notice of Intent to Appeal, the Appealing Party may also submit a Request for Mediation Form. If a properly completed Request for Mediation is submitted concurrently with the Notice of the Intent to Appeal, all of the subsequent time limits contained within this Section 14 are held in abeyance until such time as either the mediation process makes the further processing of the appeal moot or the mediation process does not bring about a mutually successful resolution of the appeal.

**14.8.2** The Request for Mediation form will be addressed to the OSYSA Executive Director in care of the OSYSA office and shall be mailed via US Certified mail.

**14.8.3** Upon receipt of the Request for Mediation form, the OSYSA Executive Director shall contact the Responding Party within 48 hours of the receipt of the form to determine if the Responding Party is willing to accept mediation in the matter that is being appealed.

If the Responding Party does not agree to mediation in the matter, the OSYSA Executive Director shall notify the Appealing Party of such notification within 48 hours that mediation will not take place and shall notify the Appealing Party that all of the time limits relating to the appeals are as if the Request for Mediation had never been submitted.

If the Responding Party agrees to accept mediation of the matter under appeal, the OSYSA President shall, within 7 calendar days of the mutual agreement to accept mediation, appoint a neutral party as a mediator.

The mediator using the mediation process as established by US Youth Soccer shall attempt to resolve the matter under appeal within 30 days of their appointment as a mediator.

**14.8.4** If the mediation was successful, then the Appealing Party shall withdraw the appeal and the matter will be settled as mutually agreed to by the Appealing and Responding Parties. In addition, if the mediation is successful the appeal fee that was submitted with the appeal by the Appealing Party shall be returned to the Appealing Party.

**14.8.5** If the mediation was unsuccessful, then upon notification by the appointed mediator to the OSYSA President that the mediation was unsuccessful, the time limits of the original appeal will be restarted. For purposes of the time limits within this Section 14, the date of the notification by the mediator to the OSYSA President shall be considered as if that was the date that the appeal was originally submitted and the appeals process will be restarted as outlined above.

**14.8.6** The request for mediation, the lack of acceptance of mediation or the failure to agree to a mediated resolution of the matter under appeal shall not be considered during the appeals process either for or against either the Appealing or Responding Party.



# OHIO SOUTH YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAL

Submitted to the OSYSA Appeals Chairperson in care of the OSYSA office, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Individual / Organization Filing The Appeal:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: HOME: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Principal Officer or Organization Rendering Original Decision:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: HOME: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK: \_\_\_\_\_

C. This Is An Appeal Of The Decision Of: \_\_\_\_\_

D. Date Of Decision Being Appealed: \_\_\_\_\_

E. Date Decision Was Received by Party Filing Appeal: \_\_\_\_\_

F. Specific Grounds For Appeal:

Failure to comply with or arbitrary application of any Local, State Association, US Youth Soccer or USSF Bylaw, rule, Regulation or Law of the Game. Must state and list rule violated.

Failure of the organization whose decision is being appealed to provide the party appealing of proper notice or the opportunity to be heard.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that all information that in this appeal is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have read all parts of this form. I have sent a copy of this notice to the organization named in paragraph B and to my state association. I have included the following items. This information is to be sent by certified mail.

The appropriate OSYSA Appeal fee of \$300.00.

Document Directory

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person Requesting Mediation



# **OHIO SOUTH YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION REQUEST FOR MEDIATION**

Submitted to the OSYSA President, in care of the OSYSA office, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**A. Individual / Organization Requesting Mediation:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City / State / Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: HOME: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Principal Officer or Organization With Whom Mediation is Requested:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City / State / Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: HOME: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK: \_\_\_\_\_

**C. This Is a Request for Mediation following the decision of:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**D. Date Decision Was Rendered:** \_\_\_\_\_

It is understood that participation in the OSYSA Mediation process is entirely voluntary by all involved parties. To successfully conclude the mediation process, both the Appealing Party and the Responding party must agree to the proposed resolution of the appeal. If the mediation process is successful, the appeal that was filed concurrently with the request shall be dismissed. If the mediation process is unsuccessful, the original appeal, with its corresponding time limits, will be restarted.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Person Requesting Mediation TEAMS**

## **15.0 INSURANCE**

### **15.1 PURPOSE**

Member leagues, clubs and teams are covered by general liability and secondary medical insurance subscribed to by OSYSA for all US Youth Soccer games in a sanctioned member league (including Futsal), OSYSA club/team training (indoor or outdoor) and OSYSA club/team tryouts (indoor or outdoor). The purpose of this policy is to give background of the insurance coverage that you receive as a member league. Further this policy provides the details of the coverage for member leagues, clubs and/or their team(s). In addition, Directors and Officers Insurance is available for OSYSA member leagues.

### **15.2 ACTUAL COVERAGE**

**15.2.1** The plan provides general liability limits of \$1 million per occurrence with an unlimited general aggregate for all claims not involving athletic participant legal liability claims. The athletic participant legal liability (non-Brain Injury) has a limit of \$2 million per occurrence with an unlimited aggregate. Athletic participant liability claims involving Brain Injuries is limited to \$2 million per occurrence with a \$5 million aggregate.

The policy covers the State Association, its member leagues, teams, players, coaches, referees, sponsors, directors and officers, officials and volunteer workers, while acting directly on behalf of OSYSA.

**15.2.2** Liability for Bodily Injury and Property Damage is provided for spectators and OSYSA member participants arising out of all sponsored activities, premises and operations of the OSYSA and its members.

**15.2.3** Coverage provided of OSYSA member Association/league for liability is for Personal or Advertising Injury, including false arrest, detention or malicious prosecution, libel, slander, and defamation or violation of right to privacy.

**15.2.4** The Accident portion of the policy covers: all OSYSA registered players and players participating in try-outs conducted by clubs and/or teams who are members of OSYSA member leagues before registration, coaches, managers, volunteers and other participants affiliated with the Association while participating in OSYSA functions as specified.

**15.2.5** The medical and dental expense coverage is secondary insurance. This means that this insurance only comes into use once the benefits of the covered individuals own medical and dental insurance is exhausted or the covered individual has no medical and/or dental insurance). For qualifying medical and dental expense coverage, the plan pays up to \$25,000 maximum per claim to an Insured Person for medical costs incurred as a direct result of participation in a Covered Activity.

This policy is excess over any other valid Insurance or Health Care Plan, and all claims will be paid on a Usual & Customary basis. Each claim is subject to a \$2500 Deductible.

A \$2,500 deductible and 80/20 Co-Insurance applies to each covered accident to include a physical therapy/chiropractic sub-limit of \$50 per visit/\$2,000 maximum per injury. A completed claim form must be submitted as soon as is practicable after the date of injury.

**15.2.6** An additional benefit for the members of OSYSA under the provided policy is a \$5,000 limit for Accidental Death and Dismemberment claims.

**15.2.7** What is Covered?

- Medical care includes necessary 1) stays in a hospital; 2) medical or surgical treatment by a doctor; and 3) services of a licensed nurse.
- Usual & Customary payment means fees for services, which do not exceed those generally charged for similar Medical Care in your local area.

**15.2.8** What is not Covered?

- Some of the losses that are not covered by the Accident Insurance are: self-inflicted injuries; suicide; war; illness; travel in any aircraft except as a fare-paying passenger on a commercial aircraft; being under the influence of drugs or narcotics; being intoxicated; pre-existing conditions; and expenses for treatment to the teeth, except for treatment resulting from injury to natural teeth. See the policy for a complete list of exclusions and limitations.

### **15.3 REQUIRED FOR LEAGUE AND TEAM COVERAGE**

**15.3.1** Total Insurance coverage (to the limit provided by the policy entered into on your behalf by OSYSA as outlined above) is in full effect in the following circumstances:

- a. Games played between teams that are members of OSYSA leagues if played within the boundaries of OSYSA (or home fields of OSYSA members who have fields located in another State Association).
- b. Games played between teams from two different US Youth Soccer State Associations if the games are part of a sanctioned league play where the teams from the other US Youth Soccer State Association has permission from their home State Association and OSYSA to participate in that league. Games can be played in OSYSA or in the other State Association.
- c. Friendly games between a team(s) of OSYSA member associations/league and team(s) from another US Youth Soccer member state associations are covered if permission to host friendly games and permission to travel has been granted by the OSYSA and the proper other State Associations.
- d. Friendly games between teams who are members of OSYSA sanctioned member leagues if the games are played inside of the boundaries of OSYSA.
- e. Games played in OSYSA sanctioned tournaments.
- f. Games played outside of the boundaries of OSYSA in tournaments sanctioned by a State Association that is a member of US Youth Soccer if the team has OSYSA Permission To Travel.
- g. Insurance coverage is provided for all State, Regional and National Cup games and all ODP activities and matches authorized by OSYSA.
- h. Insurance coverage is provided for OSYSA member teams playing games against other US Soccer member teams when these games are played in a tournament sanctioned/approved by a US Soccer member and the OSYSA member Association/League team has Permission To Travel. The teams from the other US Soccer program(s) are not covered under the insurance plan provided by OSYSA.

To insure this coverage, teams that are members of OSYSA member Association and/or leagues must file a notification to play against teams who are members of organizations who are member of US Soccer. This notification is filed via the OSYSA website at [WWW.OSYSA.COM](http://WWW.OSYSA.COM).

- i. Member leagues will have general liability coverage for tournaments sanctioned by OSYSA as long as the tournament complies will all requirements for sanctioning. This general liability coverage for the tournament is extended to sanctioned tournament can include other members of other US Soccer programs if all of the established OSYSA tournament requirements are followed.
- j. OSYSA teams upon prior notification of their intent to participate in an event sanctioned by US Soccer or their affiliates will be provided their OSYSA insurance coverage. Under no circumstances is any insurance coverage provided for the games, events or tournament operated by non-members of US Soccer.

## **15.4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIMITED OR NO COVERAGE**

**15.4.1** Total Insurance coverage (to the limit provided by the policy entered into on your behalf by OSYSA as outlined above) is limited or not in effect in the following circumstances:

If teams that are members of OSYSA member leagues and have also elected to have dual membership in another US Soccer program, all games by that team as part of that other program are not covered by the OSYSA insurance.

If a team has dual membership and elects to play in the tournament with their membership in the other US Soccer program, the insurance coverage of OSYSA does not apply to these games as the team is participating as a member of the other US Soccer program.

OSYSA sanctioned tournaments that invite and accept teams who are members of another US Soccer program will have coverage under the general liability insurance policy. However, in order to implement this insurance coverage, they must have followed the established OSYSA tournament sanctioning Bylaws. The general liability insurance will not provide the tournament any coverage if any the OSYSA tournament sanctioning Bylaws are not followed.

Under no circumstances will teams who are members of other US Soccer programs or independent of US Soccer be covered under the secondary medical or accidental insurance coverage of the OSYSA policy.

Under no circumstances will OSYSA teams be covered under the OSYSA insurance program if they participate against Independent teams (teams who are not members of US Youth Soccer or another affiliate member of US Soccer). Independent teams (not members of US Youth Soccer or another affiliate member of US Soccer) are not covered by the Ohio South Insurance Program.

Under no circumstances will US Youth Soccer teams or teams of another affiliate member of US Soccer be covered OSYSA Insurance Program in Friendly Games, tournaments or small sided games unless these games are in total compliance with OSYSA Bylaws Section 8.

## **15.5 DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS INSURANCE**

**15.5.1** D & O Coverage is provided for the Board of Directors of all OSYSA member leagues. The D&O coverage is only for actions taken on behalf of OSYSA and/or US Youth Soccer Activities. Non-soccer activities or soccer activities related to other soccer programs are not covered.

**15.5.2** This plan provides protection for lawsuits against the directors and officers of OSYSA member leagues, for actual or alleged wrongful acts and errors and omissions. The policy provides protection for individuals, league officials and volunteers in their collective capacity as officers of the Association/league. The policy also provides coverage for suits brought against the league entity itself.

**15.5.3** The D&O Policy Limits per Policy Year; \$1,000,000.00 per claim, \$1,000,000.00 total payments and a \$1,000 per claim deductible.

**15.5.4** Examples of Claims covered by this policy: Lawsuits seeking damages for claims of discrimination, wrongful suspension of players, acts beyond the authority of the league, wrongful dismissal of coaches, or failure to provide adequate insurance.

**15.5.5** This plan does not provide coverage for lawsuits involving bodily injury or property damage. Those are covered under the team or league's general liability policy.

**15.5.6** This coverage is written on a "claims made basis." All claims under this policy must be reported to the insurance company within the policy term.

## **SECTION 16 Zero Tolerance Policy Against Abuse**

The Ohio South Youth Soccer Association is committed to providing a safe environment for its members and participants, and to preventing abusive conduct in any form. Every member of this organization is responsible for protecting our participants and ensuring their safety and well being while involved in sponsored activities.

To this end, we have established the following guidelines of behavior and procedures for our staff, volunteers and participants. All members of this organization, as well as parents, spectators and other invitees are expected to observe and adhere to these guidelines.

1. Abuse of any kind is not permitted within our organization. This means we do not tolerate physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse or misconduct from our players, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents or spectators.
2. Physical and sexual abuse, including, but not limited to, striking, hitting, kicking, biting, indecent or wanton gesturing, lewd remarks, indecent exposure, unwanted physical contact, any form of sexual contact or inappropriate touching, are strictly prohibited within our organization.
3. Emotional abuse or verbal abuse is also prohibited. These include, but are not limited to such forms of abuse as: yelling, insulting, threatening, mocking, demeaning behavior, or making abusive statements in regard to a person's race, gender, religion, nationality/ethnicity, sex or age.
4. We are committed to providing a safe environment for our players, participants and staff. We do so by appointing all coaches, officials and volunteers and anyone else affiliated with our organization as protection advocates. Every member of this organization is responsible for reporting any cases of questionable conduct or alleged mistreatment toward our members by any coach, official, volunteer, player, parent, sibling or spectator.
5. Buddy System: We recommend that every activity sponsored by our program put a Buddy System in place. Each youth participant should be assigned a buddy during sponsored activities. No child should go anywhere -to the bathrooms, locker rooms, or other location without his or her buddy.
6. To further protect our youth participants, as well as our coaches, officials and volunteers, we strongly advise that no adult person allow him/herself to be alone with a child or with any group of children during sponsored activities. In particular, we recommend that coaches or other adult members of this organization:
  - Do not drive alone with a child participant in the car.
  - Do not take a child alone to the locker room, bathrooms or any other any other private room.
  - Provide one-on-one training or individual coaching with the assistance of another adult or the child's Buddy.
  - If you must have a private conversation with a youth participant, do it within view of others, in the gym or on the field, instead of in a private office.



- Coaches and other adult members of this organization should not socialize individually with the participants outside of sponsored activities

7. Supervision/Chaperone ratio: We recommend that for any sponsored activity, the ratio of adults to youth participants be 1:8, one (or more) adults for every eight children, with a minimum of two adults for every activity.

8. When traveling overnight with youth participants, children should be paired up with other children of same gender and similar age group, with chaperones in separate but nearby rooms.

9. We want to empower our children to trust their feelings and let them know that their concerns, fears and hopes are important by listening to them. Open communication between children and parents, or between children and other adults in the organization may help early warning signs of abuse to surface.

10. We encourage parents to become as active as possible in sponsored activities, games, practices and other events. The more the parents are involved, the less likely it is for abusive situations to develop.

11. We will respond quickly to any and all allegations of abuse within this organization. This information will be communicated to the authorities for investigation and will be reviewed by the organization's directors. The alleged offender will be notified of such allegations promptly.

12. Any person accused of sexual or physical abuse may be asked to resign voluntarily or may be suspended by the board until the matter is resolved. Regardless of criminal or civil guilt in the alleged abuse, the continued presence of the person could be detrimental to the reputation of the organization and could be harmful to the participants. A person who is accused but later cleared of charges, may apply to be reinstated within the organization. Reinstatement is not a right, and no guarantee is made that he or she will be reinstated to his/her former position.

13. We promote good sportsmanship throughout the organization and encourage qualities of mutual respect, courtesy and tolerance in all participants, coaches, officials and volunteers. We advocate building strong self-images among the youth participants. Children with a strong self-image may be less likely targets for abuse; similarly, they may be less likely to abuse or bully others around them.

## **SECTION 17.0**

### **OHIO SOUTH GUIDELINES FOR LIGHTNING AND HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS**

The protection of Ohio South members and participants is of paramount importance. Every member should recognize the danger presented by lightning, tornados and other hazardous weather. The following items represent generally accepted principles regarding the dangers involved with lightning and tornados.

#### **LIGHTNING:**

- All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous.
- Lightning often strikes as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall. You are in danger from lightning if you can hear thunder. You are in danger if you can see lightning.
- Lightning injuries can lead to permanent disabilities or death. Look for dark cloud bases and increasing wind.
- Lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles and strike when skies are blue.
- Soccer fields are a dangerous place to be during a lightning storm. When lightning is seen or thunder is heard, or when dark threatening clouds are observed, quickly suspend the game and/or practice and move to a safe location.
- Avoid standing in an open area, near soccer goals, under a tent, near trees or in water. The safest place during a thunderstorm with or without visible lightning is in a car, but not a convertible.

#### **TORNADOS:**

- Watch for rapidly darkening skies.
- The sound of an approaching tornado is often described as that of an approaching train.
- The funnel of a tornado does not have to touch down to cause extensive damage and injuries.
- Tornados can produce winds of 300 miles per hour or more.
- Most people who are hurt during a tornado are hurt when they are struck by flying debris.
- Seek safety in a solid structure, preferably in a basement or in an interior room. If no building is available, lay down in a ditch.

## GAME SUSPENSION REQUIREMENTS:

In any of the circumstances outlined below occurs, the referee should immediately suspend the game.

1. If thunder is heard, the game should be suspended and the fields cleared. Everyone should immediately go to a safe shelter.
2. If lightning is seen, the game should be suspended and the fields cleared. Everyone should immediately go to a safe shelter.
3. If a thunderstorm is heard or seen coming or your hair stands on end, the game should be suspended and the fields cleared. Everyone should immediately go to a safe shelter. Do not wait until it rains.
4. If an audible tornado warning is heard, the game should be suspended and the fields cleared. Everyone should immediately go to a safe shelter.

If the game official does not immediately suspend the game when any one of the points above have occurred, the head coach from each team can agree that one of the four criteria listed above have occurred they are to withdraw their teams from the field. If this action is taken, then both coaches must submit a written report to their league outlining the circumstances, the facts concerning the weather conditions at that time, the fact that the two coaches were in agreement and the name of the officials at the game.

If an official and one of the coaches do not reach the conclusion to suspend the game and any one of the four points listed above are believed to have occurred, the coach that supported the suspension of the game is to send a written report to their league outlining the facts and the names of the officials.

No one should retake the field or re-start the game until all of the lightning and thunder or other hazardous weather has left the area. Specifically, no one should retake the field for a minimum of 30 minutes after the last lightning is seen or thunder is heard, or the dangerously high winds have passed.

Each league should establish their own procedures for replaying of any games suspended due to lightning or tornados.

## **Section 18.0      A Player's Right To Choose**

**18.1** All players have the right and opportunity to choose which team, club or association of teams tryouts they wish to attend. No team, club, association of teams, or OSYSA member league may violate, infringe or restrict this basic right for players in any manner. Players, parents and coaches must also recognize that players are bound to the team for the entire seasonal year once they sign a player registration form, subject to the Bylaws of OSYSA and their member leagues regarding player transfers and voluntary quits.

**18.1.1** This entire Section **18.0** is applicable only within those competitive leagues that do not have established rules that are substantially similar in scope to the ideals and concepts put forth in this Section **18.0**. A competitive league's rules shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of this Section **18.1.1** unless the OSYSA Board of Directors determines that the competitive league's rules are not substantially similar in scope to the ideals and concepts put forth in this Section **18.0**

**18.2** All teams, clubs and association of teams are required to provide written notification of the "Player's Right To Choose" to all players when they elect to tryout and/or are made an offer without a tryout for a team, club or association of teams.

**18.3** Paragraphs **18.3.1** through **18.3.6** are examples of actions that would restrict, violate and/or infringe upon the "Player's Right To Choose" and are prohibited under this section.

**18.3.1** Inform a player that if he/she elects to attend tryouts of other teams, clubs or associations of teams that he/she would not be offered a position with that team, club or association of teams.

**18.3.2** If a team, club or association of teams, hold tryouts on more than one occasion, require a player to attend all tryouts of a team, club or association of teams in order to be offered a position with that team, club or association of teams.

**18.3.3** Require a fee, charge or payment in advance of, during or immediately after tryouts, as a basis of trying out for that team, club or association of teams.

**18.3.4** Require that a player commit to the team, club or association of teams as a condition to attend tryouts.

**18.3.5** Require that a player immediately commit to join that team, club or association of teams at the conclusion of the tryouts.

**18.3.6** Make any offer to join a team, club or association of teams prior to the tryout date(s) of the team, club or association of teams. This section is not applicable to a player's current team, club or association of teams.

**18.4** Players have the right to transfer during the seasonal year (subject to league and OSYSA transfers Bylaws and OSYSA State Cup roster requirements). Clubs, teams or association of teams may not initiate contact with a player concerning a transfer. A player, if he/she has an interest, may elect to contact another team. Once contact has been made by a player, the team may have contact with that player.

**18.5** If a player submits an OSYSA Voluntary Quit form or if a player transfers prior to the first game of the seasonal year for that team, the team is strongly encouraged to make a fair and appropriate pro-rata return of any fees paid based on expenses already incurred or paid by the team for the benefit of the team.

**18.6** Players, parents, other teams, clubs, association of teams or OSYSA member leagues may bring complaints against any team, club or association of teams. Any officer, board member, State Commissioner or District Commissioner of Ohio South may also directly bring such complaints against any team, club or association of teams for infringement, violation or restriction of the “Player’s Right to Choose”.

**18.6.1** Alleged violations of this Section **18.0** are to be considered non-concurrently. For example, if a club where to handout an information sheet that spelled out players must attend all tryouts that the club is holding, (a violation of section **18.3.2**), to 40 players, then that would be considered as 40 separate violations of this Section **18.0**.

**18.7** Any complaint concerning an alleged violation of this Section 18 shall first be directed to the OSYSA member league for whom the team, club or association of teams, is a member, except as provided in Section **18.9**. If the OSYSA member league finds in favor of the complainant then the only sanction that may be imposed by the member league against the team, club or association of teams that was found to have violated one or more of the above listed player rights is a maximum fine of \$400.00 for a first offense and a maximum fine of \$800.00 for a second or subsequent offense by that team, club or association of teams, within a three year period. All fines levied following a decision by the member league, pursuant to this Section **18.0**, shall be paid to the member league.

**18.8** If the OSYSA member league does not handle the complaint within 30 days of its filing with the OSYSA member league or if the team, club or association of teams is not currently a member of an OSYSA member league or if the complaint is made against an OSYSA member league, then the complainant may file the complaint with the OSYSA Conduct Committee.

**18.9** In addition, if the complainant is a member of a league different from that of the league of which the team, club or association of teams is a member of that is alleged to have infringed or violated the provisions of this Section 18.0, then that complaint shall be heard by the OSYSA Conduct Committee.

**18.10** If the OSYSA Conduct Committee finds in favor of the complainant then the only sanction that may be imposed by the OSYSA Conduct Committee against the team, club, association of teams or OSYSA member league that was found to have violated one or more of the above listed player rights is a maximum fine of \$400.00 for a first offense and a maximum fine of \$800.00 for a second or subsequent offense by that team, club, association of teams or OSYSA member league, within a three year period. All fines levied following a decision by the OSYSA Conduct Committee, pursuant to this Section 18.0, shall be paid to OSYSA.

**18.11** Leagues may establish additional restrictions and requirements regarding the method and timing of tryouts that are held for teams that have or that will participate in that league.

**18.12** To facilitate the opportunities that may be available to players during tryouts, all competitive leagues and programs, as well as all coaches, teams, and clubs are prohibited from holding tryouts or any other form of player evaluation for teams for the following seasonal year until on or after the following dates:

<b>U-8</b>	<b>The Tuesday after Memorial Day</b>
<b>U-9</b>	<b>The Tuesday after Memorial Day</b>
<b>U-10</b>	<b>The Tuesday after Memorial Day</b>
<b>U-11</b>	<b>The Tuesday after Memorial Day</b>
<b>U-12</b>	<b>The Tuesday after Memorial Day</b>
<b>U-13</b>	<b>The Monday after Memorial Day</b>
<b>U-14</b>	<b>The Monday after Memorial Day</b>
<b>U-15</b>	<b>The Monday after Memorial Day</b>
<b>U-16</b>	<b>The Monday after Memorial Day</b>
<b>U-17</b>	<b>The Monday after Memorial Day</b>
<b>U-18</b>	<b>The Tuesday after Memorial Day</b>
<b>U-19/20</b>	<b>The Tuesday after Memorial Day</b>

Competitive leagues and programs may establish additional restrictions on the holding of tryouts that are not in conflict with the above dates.

## **19.0 Compliance with Ohio Law Relating to Concussions in Youth Sports**

**19.1** In order to protect young athletes, the State of Ohio has passed a law regarding concussions in youth sports, commonly called the “Return to Play” law. This law, similar to laws enacted in most other states, imposes training, safety, and awareness requirements on youth sports organizations, like OSYSA, and its leagues, associations, tournaments, coaches, referees, officials, and athletes and their families.

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. A concussion may be caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. A concussion can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications, including prolonged brain damage and death, if not recognized and managed properly.

Because of the significant health concerns posed by the risk of concussions and because of the Return to Play laws enacted by the State of Ohio, OSYSA is instituting the following policy that is applicable to all players, their parents/guardians, coaches, referees and league officials who participate in or organize any OSYSA sanctioned or sponsored activity, including tournaments, or in any sanctioned or organized activity of any of the member leagues or associations of OSYSA.

**19.2** All OSYSA member leagues, associations, and OSYSA-sanctioned tournaments, must provide a copy of the Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet for Youth Sports Organizations to each parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of a player participating in any OSYSA member league or association sanctioned practice, scrimmage, game, or OSYSA-sanctioned tournament, except as provided in Section 19.2.1.

In addition, where OSYSA organizes a player activity involving games or practices, including but not limited to: ODP, OSSSL, MRL, USYS National League, State Cup, President’s Cup, Kohl’s Cup and OSYSA organized camps, OSYSA shall provide a copy of the Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet for Youth Sports Organizations to each parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of a player participating in the OSYSA organized activity, except as provided in Section 19.2.1.

This form must be distributed at the time the player is first registered in an OSYSA organized activity, or is registered in an OSYSA member league or association, or participates in an OSYSA-sanctioned tournament but not less than yearly.

**19.2.1** If a player has already registered with an OSYSA member league or association and then that player subsequently participates in an OSYSA organized activity or participates in an OSYSA-sanctioned tournament, the parents of the player need not be given the form described in the first two paragraphs of this Section 19.2 provided the member league that first registered the player complied with all provisions of Section 19 and has so verified such compliance with OSYSA.

However, any OSYSA member League or Association or OSYSA-sanctioned tournament may choose to provide the required information rather than rely on the certification as outlined above. OSYSA for its organized activities involving games and practices and OSYSA member leagues or associations and OSYSA-sanctioned tournament, may continue to distribute the ODH information sheet for parent and guardians, if they so desire.

**19.3** All OSYSA member leagues, associations, and OSYSA-sanctioned tournaments, must provide a copy of the Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information sheet entitled “Ohio's Return-to-Play Law: What Coaches & Referees Need to Know – Youth Sports Organizations” to each coach or referee participating in any OSYSA member league or association sanctioned practice, scrimmage, game, or OSYSA-sanctioned tournament, except as provided in Section 19.3.1.

In addition, where OSYSA organizes a player activity involving games or practices, including but not limited to: ODP, OSSSL, MRL, USYS National League, State Cup, President’s Cup, Kohl’s Cup and OSYSA organized camps, OSYSA shall provide a copy of the Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet entitled “Ohio's Return-to-Play Law: What Coaches & Referees Need to Know – Youth Sports Organizations” to each coach or referee participating in the OSYSA organized activity, except as provided in Section 19.3.1.

This form must be distributed at the time a coach is first registered in an OSYSA organized activity, or is registered in an OSYSA member league or association, or participates in an OSYSA-sanctioned tournament but not less than yearly.

**19.3.1** If a coach has already been registered with an OSYSA member league or association and then that coach subsequently participates in an OSYSA organized activity or participates in an OSYSA-sanctioned tournament, the coach need not be given the form described in the first two paragraphs of this Section 19.3 provided the member league that first registered the coach has complied with all provisions of Section 19 and has so verified such compliance with OSYSA.

However, any OSYSA member League or Association or OSYSA-sanctioned tournament may choose to provide the required information rather than rely on the certification as outlined above.

OSYSA for its organized activities involving games and practices and OSYSA member leagues or associations and OSYSA-sanctioned tournament, may continue to distribute the ODH information sheet for coaches and referees, if they so desire.

**19.4** All OSYSA member leagues, associations, and OSYSA-sanctioned tournaments must require each person acting as a coach, referee, or league official that supervises practice or competition, (regardless of whether that person is registered or is serving as a substitute) to complete an Ohio Department of Health approved concussion awareness training course.

In addition, each person acting as a coach, referee, or official (regardless of whether that person is registered or is serving as a substitute) in an OSYSA organized activity as described in the second paragraph of Section 19.2 must complete an Ohio Department of Health approved concussion awareness training course.

**19.5** Coaches, referees, substitute coaches and club linesmen must provide evidence to the OSYSA member leagues or associations or to OSYSA-sanctioned tournament that they are in compliance with Ohio's Return to Play law and/or this Section 19 when participating in games and practices, except as provided in Sections 19.5.1 or 19.10. This section 19.5 applies to all coaches, referees, substitute coaches and club linesmen, both residents and non-residents of Ohio.

In addition, coaches, referees, substitute coaches and club assistant referees must provide evidence to OSYSA participating in OSYSA organized activities as described in the second paragraph of Section 19.2 that they are compliance with Ohio's Return to Play law and this Section 19 when participating in games



and practices, except as provided in Sections 19.5.1 or 19.10. This section 19.5 applies to all coaches, referees, substitute coaches and club assistant referees, both residents and non-residents of Ohio.

The evidence referred to in the preceding two paragraphs shall be a copy of their Certificate of Completion of one of two online concussion awareness training courses that are approved by the Ohio Department of Health and available at the web addresses shown in Section 19.14. Those courses are provided by the United States government's Center for Disease Control and The National Federation of High Schools. OSYSA member leagues, associations, OSYSA-sanctioned tournaments and OSYSA for its organized activities involving games and practices, may limit its participants to using one or the other or allow the use of both of the above listed concussion awareness training courses.

**19.5.1** Any coach who is registered with an OSYSA member league or association and subsequently participates in an OSYSA-sanctioned tournament, or other OSYSA organized event is not required to provide a copy of their Certificate of Completion, provided that the OSYSA member league or association that registered the coach has verified that the coach has complied with all provisions of this Section 19 and has so verified such compliance to OSYSA.

However, any OSYSA member League or Association or OSYSA-sanctioned tournament may choose to require the individual to provide the required Concussion Certification information rather than rely on the certification as outlined above.

OSYSA for its organized activities involving games and practices and OSYSA member leagues or associations and OSYSA-sanctioned tournament, may continue to require all coaches registered within their programs to provide evidence that the coach has completed the state mandated concussion awareness training course, if they so desire.

This entire Section 19 shall also apply to Directors of Coaching and trainers regardless of whether they are an OSYSA registered coach or not.

Coaches and referees are encouraged to maintain copies of the evidence of their completion of the required Ohio Department of Health approved concussion awareness training course in compliance with Ohio's Return to Play law and this Section 19 for a minimum of four years.

**19.6** If a player, during any game or practice, exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury, the player must be removed from play by either the individual who is serving as the player's coach, the referee, or a league official that is supervising the practice or competition.

Once a player has been removed from play because of a suspected concussion or head injury, that player shall not return to play that same day. The player shall not return to play until he/she has been evaluated by and received written clearance including the signature and occupation of a physician or another licensed health care provider authorized pursuant to Section 19.7 to grant such clearance.

OSYSA, OSYSA member leagues, associations, or OSYSA-sanctioned tournaments that register players must establish a method by which they ensure that a player does not return to play in any soccer related activity under their control until the player has received the written clearance as required by Sections 19.6 and 19.7. This requirement applies to the current season as well as subsequent seasons.

If a player has been issued a player pass, the most effective means will be to hold the player pass until the clearance form required by this section is received by the entity that organized the game or practice where the player was believed to exhibit signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury.

If a player is removed from play in the player's last game or practice of an OSYSA organized activity or OSYSA-sanctioned tournament as outlined in this Section 19.6, the player's player pass and / or other registration material shall be returned to the member league which initially registered the player.

If a player has exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury during an activity that is unrelated to their participation in:

- an OSYSA organized activity involving games and practices as described in Section 19.2 or
- an activity related their participation with a OSYSA member league or association or
- related to their participation in an OSYSA-sanctioned tournament,

it shall be the responsibility of the player's parent/guardian to notify the appropriate soccer entity of the status of their child as it relates to the player who has previously exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury, if the player has not been granted written medical clearance as required by Ohio law.

Likewise, if a player has exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury during a soccer related activity as outlined in the preceding paragraph, it shall be the responsibility of the player's parent/guardian to notify the appropriate non-soccer entity of the status of their child as it relates to the player who has previously exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury if the player has not been granted written medical clearance as required by Ohio law.

**19.7** OSYSA and OSYSA member leagues, associations, and OSYSA-sanctioned tournaments may, in advance, authorize persons in the following types of health care occupations the authority to grant a clearance for purposes of Section 19.6. Other types of health care providers, (who are not listed below) may not grant a clearance for purposes of Section 19.6:

- a physician, (M.D. or D.O.)
- an athletic trainer whose work is supervised by a physician,
- a physician assistant
- a nurse practitioner

OSYSA and OSYSA member leagues, associations, and OSYSA-sanctioned tournaments must keep the clearance forms described in Section 19.6 for a minimum of 3 years after their receipt.

**19.8** All out-of-state teams, coaches, players, referees, and officials must comply with Ohio's laws, as set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 3707.511, and OSYSA's concussion policy, as set forth in this Section 19, in all practices, scrimmages, games, and tournaments conducted in Ohio. This specifically includes but is not limited to teams who are attending:

- OSYSA sanctioned tournaments,
- USYS National League games,
- MRL games
- Regional Cup
- National Championship games

from outside the territory of OSYSA, players, coaches and/or referees who are not residents of Ohio but who participate in leagues, or the above activities within the boundaries of the State of Ohio.

OSYSA for OSYSA organized activities and OSYSA-sanctioned tournaments may consider Sections 19.2.1, 19.3.1 and 19.5.1, when organizing their event. OSYSA for OSYSA organized activities, OSYSA member leagues and associations and OSYSA-sanctioned tournaments shall remain responsible for being in compliance with all aspects of Ohio law relating to concussions in youth sports and this Section 19 including but not limited to out-of-state teams, coaches, players, referees, and officials as well as players and coaches associated with United States Soccer Federation affiliates other than the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association and players or coaches who have not previously registered in OSYSA during that seasonal year, i.e. tournament guest players and / or independent players participating in ODP.

**19.9** If a player is exhibiting or has exhibited the signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury, the opinion of the person, (parent, coach, referee or league official that is supervising that practice or competition), who believes that a player is exhibiting the signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall prevail. This shall mean that the determination by a player's parent, a player's coach, a referee, and/or a league official that is supervising that practice or competition that a player is exhibiting or has exhibited the signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury cannot be overruled by any other person.

OSYSA and OSYSA member leagues, associations, and OSYSA-sanctioned tournaments shall keep a copy of the evidence that all coaches and referees are required to provide to OSYSA and OSYSA member leagues, associations, and OSYSA-sanctioned tournaments for a period of not less than four years after their receipt by OSYSA or OSYSA member leagues, associations, or OSYSA-sanctioned tournaments.

**19.10** Upon certification by the Ohio South State Referee Committee, (a.k.a. OSSRC), to OSYSA that all referees who have been granted USSF referee certification through OSSRC are in compliance with the requirements of Ohio law relating to concussions in youth sports and this Section 19, and have provided appropriate documentation to that effect, then OSYSA for OSYSA organized activities, OSYSA member leagues and associations and OSYSA-sanctioned tournaments may consider such certification when determining their compliance with Sections 19.2, 19.3 and 19.5.

OSYSA shall notify OSSRC, that OSYSA, OSYSA member leagues and associations and OSYSA sanctioned tournaments shall be relying upon OSSRC's assertion that all USSF certified referees within OSSRC's designated territory are in compliance with the requirements of Ohio law relating to concussions in youth sports and this Section 19.

**19.10.1** OSYSA for its organized activities, OSYSA member leagues and associations, including both competitive and recreational leagues, and OSYSA sanctioned tournaments shall be permitted to consider the use of this Section 19.10 only for those referees that they use that are USSF certified referees through OSSRC.

OSYSA, OSYSA member leagues and associations, including both competitive and recreational leagues, and OSYSA sanctioned tournaments, which choose to use referees who have not been certified as referees through OSSRC shall remain responsible for being in compliance with all aspects of Ohio law regarding concussions in youth sports and this section 19.

**19.11** No coach, referee, substitute coach or club assistant referee shall be required to demonstrate or prove to any other coach, referee, substitute coach, club assistant referee, player or parent of a player, that they are in compliance with the requirements of Ohio's "Return to Play" law and this Section 19.

**19.12** Only coaches of teams that they are a registered coach for, or a referee officiating a game, or a league official that is supervising a game or practice, shall have standing to make an official determination as to whether or not a player on their team is exhibiting the signs, symptoms or behaviors of a person who may have sustained a concussion under the requirements of Ohio's "Return to Play" law and this Section 19.

**19.13** OSYSA for its organized activities where players participate in games and practices, and each OSYSA member league, association, and each OSYSA-sanctioned tournament must implement appropriate policies to reasonably ensure that the requirements of Ohio law relating to concussions in youth sports and this Section 19 are met.

**19.14** OSYSA will place on its website links to the Ohio Department of Health website which designates approved concussion training courses as well as additional information related to prevention and treatment of concussions in youth sports.

Currently, the Ohio Department of Health website is:  
<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/concussion>

The Ohio Department of Health approved online concussion training course may be viewed at:  
<http://www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=38000>  
[http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online\\_training.html](http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html)

If the above listed website addresses change, their replacement addresses shall apply.

## **SECTION 20.0 PLAYER SAFETY**

### **20.1 PURPOSE**

This section establishes specific bylaws to provide minimum standards for player safety in regards to the practice of heading of soccer balls during games, practices, tryouts and other activities organized by OSYSA. This section applies to but is not limited to ODP, State Cup, President's Cup, MRL, other OSYSA competitive programs as well all activities of all OSYSA member leagues and associations, clubs, and teams. In addition, this Section 20.0 shall apply during all OSYSA sanctioned tournaments, to tournament guest players and players rostered on tournament teams.

The bylaws contained within this Section 20 are designed to comply with the specific recommendations established by USSF and adopted by US Youth Soccer.

The reference to the player age groups contained within this Section 20.0 are consistent with the age groups as listed in OSYSA Bylaw Section 3, Addendum #2.

**20.2** All players who are registered on or participate with any under-11s or younger team are prohibited from deliberately striking a soccer ball with any portion of their head, (a.k.a. heading), during any game, practice, tryout, or other soccer related activity. If an under-11s or younger player engages in heading a soccer ball during games, practices, tryouts, or other soccer related activities, contrary to the above listed prohibition, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the player accept the risk and/or peril of doing so.

**20.3** If a player 10 years old or younger (i.e. under-11s and younger) participates on an under-12s or older team, it shall be the responsibility of the player's coaches and the player's parents and/or guardians to ensure that the player does not head a soccer ball during any soccer related activity. However, if the parents and/or guardians of a player who is under the age of 10 years (i.e. under-11s and younger) and the player plays on an under-12s or older team and then allows that player to engage in heading during games, practices, tryouts, or other soccer related activities, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the player accept the risk and/or peril of doing so.

**20.4** As recommended and established by USSF and adopted by US Youth Soccer, all players who are under-12s or under-13s are prohibited from deliberately striking a soccer ball with any portion of their head, (a.k.a. heading), during any practice session for more than an accumulated maximum total of 30 minutes during any 7 day period and for an accumulated maximum of 15 to 20 headers during any 7 day period. For players who are under-12s or under-13s, there are no limits or restrictions on the number of headers that may take place during games.

There are no limits or restrictions on heading in practice or in games for players under-14s and older.

**20.5** All coaches of players who participate on an under-12s or older team are to instruct, teach, and emphasize the importance of proper techniques for heading of soccer balls.

**20.6** If an OSYSA sanctioned tournament has 64 or more under-11s and older teams, (excluding under-10s and younger teams), registered in the tournament, then the tournament must have one or more Health Care Professionals, (a.k.a. HCP), at each playing site where there are 4 or more soccer fields that are in use for the tournament. A HCP shall be defined as a person who is either a physician, (M.D. or D.O.), an athletic trainer whose work is supervised by a physician, a physician assistant or a nurse practitioner.

**20.7** When a player who is rostered on a team playing in an under-11s or younger age group or division deliberately strikes the ball with his / her head during any league or tournament game, Referees and Assistant Referees of that game must consider the act to be Dangerous Play and handle the matter accordingly as an infraction of the Laws of the Game.