



FYSA is affiliated with



Florida Youth Soccer Association

RULES

2024 - 2025

FYSA CODE OF ETHICS

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

Players

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

Coaches/Volunteers

1. I will never place the value of winning before the safety and welfare of all players.
2. I will always show respect for players, other coaches, and game officials.
3. I will lead by example, demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship at all times.
4. I will demonstrate knowledge of the rules of the game and teach these rules to my players.
5. I will never use abusive or insulting language. I will treat everyone with dignity.
6. I will not tolerate inappropriate behavior, regardless of the situation.
7. I will not allow the use of anabolic agents or stimulants, drugs, tobacco, or alcohol by any of my players.
8. I will never knowingly jeopardize the eligibility and participation of a student-athlete.
9. Youth have a greater need for example than criticism. I will be the primary soccer role model.
10. I will at all times conduct myself in a positive manner.
11. Coaching is motivating players to produce their best effort, inspiring players to learn, and encouraging players to be winners.
12. My actions on sidelines during games shall be in the spirit of "good sportsmanship" at all times. Profanity, profane gestures, arguing, inciting disruptive behavior by spectators and/or players, or any conduct not in the spirit of good sportsmanship, shall require disciplinary action from the affiliate.
13. I will not engage in hate speech.
14. I shall not possess, consume or distribute before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or unauthorized prescription drugs.
15. I will refrain from any activity or conduct that may be detrimental or reflect adversely upon FYSA, its members or its programs.
16. I will accurately and completely complete the coach/volunteer application form and by application attest to the accuracy of the information submitted.

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

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

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

3rd offense -- suspension for a minimum of five (5) years to a maximum of fifty (50) years.

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

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

FYSA has established the following code of conduct for parent/spectators based on accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of the sport of soccer.

Parents/Spectators

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

ABBREVIATIONS

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

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

FYSA Rules

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AFFILIATION

100. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

101. AFFILIATION PROCEDURES

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

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

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

101.2 INITIAL AFFILIATION

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

101.3 The completed affiliation application packet must be submitted to FYSA's State Office not later than August 15 to be considered at the October board of directors meeting or by January 15 for the March board of directors meeting. FYSA will verify that the application is complete, and all necessary documentation has been included. Incomplete applications will be returned for correction and resubmission by September 1 for the October meeting and February 1 for the March meeting. Late applications, whether complete or incomplete, will not be accepted. FYSA will forward the completed application packet to the Regional Vice President and Regional Commissioner in the region in which the new affiliation would reside. Completed applications will be presented at the October and March board of directors meetings. Approved affiliations will take effect immediately. The complete packet will include the following:

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

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

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

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

- 101.5** A new affiliate, once approved, will be placed on a three-year probation. If the affiliate does not follow all the FYSA Bylaws and Rules during this time, the affiliation may be revoked by the BOD. If at the end of the three years, there have been no issues, the affiliate must submit a letter with their affiliation form requesting full membership. The request for full membership is neither automatic nor guaranteed.
- 101.6** Mergers - The completed merger affiliation application packet shall be submitted not later than thirty (30) days prior to scheduled meeting of the BOD. The merger application packet will consist of:
1. Completed merger application form
 2. Letter signed by the current President and Secretary of each existing affiliate.
 3. Must furnish to FYSA a copy of the merged affiliates bylaws and rules.
 4. For recreational-to-recreational mergers will require BOD approval; for full affiliate to full affiliate will require BOD approval.
 5. For recreational to full affiliate and/or full affiliate to recreational will affiliate at the approved site of the existing full affiliate and will require BOD approval.
- 101.7** Name Changes – An existing FYSA affiliate requesting a name change shall submit the request not later than 30 days prior to a scheduled meeting of the BOD. The affiliate must submit the following when requesting a name change:
1. Letter signed by the current Board of Directors of the affiliate.
 2. Proof that a DBA, legal name change, and/or registration of a fictitious name has been filed with the State of Florida.

102. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

- 102.1** Associate Membership in FYSA may be granted to any soccer-related organization whose intent is to develop and/or implement soccer programs within the State of Florida. Associate must be for the good of soccer in the Region and State of Florida. Organizations seeking Associate Membership shall include but not be limited to leagues, tournament hosting organizations or other organizations as deemed appropriate by the BOD.
- 102.2** Procedure for requesting Associate Membership
1. Application must be submitted utilizing FYSA's application for Associate Membership.
 2. Review and approval shall be vested to the BOD of FYSA. Renewal is neither automatic nor guaranteed.
 3. The decision of the BOD is final and binding upon all parties.
 4. Application fee as defined in Section 303 must be submitted.
- 102.3** League Affiliation
1. Any league, by application, agrees that 100% of all teams participating in that FYSA sanctioned league shall be properly registered with FYSA or US Youth Soccer.
 2. All leagues will be designated as competitive unless approved for recreational or academy designation by FYSA's Vice President of Player and Coaching Development or his designee.

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

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

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

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

103. ANNUAL AFFILIATION RENEWALS

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

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

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

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

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

1. the Affiliate is or has been NGS during the previous year; or
2. the Affiliate has proven to be in violation of FYSA, US Youth Soccer, USSF or the Affiliate's Bylaws and/or Rules; or

3. the Affiliate has not paid any and all fees assessed and is not in compliance with FYSA Rule 302.2; or
4. the Affiliate has failed to exercise supervisory control and oversight of its membership.

103.5 CHALLENGE PROCEDURES: AFFILIATIONS

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

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

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

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

104. RISK MANAGEMENT

104.1 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT

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

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

Bylaw 213. STATE ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES

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

US Youth Soccer and each National State Association is responsible for establishing and monitoring a Risk

Management Program within its assigned territory, at a minimum this program must include:

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

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

104.2 OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

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

104.3 DENIAL, SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF ADMINISTRATOR PRIVILEGES

104.3.1 The RMC, with specific BOD approval, has the authority to deny, suspend, or revoke any applicant's privileges as a coach/volunteer for risk management concerns as established by the FYSA BOD. Once the BOD has approved the authority of the RMC to deny, suspend or revoke a Program Administrator's privileges, the decision may not be overruled except as set forth in the appeals process in Rule.105.7 and Rule 105.8. In the event the Chairman and Vice Chairman disagree, the matter shall be adjudicated by the BOD. Either the President or the Vice President of Administration & Communication has the authority to summarily deny or summarily suspend any applicant's privileges pursuant to FYSA Rule 105.5.2.

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

104.3.3 An affiliate of FYSA may, upon written request, petition FYSA to deny, suspend or revoke the privileges

of a coach/volunteer or applicant for risk management concerns. The written request shall be submitted to the FYSA Executive Director for the RMC in care of the FYSA State Office. The RMC shall investigate the request and reply in writing to the affiliate within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the request.

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

- Any conviction or adjudication of guilt (misdemeanor or felony) for a crime of violence, a crime against a person, or a criminal history that is determined to be detrimental to the welfare of FYSA's players, subject to mitigation.
- Any report of child abuse appearing on the Child Abuse Index, subject to mitigation.
- Any record of sexual offense and/or sexual misconduct (felony or misdemeanor), subject to mitigation.
- Admitted use of/or conviction for use of illegal drugs, within the last ten years, subject to mitigation.
- Documented history of repeated abuse of alcohol and/or illegal/prescription drugs (e.g., two (2) or more DUI's or any conviction for the manufacture/sale of illegal drugs within the last ten (10) years, subject to mitigation.
- Submitting incomplete or inaccurate information, on the Coach/Volunteer Application will result in a suspension for ninety (90) days from the time of submission. Additional charges may be filed under FYSA's COE, FYSA Rule 505.4 and or FYSA Rule 501.13. The above guidelines do not relieve the applicant's obligation to disclose convictions to FYSA that may fall out outside of the aforementioned parameters.
- Refusal to fully complete the Risk Management Disclosure Form.
- Refusal to submit fingerprints when required to under this program.
- Any conduct that discriminates against any individual on the basis of race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, age, marital status, sex, and sexual orientation. This may also include sexual harassment, which may consist of a request for sexual favors; unwanted sexual advances or propositions; verbal, physical and visual harassment; stalking; and unwanted sexual contact.
- Any other information that casts serious doubt on the applicant's ability to be entrusted with the supervision, guidance and care of minors. (Note: Misdemeanor convictions in the past seven years that "may indicate a lack of integrity or character" may be grounds for disqualification.)

104.3.5 Any person participating in a sanctioned or sponsored program of FYSA who becomes involved as a defendant in litigation detrimental to the welfare of youth players, or litigation based on activities detrimental to the welfare of youth players, shall be suspended by the RMC from all soccer-related activities until completion of the litigation. Upon written request of the suspended person, the status of such person shall be reviewed by the RMC at the completion of the litigation. Matters detrimental to the welfare of youth players shall include, but not be limited to, crimes of moral turpitude and felonies. The person has a right to appeal whether the matter that is the substance of the accusation, if true, is detrimental to the welfare of youth players. Privileges may be reinstated at the conclusion of the litigation process by the RMC.

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

104.4 PROVISIONAL AND CONDITIONAL ADMINISTRATOR PRIVILEGES

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

104.5 APPEAL PROCEDURES ARISING FROM BACKGROUND CHECK DISQUALIFICATIONS

104.5.1 FYSA's Protest & Appeals Committee shall hear appeals arising from risk management denials, suspensions or revocations by the RMC based on the results of a criminal background check. Persons

involved in the decision to deny, suspend or revoke shall not sit on the three-person appeal board. The decisions of this Appeal Board may be appealed to the FYSA BOD and then to USSF pursuant to USSF Rule 705. The RMC shall serve as the presenter of the case to the BOD. All appeals shall be subject to FYSA's normal appeal fees as defined under FYSA Rule 300.

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

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

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

104.6 APPEAL PROCEDURES ARISING FROM NON-BACKGROUND CHECK DISQUALIFICATIONS

104.6.1 Persons involved in the decision to deny, suspend or revoke shall not sit on the Risk Management Appeals Committee. The decisions of this appeals committee may be appealed to USSF pursuant to USSF Rule 705. The RMC or ED shall serve as the presenter of the case to the Risk Management Appeals Committee. All appeals shall be subject to FYSA's normal appeal fees as defined under FYSA Rule 300.

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

- a) The ED has the authority to summarily deny or summarily suspend any applicant's privileges of serving as a member of FYSA for risk management concerns due to actions not contained in an individual's background check.
- b) The ED furnishes the accused individual a copy of the report/information, copying the RMC.
- c) The accused shall have seven (7) business days to submit any evidence to refute the report/information used to deny/suspend.
- d) The ED shall forward any evidence submitted by the accused to the RMC. If no evidence is submitted, the ED shall forward only the information used to deny/suspend.

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

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

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

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

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

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

104.6.7 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

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

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

105. SAFESPORT

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

- 105.2** SafeSport amendments/updates:

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

200. REGISTRATION

201. GENERAL PROVISIONS/DEFINITIONS

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

- 201.1** Registration of players and coaching staff is required for competition on the Club, League, State, National and International level for any FYSA sanctioned or sponsored events. Jurisdiction shall be with FYSA over all players/coaches registered with this organization. All registered players/coaches must comply with applicable rules, policies and procedures and remain "in good standing" to be eligible to compete.
- 201.2** Affiliates MUST register all players, coaches, team and club officials prior to any participation in the game of soccer, this includes but is not limited to practice, scrimmages, and all competitions in which the player or coach participates. This requirement does not include properly announced tryouts. This requirement for registration shall in no way be construed as an extension to/or waiver of any date requirement for submission of any documents as may be required by the rules of specific competitions (i.e., roster freeze dates).
- 201.3** Specific procedures are enumerated within the policies and procedures of FYSA which shall be published and revised as necessary and shall be posted on the website. It shall include the procedures for registration,

directions for proper completion of forms, the current fee schedule, time requirements and any other directions necessary for implementing the registration process.

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

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

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

201.9 PLAYER CLASSES

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

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

201.9.3 TOPSoccer Programs

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

201.10 DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

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

Release:

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

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

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

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

202. PLAYER/COACH PASSES

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

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

202.2 PASS CLASSIFICATION

A. US Youth Soccer Pass (Permanent Pass)

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

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

B. Coach/Volunteer Pass

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

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

203. PLAYER REGISTRATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

203.4 FOREIGN AND OUT-OF-STATE PLAYERS

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

All players coming from another Youth or Adult State Association or foreign country and seeking a current year transfer must have clearance papers or a release signed by the official registration chairman or secretary of the foreign association, out-of-state association, or inter-state release before they are allowed to register with FYSA. Players born in or having previously resided in a foreign country must comply with USSF Policy 601.6 (quoted below).

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

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

203.6 PLAYERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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

204. COACH/VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

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

- 204.1** Coaches/volunteer can be rostered to an unlimited number of teams (within the same affiliate) at no additional charge.
- 204.2** Initial coach’s/volunteer registration must be submitted properly and accurately subject to FYSA Coach Registration Procedures *located in the FYSA Procedures Manual for Affiliates*.
- 204.3** All Coaches and/or volunteers registering with FYSA will be subject to a background check through any organization that FYSA may be deemed appropriate. Any individual who has been charged and found guilty of violating any provision of Florida Statutes Section 435.04 may be denied participation in FYSA sanctioned events
- 204.4** Coaches are responsible for notifying FYSA of any event that may affect their risk management status. Failure to notify FYSA may result in the revocation of the individual’s privilege to participate in FYSA sanctioned events.

205. ROSTERING

- 205.1** All players must be rostered to a team in order to compete in any FYSA sanctioned event. Any player competing in any competition shall be considered immediately rostered to said team. Note: Rostered players may guest play with proper permission in any FYSA sanctioned event, if allowed by the rules of competition, and not affect their original rostered status
- 205.2** An official FYSA roster is the roster generated by the current FYSA registration system. The Official FYSA Roster must include the picture of the player and coach. A player is rostered to a team when the rostering process is completed or as defined under FYSA Rule 205.1. All matters of dispute shall be governed by the official state roster. A copy of the official roster is valid for all events requiring a roster.
- 205.3** Club pass is permitted, and a player may be rostered to multiple teams within the same affiliate at one time during a seasonal year. FYSA sanctioned competitions (league play and tournaments) may adopt

rules to allow the use of Club Pass players up to the maximum roster size:

- A. 13U – 19U teams – Total roster size, including club pass players, is capped at twenty-two (22). Teams shall name eighteen (18) eligible players for each game.
- B. 11U – 12U teams – Total roster size, including club pass players, is capped at sixteen (16).
- C. Club pass players may only participate with two (2) team per day.
- D. A player may not participate in more than two games per day, whether for one team or two different teams

205.4 Leagues and tournaments may create internal event roster forms allowing properly FYSA registered players to participate within their rules of competition without changing the Official FYSA Roster. These event rosters must list the players full name, pass number, rostered team, DOB and birth verification status. Prior to the use of these internal event rosters, for all inter-club games, leagues and tournaments must have on file the team's official FYSA roster with appropriate guest player forms or FYSA Event Rosters, as verification of players' credentials and that guest players have proper permission to participate.

205.5 Secondary Rostering is permitted, and a player may be rostered to multiple teams across two different affiliates at one time during a seasonal year. Regulations concerning secondary rostering are as follows:

- A. Player's Cup eligibility is the player's primary team. A player's primary team shall be the first team to which the player is rostered.
- B. Release from the primary team in no way transfers primary status to the secondary team. To transfer primary status requires a completed transfer. This player will then be considered a previously rostered player if not registered to a team within the same affiliate.
- C. Primary team schedules will take precedence in all issues or conflicts. If player is registered to two (2) affiliates, all matters regarding registration will be decided by the primary team's affiliate.

205.6 Rosters for all competitions leading to the determination of President's Cup and Commissioner's Cup participants shall be the official state roster as generated by the FYSA State Office or the Commissioner's Cup Committee.

205.7 State Cup and President's/Commissioner's/Recreational Cup rostering simultaneously is not permitted.

206. ELIGIBILITY

206.1 Player Eligibility to compete shall be determined as follows:

- A. Registration with FYSA has been completed and is accurate.
- B. Proper birth documentation has been provided, for players registered as verified.
- C. Player is properly rostered (as per the rules of competition) to the team with which he/she intends to compete.
- D. Affiliate requirements for registration have been met.
- E. Status is "in Good standing" with the Affiliate and FYSA.
- F. Remains on team, or with the affiliate, to which he/she is registered/rostered for the seasonal year unless properly released or transferred (Sept 1st through Aug 31st).

206.2 Team eligibility to compete is determined by the following:

- A. All players properly registered with FYSA.
- B. All Players are properly rostered to the team as may be defined by the rules of competition.
- C. Coaches properly registered with FYSA and rostered to the team as may be defined by the rules of competition.
- D. Associated with an affiliate, and must continue that association for the seasonal year, including that no team in its entirety or majority may move to another Affiliate during the seasonal year.
- E. Adhere to proper age grouping.
- F. Improper registration of any team member shall result in the team forfeiting all games the improperly registered player(s) took part in. An improperly registered player is a player who is over-age, not registered to FYSA and/or improperly entered on the team's roster.

- 206.3** FYSA recognizes two types of team genders, girls, and boys. Team gender is determined by the following:
- A. Teams with females only are girls teams.
 - B. All other teams are boys teams.
- 207. TRANSFERS/RELEASES**
- Soccer is a team sport; a player makes a commitment to the team at initial registration, as well as to the affiliate for the seasonal year.
- 207.1** Players, or their parents for players under the age of 18, may request in writing to be removed from a team's roster or from the affiliate. The affiliate may grant the request.
- 207.2** Players shall not be removed from a team's roster or released by the affiliate under any circumstances if the player is:
- Rostered to a team currently subject to roster freeze or
 - Is serving a suspension (red card).
- 207.3** There shall be no limit to the number of removals per team unless prohibited by special rules of competition (i.e., State Cup).
- 207.4** Released players **ARE NOT ELIGIBLE** to compete or participate in any FYSA sanctioned or sponsored event. **IN NO CASE IS A RELEASED PLAYER ENTITLED TO A PASS. NO RELEASED PLAYER SHALL HAVE IN HIS/HER POSSESSION ANY FYSA/US YOUTH SOCCER PASS.** Any player/coach found to participate with a pass of a released player/coach may have the releasing affiliate charged a fine as per Rule 303.
- 207.5** Players released during the seasonal year may be transferred to any affiliate (subject to the restrictions of Rules 207.10 and 208F.) for the remainder of the seasonal year, without notice to the original affiliate. Players once released may not be placed in NGS (Not in Good Standing) by the original affiliate. In the event of a returned check for payment to the club, submission of a copy of the returned check to FYSA will be sufficient evidence to place a member into NGS immediately. **RELEASED PLAYERS MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY SANCTIONED EVENT.**
- 207.6** Should the affiliate deny the request, a reason must be given. Affiliates have the right to deny any release or transfer request for the following reasons:
- The player has guest played with the affiliate during the current seasonal year (FYSA Rule 209).
 - The coach or team staff member is the player's ODP coach (FYSA Rule 208).
 - There is a financial obligation to the affiliate.
 - The request is received by the affiliate after December 1st of the seasonal year.
 - Other contractual obligations to the affiliate.
- 207.7** Players who have relocated their primary residence by more than 100 miles are entitled to a transfer to an affiliate located near their residence. Should any affiliate deny the transfer of a player who has moved 100 miles, the Registration Committee will make the determination as to the validity of the request. The judgment of the Registration Committee is final and will be based upon the documentation requested and received.
- 207.8** A player may be removed from an affiliate involuntarily for the following reasons only, subject to approval from the FYSA registration committee after submission of the involuntary release form:
- A. The player has violated the rules of USSF, FYSA or US Youth Soccer and is currently under suspension (non-red card or game related suspensions.) All rights to due process must have been complied with as defined under FYSA Rule 600.
 - B. The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance. Determination of what constitutes a

reasonable travel distance shall be solely determined by the FYSA Registration Committee.

- C. A player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the seasonal year.
- D. A player who contests the action of involuntary release within ten (10) days shall be able to appeal to the registration committee. This action may over-roster the team resulting in sanctions based on the rules of the particular competition or may cause a team to be disqualified from a competition by violating roster freeze rules.

207.9 OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (“ODP”)

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

208. GUEST PLAYING

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

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

209. SPECIAL COMPETITION REGISTRATION

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

210. YOUTH PLAYERS PLAYING AMATEUR

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

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

- 1. The youth player must obtain written permission from his or her parent and his/her youth coach or other authorized affiliate official. The youth coach or other authorized team official shall, in writing or by form, request eligibility clearance from FYSA.
- 2. When the above clearance and permissions have been granted, the State Amateur Association has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play amateur games and will be responsible for establishing

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

211. AGE

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

A. AGE GROUPS

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

B. PLAYING FORMATS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

211.4 HEADING RULE

Player Eligibility

All Players age 10 years of age and under shall not head the ball directly from the air in any match or competition, nor shall these players practice heading the ball in any organized team setting.

Players age 11 and age 12 shall be permitted to head the ball in any match or competition. These players may practice heading the ball in an organized team practice or skill session, but coaches shall monitor this practice so that no single player heads the ball more than 25 times per week, regardless of setting. Balls should be inflated to the IFAB official minimum standard of 8.5psi.

Players age 13 and older shall be permitted to head the ball in any match or competition and these players may practice heading the ball in an organized team practice or skill session.

Individual rules of competition may choose to impose stricter rules however they may not impose less stricter rules.

Heading the ball

In games where deliberate heading is not allowed, it is an offence if a player:

- Deliberately touches the ball with their head, for example moving their head towards the ball
- scores in the opponents' goal:
- directly from their head, even if accidental
- immediately after the ball has touched their head, even if accidental

300. FEES

301. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

301.5.2 All other fees will be submitted as directed (i.e., Protest and Appeal fees and entry fees for State Cup, President's Cup, ODP, etc.)

302. All Fees due to FYSA shall be considered delinquent if not paid, in cleared funds, within 30 days of invoice. Invoice shall be defined as either the date a registration batch is transmitted to FYSA or other charges billed through invoices generated by FYSA from their online system. Affiliates will be placed not in good standing (NGS) by the FYSA Treasurer when fees are not paid in a timely manner. Notification of all affiliates placed in NGS will be sent to all BOD members. Governmental-run programs which require an invoice will be granted a time extension to comply with Rule 301.5.1 if necessary or up to thirty (30) days after receiving an invoice from FYSA's office.

302.1 Suspension from all *FYSA SANCTIONED* events for all member of the affiliate shall occur if an affiliate is placed in NGS. Participation cannot resume until all fees are paid in full.

302.2 All Affiliate voting rights may be suspended by the BOD when an affiliate's account is in arrears by two hundred dollars (\$200.) or five percent (5%) of their amount due for the seasonal year, whichever is greater. Upon payment of the Delinquency amounts all voting rights will be restored.

302.3 A debt between a player/coach and an affiliate is a civil matter between the parties. Currently, registered/rostered players/coaches who participate in an FYSA sanctioned league or tournament may be placed in NGS (NGS) via the procedures outlined in the FYSA Procedures Manual for Affiliates. This COS must be submitted no later than 5:00 P.M. on the Friday before Memorial Day of the current seasonal year or within thirty (30) days of the date the debt was incurred, whichever is later. The affiliate shall supply all documentation regarding the debt to include, but not be limited to, the basis of the debt and documentation as to the affiliate's actions taken to resolve or collect this alleged debt. Failure of the affiliate to submit this documentation via the procedure outlined in the FYSA Procedures Manual for Affiliates within two (2) business days of the original NGS transactions shall negate the action against the player/coach. It shall be the affiliate's responsibility to immediately notify FYSA of any change in status of the player/coach. Failure to do so may impact the affiliate's ability to place future members in NGS.

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

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

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

302.4 A schedule of fees shall be provided herein for all fees, costs for services, fines, penalties, and dates for

submission. This schedule shall be updated annually by the Budget Committee and approved by the Affiliates at the AGM.

303. FEE / FINE STRUCTURE

Fee Required For:	Amount	Date Due
Affiliation	\$135.00	July 1
First-time affiliation see Rule 102.2	\$5000.00	Upon Acceptance
Affiliation Surcharge (except new affiliate)	\$5.00	Per./mo.after 8/1
Associate Membership	\$135.00	Application
Coaching Courses and Clinics	Set annually	Application
	at the AGM	
	to take effect	
	the following	
	seasonal year	
Convention / AGM	Set annually	Application
Cup, President's	Set annually	Entry
Cup, Commissioners	Set by Region	Entry
Cup, State	Set annually	Entry
Insurance Certificate	\$12.00	When Requested
<u>Protest / Appeals</u>		
from C/L to Protest/Appeals	\$400.00	Submission
from SQL/SC game to Protest/Appeals	\$400.00	Submission

PLAYERS:

Recreation Players	\$13.00
Competitive Players	\$26.00
TOPSoccer Players	NO CHARGE

COACHES:

New or Returning Coaches Pass	\$0.00	Per Coach
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COS FEES:

Intra-Club Transfer (Club Pass) – Recreation to Recreation	NO CHARGE	
Intra-Club Transfer (Club Pass) – Competitive to Competitive	NO CHARGE	
Intra-Club Transfer (Club Pass) – Recreation to Competitive	\$13.00	Per Player
Inter-Club Transfer (Dual Roster) – Recreation or Competitive	\$26.00	Per Player

FINES:

Affiliate Fine for Released Player/Coach Participating	\$500	First Offense
Affiliate Fine for Released Player/Coach Participating	\$1000	Second Offense
Registering/Playing Overage Player	\$500	First Offense
Registering/Playing Overage Player	\$2000	Second Offense
Affiliate Fine for Allowing a Non-Registered Coach to Participate	\$1000	Per Offense

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

Tournament and Travel fees are defined in Section 905

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

303.1 A late fee in the maximum amount permitted under Florida Statutes (currently 11/2% per month (18% annual APR)) will be added to any balance due if more that thirty (30) days delinquent.

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

401. COACHES/TEAM STAFF CONDUCT/RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

401.5 POACHING

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

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

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

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

B. Players:

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

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

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

C. Coach:

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

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

D. Disciplinary Sanctions

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

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

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

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

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

401.6 TRY-OUTS

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

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

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

402. PLAYER CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

forms and applications.

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

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

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

402.3 JEWELRY

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

402.4 PLAYER HYDRATION/WATER BREAKS

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

Violation may result in charges under FYSA's COE.

403. PARENT/SPECTATORS CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

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

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

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

404. REFEREE AND REFEREE ASSIGNOR PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

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

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

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

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

500. DISCIPLINES AND SANCTIONS

501. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

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

501.7 SUSPENSION BECAUSE OF LITIGATION

1. Any person participating in a US Youth Soccer program, or in a program of a State Association or a program of a member of a State Association, who becomes a defendant in litigation detrimental to the welfare of youth players or litigation based on activities detrimental to the welfare of youth players, shall be suspended from all soccer-related activities. Suspensions under this rule shall be determined by the appropriate State Association or the State Association's Board of Directors. Matters detrimental to the welfare of youth players shall include crimes of moral turpitude and felonies. The person has a right to appeal the suspension only over whether the matter, which is the substance of the accusation, if true, is detrimental to the welfare of youth players.
 2. On completion of the litigation, the suspended person may inform the body suspending the person under section 1 of this rule that the litigation has been completed and request that the suspension be terminated, and the person reinstated. The suspending body may grant the request of the person or, if the decision of the litigation was adverse to the person, may continue the suspension for a period specified by the suspending body, fine the person, terminate all membership of that person with the suspending body and its members, or any combination of those authorized penalties.
- 501.8** Due process shall be guaranteed to any individual or group disciplined or sanctioned by anybody within the jurisdiction of FYSA. Failure to provide due process shall result in the suspension of the discipline imposed and sanction against the body failing to provide due process. Upon determining due process has not been provided, the disciplining body may or may not be required by FYSA to re-institute proceedings according to the Rules
- 501.9** Individual rights to a hearing before the imposition of any discipline or sanction more severe than the minimums required shall be guaranteed by the Affiliate to any individuals involved in their organization.
- 501.10** Severity of discipline and/or sanctions shall be consistent with the severity of misconduct and/or infraction as defined in Sections 502, 503, and 400 of the FYSA administrative rulebook.
- 501.11** Affiliate rights to a hearing on any issue determined to impact their ability participate in soccer competition, shall be guaranteed by the Rules of FYSA. Hearings shall be conducted in a fair, timely and impartial manner.
- 501.12** Eligibility to participate remains terminated until any discipline, suspension, or sanction has been completed, or a decision has been rendered on an appeal. If a timely hearing is not provided, the person may participate after the minimum sanctions have been fulfilled
- 501.13** Any individual whose privilege to participate in FYSA-sanctioned events as a coach/volunteer is removed as a result of any background check shall not participate in any referee program sanctioned by FYSA. This

shall include, but not be limited to, acting as a referee, assignor, assessor, or instructor at or during any FYSA-sanctioned event. Such restriction shall remain in effect until said coach/volunteer is reinstated by FYSA.

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

502. DISCIPLINE - GAME CONDUCT

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

502.1 One Game Suspension:

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

502.2 Offensive, Insulting or Abusive language:

- 1 One (1) game suspension -- Offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures not directed.
2. Three (3) game suspension -- Offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures directed toward a player, administrator, spectator or game and /or tournament official. If the offensive, insulting, or abusive language is reported to be hate speech the penalty shall be increased by two (2) games.
3. Offensive, Insulting, or Abusive language towards referees will follow USSF Referee Abuse Prevention (RAP) Policy:
 - a. Two (2) game suspension – Level 1: Verbal Taunting (Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior Undermining Referee Authority).
 - b. Four (4) game suspension – Level 2: Harassment/Intimidation (Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive, or Threatening Non-Physical Language).
 - c. Six (6) game suspension – Level 3: Threats/Derogatory Language (Aggression, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Doxing or Threatening Physical/Violence Language).
 - d. Ten (10) game suspension – Level 4: Offensive or Discriminatory Act (Discriminatory or derogatory words or actions on account of race, skin color, ethnicity, nationality, social origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, or religion).
 - e. Key penalty factors:
 1. Second time offenders receive double punishment.
 2. Third time offenders receive a lifetime ban.
 3. More than one offense at the same time is at least the punishment for the most serious offense.
 4. Offenses against minors are automatically subject to a “minor multiplier” resulting in triple punishment.

502.3 Violent Conduct:

1. One (1) game suspension (minor infractions) -- dead-ball foul that is neither violent or with intent to harm or injure; attempting to strike, hit or punch.

2. Two (2) game suspension (minor infractions) -- is defined as the aggression of a player towards an opponent with clearly no intent to play or fight for the ball; threatening gestures.
3. Four (4) game suspension (major infractions) – striking with the intent to injure; fighting; any intentional exposure of the anatomy considered lewd and lascivious; all gestures with any part of the body which implies visual profanity.
4. Six (6) game suspension (major infraction) -- Entering a fight in progress or action resulting in law enforcement being called; entering the field of play and committing any additional offense (e.g., violent conduct, foul or abusive language; this will be in addition to the sanction for the subsequent violation).

502.4 Spitting - 4 (four) game suspension:

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

502.5 FYSA affiliates shall notify the FYSA Office within seven (7) days of any player or coach red card/ejection for violent conduct (major infraction), foul and/or abusive language/gestures directed, spitting, or referee

abuse. If the player or coach has two such ejections during a seasonal year or a third within two seasonal years, the matter will be turned over to the FYSA Review and Discipline committee to affirm if additional sanctions should be assessed for a possible additional suspension for thirteen (13) games or six (6) months, whichever is longer. Multiple offenses relating to the same red card/ejection will qualify under this rule. If affirmed by the FYSA Review and Discipline Committee, the action may be appealed to the FYSA Protest and Appeals Committee.

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

502.6 MISCONDUCT AGAINST REFEREES

Misconduct against Referees may occur before, during, and/or after the match, specifically when the Referee arrives at and/or departs the venue. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a match affiliated with U.S. Soccer or its Organizational Members.

502.6.1 RULE APPLICATION

- a. This policy shall supersede any inconsistent rules of Member Organizations that pertain to assault, abuse, or gross mistreatment upon Federation Game Officials (i.e., Referees) the manner and means of hearings, appeals, and rehearings in matters pertaining thereto. However, this policy does not supersede any codes of conduct, which may be enforced in addition to this policy.
- b. Nothing in this policy rule shall be construed to restrict or limit any league, event/tournament or Member Organization from applying equal or greater restrictions to anyone not listed in section 4(a)(1) of this policy (i.e., a spectator associated with a club or team).

502.6.2 TERMS AND REFERENCES

- a. "Referee" includes the following: All currently registered USSF Referees, assistant Referees, fourth officials, match officials, or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a sanctioned match or a similar USSF-affiliated activity (e.g., scrimmage). A Referee who is not certified or registered with U.S. Soccer may not be covered. Refer to the below section for emergency situations. Any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a Referee or any club assistant Referee under USSF policies. Any person serving in a Referee support function, such as Referee mentors, Referee coaches, and other Referee support staff at the venue.
- b. "Hearing" means a meeting of at least three neutral members, one of whom is designated or elected to serve as chairperson. The hearing shall be comprised by and conducted pursuant to guidelines established by the Federation.
- c. For the purposes of this policy, a Referee is protected by U.S. Soccer policy from the time they arrive at the venue (which shall include the parking area), until their departure from the venue. For the purposes of this policy, "Protected Party" means a member of the Referee's family or household, or a guest of the Referee at the match or match venue. All U.S. Soccer policies are in addition to the local, state, and Federal laws.
- d. Referee assault is any deliberate physical action against a Referee. Referee abuse is extreme, deliberate, and non-contact behavior that causes a Referee or Protected Party significant harm. Actions in this category will be subject to an immediate suspension, meaning that the perpetrator cannot appear at the next sanctioned match. Assault and abuse include, but not limited to, the following actions or behavior committed against a Referee or Protected Parties:
 - Imposing physical harm upon a Referee or a Protected Party, including by use of objects or equipment.
 - Any act that endangers the Referee's physical wellbeing, whether deliberate or merely reckless.
 - Any form of unwanted physical contact, including but not limited to pushing, hitting, striking, kicking, choking, or spitting at the Referee.
 - Any behavior that constitutes a criminal offense under any applicable law.
 - Threatening, either directly or in insinuation, physical harm, including by use of objects or equipment, to a Referee or a Protected Party or property. Threatening is defined as any statement or action that

instills reasonable fear of acts of violence to a person's safety or property.

- Threats of harm or any retaliatory action against the Referee or their Protected Parties, including threat of exclusion from assignment or future participation opportunity.
- e. Actions that do not meet above assault or abuse definitions, but cause a Referee or Protected Party harm, may be subject to U.S. Soccer's gross mistreatment framework. Gross mistreatment means any deliberate, non-contact behavior that is expected to cause harm to a Referee. Gross mistreatment includes, but not limited to, the following actions or behavior committed against a Referee or Protected Parties:
 - Severe or repeated harassment, including hate speech or discriminatory remarks based on race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, disabilities, or any other legally protected characteristic.
 - Extreme verbal attacks that would cause emotional harm to a reasonable person.
 - Approaching a Referee when they arrive or depart the venue with aggression (e.g., intimidation).
 - Any form of cyberbullying, including spreading false information about the Referee, sharing the Referee's personal information (aka doxing), or publicly posting content that ridicules or mocks the Referee or uses hate speech.
 - Questioning the Referee's character, integrity, honesty, truthfulness, or impartiality.
 - Yelling insults, taunting, making, or expressing derogatory/belittling remarks towards a Referee.
 - Pervasive action that belittles or undermines the Referee's authority or intended to cast doubt on the Referee.

502.6.3. JURISDICTION AND HEARINGS

a. General:

- When an allegation of assault or abuse is verified by FYSA the accused person is automatically suspended until the hearing on the assault or abuse.
- FYSA must hold a hearing within thirty (30) days of the verification of the gross mistreatment, assault, or abuse. If FYSA does not adjudicate the matter within that period of time, original jurisdiction shall immediately vest in the Federation's Appeals Committee to adjudicate the matter, to which the same provisions as to the term of suspension shall apply.
- Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind an automatic suspension for assault or abuse.

b. Events and Tournaments

- In the event of assault, abuse, or gross mistreatment of a Referee occurs in an event outside the alleged offender's home state, the Referee shall (A) immediately notify the State Referee Administrator in his/her home state, and/or (B) forward a copy of the game report and his/her comments on the incident to the Event/Tournament Chairman.
- The Event/Tournament Chairperson shall have the right to immediately convene a hearing at the site of the Event/Tournament, at which the alleged offender, the coach of the alleged offender when the offender is a player, and the game official should be present. Information presented at this hearing shall promptly be relayed to the alleged offender's Member Organization by the Event/Tournament Chairperson, both orally and in writing; however, failure to provide written information shall not restrict the offender's home Member Organization from taking action with regard to any Referee gross mistreatment, assault, or abuse.
- Final jurisdiction shall vest with the alleged offender's home Member Organization. A hearing shall be held by that Member Organization within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the initial report of the gross mistreatment, assault, or abuse on a Referee.

502.6.4 PENALTIES AND SUSPENSIONS

a. Assault and Abuse: The person committing the Referee assault must be suspended as follows:

- for a minor or slight touching of the Referee or the Referee's uniform or personal property, at least three months from the time of the assault;
- except as provided in clause (i) or (ii), for any other assault, at least six months from the time of the assault:
 - i. for an assault committed by an adult and the Referee is 17 years of age or younger, at least three years; or

- ii. for an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least five years.
- b. For actions categorized as abuse, the person must be suspended for the next three affiliated matches, at minimum.
- c. Any misconduct against a minor-aged referee that rises to the level of child abuse under federal law must also be reported to law enforcement and the U.S. Center for SafeSport.
- d. FYSA may not provide shorter period of suspension but, if circumstances warrant, may provide a longer period of suspension.

502.6.5 APPEALS

A person who is found to have committed gross mistreatment, assault, and/or abuse may appeal to the Appeals Committee by following the procedures of Federation Bylaw 704 within fourteen (14) days from receipt of the decision of FYSA

502.6.6 PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING ASSAULT, ABUSE, AND GROSS MISTREATMENT

- a. Procedures for reporting of Referee assault, abuse, and/or gross mistreatment shall be developed and disseminated by the U.S. Soccer's Technical Development Committee.
- b. Referees shall transmit a written report of the alleged assault, abuse, or gross mistreatment, or both, within 48 hours of the incident (unless there is a valid reason for later reporting) to the designee of FYSA and/or the State Referee Administrator.
- c. For tournaments or special events, the Referee shall transmit a written report to the tournament director on the day of the incident and/or to the referee's home state SRA, if applicable, within 72 hours of the incident.
- d. The Referee should include the following information in the report:
 - E. Match details, including but not limited to team information, age group, score, and date.
 - F. Detailed statement about the incident, including the definition of the behavior or action (i.e., assault, abuse, mistreatment).
 - e. The Competition Authority shall submit the following information to FYSA or the SRA:
 - G. All documents, exhibits and other evidence in the case.
 - H. Copies of all rules, procedures, and bylaws used to support the charges and to conduct the hearing.
 - I. The notice of charges and/or hearing provided the defendant/appellant.
 - J. The decision of the hearing body and any appeals decisions.
 - K. If audio or video clips are made part of the record, there must be copies of any such video or audio delivered to the Federation without any editing.
 - L. If a written transcript has been prepared, it shall be included as part of the record.
 - M. The record must be in English. If Members accept documents in other languages, then the Member shall be responsible for providing English translations of the documents prepared by a neutral translator agreed to by the parties.
 - N. If the record is not submitted in accordance with this policy, the appeal timetable may be put on hold pending the completion of the record or the appeal may be dismissed. If the appeals timetable is put on hold, the appealing party may apply to the Federation to have their penalty suspended until the case is decided.

503. ADMINISTRATIVE GAME CONDUCT

- 503.1** Coach /Manager who sends a player onto the playing field with the intent to participate in the game, any youth who is not registered, is suspended, or is not a rostered member of the teams playing. Coach/Manager who sends a coach/volunteer to the sideline with the intent to participate in the match, any coach/volunteer who is not registered, is suspended, or is not a rostered member of the teams playing. **DISCIPLINE:** Suspended the remainder of the seasonal year PLUS one (1) year.
- 503.2** Player who knowingly enters a game that is not registered/rostered to either of the teams. **DISCIPLINE:** Suspended the remainder of the seasonal year.
- 503.3** Coach or player who participates in a game before completion of suspension. **DISCIPLINE:** Suspended the remainder of the seasonal year PLUS one (1) year.

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

503.5 Coach/manager who knowingly sends a player onto the playing field with the intent to participate in the game, any youth who is overage.

DISCIPLINE: Suspended a minimum of three (3) years.

503.6 INJURED PLAYERS

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

504. COMPLETING GAME SUSPENSIONS

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

1. Issued during league play must be worked off during remainder of the competition or during the next scheduled FYSA-sanctioned match(es) (league, Cup, or tournament game(s), whichever comes first). If no more competition remains in the current season, the suspension must be served during the next scheduled FYSA-sanctioned match(es) (league, Cup, or tournament game(s), whichever comes first). Local club/league may issue additional discipline to be served in other than league games.
2. Issued during President's Cup or Commissioner's Cup, they must be worked off during remainder of the competition. If no competition remains in the current season, suspension must be worked off in next scheduled FYSA-sanctioned match(es) (league, Cup, or tournament game(s), whichever comes first).
3. Issued during Tournament Play: must be worked off during remainder of the competition. If no more competition remains, the suspension must be served during the next scheduled FYSA-sanctioned match(es) (league, Cup, or tournament game(s), whichever comes first). Tournament Red Card Report must be filed along with game reports as required by Post-Tournament rules.
4. Issued during "friendly games" must be worked off during the next scheduled FYSA-sanctioned match(es) (league, Cup, or tournament game(s), whichever comes first). "Friendly games" may not be scheduled to work off game suspensions nor if previously scheduled, used to work off suspension given during league, cup or tournament games.
5. Issued during the US Youth National Championship (State Cup), at any level, shall not be allowed to participate in the next immediately following National Championship (State Cup) game played by the

player's team. A player may receive more than one (1) game suspension. Local club/league may issue additional discipline to be served in other than National Championship (State Cup) games.

6. A red card suspension issued during a small-sided tournament which cannot be served during the event shall be served during the player/coach's next scheduled club, league, or cup game(s). For a suspension issued during a normal league/cup game, the player must sit out the first game of any small-sided tournament previously entered. The player shall then be able to compete in the remainder of the tournament. The player shall not receive credit for the small-sided game(s) against the original suspension.

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

505. DISCIPLINE - ADMINISTRATIVE CONDUCT

505.1 Offenses related to Administrative misconduct are as follows:

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

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

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Charged</u>	<u>Discipline</u>
A. Affiliation	Affiliate	Warning; affiliation withheld
B. Registration	Affiliate	Game Forfeit; suspension
	Player	One (1) year for each year played under infraction
	FYSA Official	Per Review/Discipline Recommendations
C. Fees	Affiliate	Placed NGS
	Player	Registration Withheld
D. Discipline/Sanction	Affiliate	Sanction
	FYSA Official	Per Review /Discipline Recommendations
E. Protest and Appeal	Affiliate	Sanction
	FYSA Official	Per Review/Discipline Recommendations
F. Mis/Mal/Non/Feasance	Affiliate	Sanction
	FYSA Official	Per Review/Discipline Recommendations
G. Unauthorized Disclosure	Affiliate	Sanction
	FYSA Official	Per Review/Discipline Recommendations

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

506. DISCIPLINE- CODE OF ETHICS

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

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

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

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

601. DEFINITIONS

- 601.1** Due Process shall be defined as the procedures contained within this section and shall guarantee any individual, affiliate, player, coach, official or administrator of FYSA or any affiliate the right to exercise these procedures. Due process includes the right to know what charges have been made against a person and the right to a hearing before the imposition of any sanction whatsoever, including suspension, for any period of time. Exceptions to the hearing requirement are:
1. Assault on a referee or non-game official for which a suspension may be imposed immediately until a hearing can be held;
 2. Arrest or charges for any felony or any other crime involving moral turpitude for which a suspension may be imposed until resolution of all criminal charges; and
 3. Red Card suspension which is no greater than the minimum required under USSF and FYSA Rules.
- 601.2** Informal Hearing is defined as a process with less notification procedures and less strict procedural rules that may be held in cases involving minor infractions in which the penalty imposed shall not exceed five (5) games. Notifications may be done by telephone or in person and conduct of the hearing shall be informal so long as the interested parties are notified and have the opportunity to present evidence before a decision is made.
- 601.3** Formal Hearing is defined as any other hearing that must be held. The procedures for holding a formal hearing are set forth in FYSA Rule 611.
- 601.4** Protest is defined as a formal method that challenges the results of an event. It may be filed by any individual, club, league, officer, administrator, or affiliate whose interest is affected by the ruling or decision being protested.
- 601.5** Appeal is defined as a formal method of requesting a reversal of a decision or ruling made by an authority within FYSA. It may be filed by any individual, club, league, officer, administrator, or affiliate who has been directly affected by that ruling and which person affected believes is contrary to the Constitution, Bylaws or Rules of FYSA, US Youth Soccer, USSF or FIFA. Appeals must be filed by the person against whom a decision has been made.
- 601.6** Charges is defined as a formal method of filing charges against an individual, affiliate, or BOD member of FYSA regarding the violation of any FYSA, US Youth Soccer or USSF bylaw, rule or policy.
- 601.7** Grievances among affiliated members of FYSA is defined as a complaint by one Affiliate against another Affiliate that alleges that the affiliate has failed to comply with its membership requirements or with its membership requirements with FYSA.

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

- 602.1** Objectives for FYSA establishing these guidelines are to provide for fair, equitable, timely and uniformly applied procedures for reviewing the conduct of FYSA Affiliates, supporting their rights, insuring

adherence to the Rules and applying discipline based on a system of protest and appeal.

- 602.2** Due process shall be guaranteed to any individual or group disciplined or sanctioned by anybody within the jurisdiction of FYSA. Failure to provide due process shall result in the suspension of the discipline imposed and sanction against the body failing to provide due process. Upon determining due process has not been provided, the disciplining body may or may not be required by FYSA to re-institute proceedings according to the Rules.
- 602.3** Uniform rules shall be established and consistently applied to ensure that Affiliates have every opportunity to file protests and appeal decisions that affect their participation in soccer.
- 602.4** These rules shall apply to all individuals, affiliates, players, coaches, officials and administrators of any Affiliate. Discipline of any officer or director shall only be in accordance with Bylaws 6.2 and 6.3.
- 602.5** Protest, appeals, request for intervention and intervention policies shall be as set forth in these rules and in such policies as may be established by the Review and Discipline Committee and the Protest and Appeals Committee, as approved by the BOD and must be in keeping with the policies of USSF and US Youth Soccer.
- 602.6** Methods for informal requests for rule clarification that affect the Affiliates' administrative, programmatic and procedural relationship with FYSA shall be established.
- 602.7** Compliance with FYSA Rules and Bylaws is required when an Affiliate constructs their own guidelines for protest and appeal procedures. They must ensure the right to a fair, impartial and timely hearing, protest or appeal process.
- 602.8** Entry levels for protesting any discipline or sanction shall herein be defined and the ability to appeal the action of the entry-level body can only be based on the failure at the entry level of not following proper procedures.

603. FILING OF CHARGES

- 603.1** An individual, affiliate, or RB/BOD member of FYSA may be charged with the violation of any FYSA, US Youth Soccer or USSF rule, policy or bylaw. All charges filed that are outside the authority and jurisdiction of the affiliate shall be initially filed with FYSA's Review and Discipline Committee. The initial charging letter describing the offense, with specific reference to the Rule that has been violated, copies of confirming documentation, and accompanied by a filing fee of \$100.00 (unless filed by an FYSA official or FYSA committee) shall be filed with FYSA's Review and Discipline Committee within ninety (90) days of discovery of the infraction (with the exception of a charge of referee abuse or assault that must follow the guidelines stated in FYSA Rule 502.7). The Review and Discipline Committee shall have sole authority to determine if there is sufficient evidence to warrant a hearing in the matter. If it is so determined, a hearing must be scheduled by the lowest authority possible within thirty days (30) of notification by the Review and Discipline Committee. Once the hearing has been held, the hearing panel must send a copy of the hearing record and decision letter to the FYSA office and a copy of the decision letter to the Review and Discipline Committee. The hearing rules and procedures will follow FYSA Rule 611.
- 603.2** Failure of any elected FYSA officer or member of the BOD to comply with or properly administer the bylaws and rules of FYSA, US Youth Soccer, or USSF may result in charges of misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance as outlined in FYSA Rule Section 505 (Discipline - Administrative Conduct). All charges shall be filed pursuant to the provisions laid out in FYSA Rule 603.1. Upon determination by the FYSA Review and Discipline Committee that sufficient evidence exists to proceed with a formal hearing, the FYSA President shall empanel a hearing panel of not less than three (3) non- Board members with the President being the facilitator of the hearing. In the event that charges are brought against the President of FYSA, the FYSA Secretary shall empanel the hearing panel and will serve as facilitator of the hearing. Any decision resulting from the hearing may be appealed to the FYSA Protest and Appeals Committee.

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

604. PROTEST

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

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

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

604.3 Procedures for filing a protest:

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

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

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

604.5 Timeline for Submission of a Protest to FYSA

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

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

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

605. APPEALS

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

605.2 Levels of Appeals are:

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

605.3 Procedures for filing an Appeal:

1. Level of appeal as listed previously has been followed.
2. Documentation and all pertinent information is submitted in writing including, but not limited to, the original decision of the lower authority.
3. The appellant shall furnish to all previous parties to the decision, by certified mail or other means where delivery can be verified, a copy of the appeal and all attachments referenced in the appeal.
4. Upon receipt of an appeal, the hearing body shall notify all parties to the action of the pending appeal and timelines for submission of arguments and rebuttals. This notice shall be by means where notification can be verified.
5. Time requirements are met following the protest decision.
6. Fees, as set by FYSA, shall be included. (See Fee Structure - Rule 303)

605.4 Criteria for filing an Appeal are:

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

605.5 Denial of an Appeal shall be based on:

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

605.6 Timeline for Submission of Appeal to FYSA

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

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

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

606. APPEAL BEYOND FYSA

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

607 LITIGATION

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

as may be applicable.

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

607.2.1 The Affiliate/member shall be liable for any and all costs to FYSA to include, but not be limited to, the following:

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

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

608 REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION

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

608.2 Procedures for Requesting Intervention are:

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

608.3 BOD options are:

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

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

609 INTERVENTION

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

609.2 Procedures for Intervention are:

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

610. GRIEVANCE BY AN AFFILIATE MEMBER OF FYSA

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

611. HEARING PROCEDURES

- 611.1** Hearings shall be held at the lowest or entry level when the disciplining body wants to levy more than the minimum discipline, when there is confusion as to who participated and/or to what degree in a serious incident, to determine responsibility for Administrative misconduct, or otherwise required for protest and/or appeal. Refer to FYSA Rule 611.3 for the proper procedure on conducting a hearing. Incorrect hearing procedures shall be cause for protest or appeal.
- 611.2** Informal hearings shall be held in cases of minor infractions that may involve one or only a few individuals. These hearings must be held at the entry level as described under Rule Section 604. However, notification, documentation and submission of evidence to the FYSA State Office as described under Formal Hearings (see next section) should be followed as closely as reasonably possible.
(NOTE: Referee judgment calls are not subject to appeal.)
- 611.3** Formal Hearings shall be held in cases of major infractions and/or when it is not clear who is liable for discipline/suspension/sanction unless witness testimony is taken. The procedure is as follows:
 1. Shall provide to the accused written notice (charging document) to the accused of the specific charges or alleged violations and the possible consequences if the charges are found to be true.
 2. It shall be the sole responsibility of the requesting party to notify all persons who are requested to give testimony by first class or priority mail, Federal Express, UPS, fax with confirmation of receipt, or e-mail with confirmation of receipt. Such notice shall be retained as part of the record of the hearing.
 3. Notice shall be sent at least seven (7) days in advance of the hearing as to date, time and place of the hearing to both the prosecution and defense.

4. Schedule the hearing as conveniently as possible to all participants.
5. The accused shall have the right to be assisted in the presentation of his/her case at the hearing.
6. The accused shall have the right to call witnesses and present oral and written evidence and arguments in support of his/her defense.
7. The accused shall have the right to confront witnesses, including the right to be provided with the identity of witnesses who will be giving testimony not less than seven (7) calendar days in advance of the hearing.
 - a. In the case of referee abuse and/or assault, the SYRA or his/her designee will be present for the hearing. If the referee is a minor, the minor referee has the voluntary option to choose to be on the hearing, and if they choose to, must be accompanied by a legal guardian. If the minor referee chooses not to be on the hearing, the hearing board will not construe this in a negative light against the minor official.
8. Select a hearing board of not less than three (3) pertinent representatives who are not familiar with the incident being heard. (NOTE: In the case of referee assault, the hearing panel shall be comprised of not less than five (5) members.)
9. The accused shall have the right, at his expense, to have a record of the proceedings made.
10. Document the proceedings and obtain copies of all documents supplied by anyone requested to be present or generated at the time the incident occurred.
11. Provide equal time for all sides and sufficient time to hear all sides.
12. Deliberate in private after the hearing. Reach a decision solely on the evidence of record (the evidence and testimony introduced at the hearing). A written decision letter must then be produced to include the reasons for the decision, the specific findings of the panel, a description of the charges, the factual conclusions made by the panel that led to its decision, the specific discipline imposed (if any), and the scope of any discipline.
13. Notify those being disciplined and/or recommended for further action of the decision by certified mail, return receipt requested, within ten (10) days of reaching the decision.
14. Include in the decision letter the next level of appeal, the procedure for filing that appeal, and costs associated with the appeal.
15. Provide a copy of the decision and all hearing documentation to the FYSA State Office.
16. Referee judgment or discretion calls cannot be heard by any disciplinary body.

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

700. BUDGET AND EXPENSES

701. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

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

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

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

1. Conduct of Business:
 - a) Telephone
 - b) Office supplies
 - c) Postage
 - d) Copying
 - e) Fax services

2. Travel:
 - a) In Region b) Out of Region c) Out of State
3. Per Diem:
 - a) In Region b) Out of Region c) Out of State
4. Travel Outside of the Continental United States as per review and recommendation of the Budget Committee and approval of the BOD.

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

701.6 Final approval of requests for funding shall lie with the Board of Directors subject to their review and action, except as overruled by the Affiliate membership at the AGM by a two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote.

701.7 Adjustments, amendments, reductions, additions and/or deletions shall be submitted to the Budget Committee for review and recommendation and forwarded to the BOD for action.

701.8 Special modifications may be made to identified budget items in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or five (5) percent, whichever is less, either by the President or Chairman of the Budget Committee. Such modifications shall be submitted to the BOD as part of the Treasurer's Report at their next meeting.

701.9 Review or expenditures as budgeted by Officers, Staff, etc. is within the authority of the Budget Committee. It is the responsibility of the Officers, Staff, etc., to maintain full documentation of their expenditures. Failure to provide the documentation will constitute grounds for disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.

701.10 Yearly documented reports shall be submitted by anyone required to submit a budget on expenditures, prior to the end of the budget year, a date as set by the Treasurer, to the Budget Committee. Unobligated funds shall be returned to the General Fund in such form as directed by the Treasurer.

702. BUDGET PROCEDURES

702.1 Submitting a budget shall be required of all Officers, Administrative Staff, Committee Chairpersons, consultants and any other persons directed by FYSA to perform duties that may require expenditures for the performance of those duties.

702.2 President, Secretary, Treasurer shall submit request for funding for cost that may be incurred in the performance of their duties to the Budget Committee, annually.

702.3 Registrar, Region Vice-Presidents, Vice-President of Player and Coach Development and Competition, shall submit request for funding for costs that may be incurred in the performance of their duties for approval by the BOD prior to submission to the Budget Committee.

702.4 Administrative Staff shall submit an annual budget request separate and apart from any budget requested for the day-to-day operation of the Administrative Office to the Budget Committee.

702.5 Standing Committee Chairperson shall submit request for costs that may be incurred in the performance of their Committee to the Budget Committee.

702.6 Special Committees, Consultants and Special Project Coordinators shall request funding from the Budget Committee as deemed necessary. Initial authorization by the BOD shall not exceed \$1000.00 dollars. If additional funds are needed the Budget Committee must review and submit for approval by the BOD.

800. ACCIDENTAL MEDICAL AND LIABILITY INSURANCE

801. ACCIDENTAL MEDICAL COVERAGE

- 801.1** Excess Participant Accident coverage is maintained by FYSA; offering coverage to include affiliates, registered players, registered coaches/volunteers, participating in FYSA sanctioned activities at the team, club, league, and State levels including FYSA sanctioned tournaments and Cups.
- 801.2** Coverage is available to all affiliated members who have been properly registered as per Rules and Regulations. For youth players who also participate in the Florida State Soccer Association, players are not covered during FSSA competitions and/or activities.
- 801.3** Notice of claim and initial treatment shall be given by claimant within ninety (90) days of the injury.

802. LIABILITY COVERAGE

- 802.1** Comprehensive general liability coverage both for the State Association and Affiliates shall be maintained.
- 802.2** The named insured for the State Association coverage shall include its representatives, Officers, Directors, volunteers, and staff as established by the BOD.
- 802.3** Affiliate coverage includes Affiliate Officers, volunteers, players, coaches, assistant coaches, and spectators.
- 802.4** Directors and Officers Liability: A separate Directors and officers liability policy, including Employment Practices Liability shall be maintained for FSYA BOD and its Affiliates.
- 802.5** Claim Procedures (Liability): Affiliates are to immediately notify the President of FYSA of any claims alleging negligent actions resulting in Bodily Injury or Property Damage.

803. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 803.1** Public liability or the medical insurance contract shall not be amended or otherwise altered by the overall direction and information contained herein. The wording of the policy constitutes the only agreement and provision of coverage between the insured and the insurance companies.
- 803.2** Out of State travel requires approved State travel permits and roster on file at the State Office for the insurance to be valid outside of the State.
- 803.3** Additional Insured coverage can be supplied to owners or operators of game and practice facilities if they require proof of insurance or additional named insured certificates. This service shall be provided for a fee in the amount listed in Fees/Fines Structure (302).

804. CLAIM PROCEDURE (Participant Accident)

- 804.1** Initial contact to report an injury and to obtain the necessary notification and claim forms shall be with the club registrar or agent of record. Accidental claim forms must be obtained and completed. Claimant shall follow instructions for correctly completing the form.
- 804.2** Claims may be denied if the below listed procedures are not followed and in no case shall a claim be paid if the participant is not properly affiliated or registered to FYSA.
- 804.3** Primary carrier benefits must be depleted before FYSA coverage can be paid through these policies. Claimant shall be advised and notified that the coverage is secondary and subject to a deductible chosen by the FYSA BOD if the claimant has no other insurance. This shall be acknowledged on the FYSA forms.
- 804.4** Processing of claims must be through the State Office.

900. TOURNAMENT AND TRAVEL

901. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

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

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

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

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

902. TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

- US Youth Soccer Application to Host form, properly completed and signed by the affiliate's agent of record.
- US Youth Soccer Tournament Hosting Agreement, properly completed

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

902.2 Tournament Hosting Application Deadlines are:

1. Within Region: received thirty (30) days prior to tournament by the State Office.
2. Within State: received sixty (60) days prior to tournament by the State Office.
3. Outside the State: received ninety (90) days prior to tournament by the State Office
4. Any request for modifications to approved tournament rules less than thirty (30) prior to the event will require an additional fee of 250.00.
5. Late fees may be assessed to cover additional cost to FYSA. The minimum late fee shall be 100.00.

902.3 The State Office shall process the application to the required State, Regional or National authority. Tournament acceptances and/or invitations may not be issued until all official approvals have been granted and notification of such has been received by the hosting affiliate. The State office shall notify the RVP of the hosting affiliate as to the receipt and final approval of the application.

902.4 All FYSA Sanctioned Tournaments will have a currently certified referee assignor, responsible for all referee assignments. FYSA must provide written notice to FSR of the primary certified referee assignor and if relevant, and other junior or support certified assignor(s) of the tournament(s). This will include but not limited to the following: All Sanctioned Tournaments, any and all State Cup Games, Presidents Cup, Commissioner's Cup, Kohl's American Cup, and ODP games.

902.5 All Tournaments are encouraged to have a coaches' meeting prior to the beginning of competition to discuss schedule changes and local tournament rules.

902.6 International teams attending tournaments must supply, at credentials check-in, their National Federation permission to attend the tournament and/or other tournaments within the U.S. and proof of medical insurance coverage (refer to manual for procedures concerning medical coverage or the lack thereof). Passports are acceptable proof of age since most National Federations do not issue permanent player passes.

902.7 For all tournaments and games involving international teams (teams from outside the United States), the rules for the tournament or games must comply with the following substitution requirements: For matches involving players under 16 years of age, the number of substitutions allowed is as provided by the rules of the tournament or game. For all other matches, the number of substitutions is as agreed prior to the match and the referee is informed prior to the match of that number. The number agreed to can be as provided in the rules of the tournament or game.

902.8 It shall be the policy of FYSA that any tournament must disclose with the application and invitation any and all requirements that must be met upon acceptance of the team by the tournament.

This will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Any player fees not included in the application fee,
2. Any requirements as to mandatory travel arrangements that must be arranged through the tournament,
3. Any requirements as to mandatory hotels in which teams must arrange lodging, and.
4. Any other requirements, such as parking fees, etc., that the hosting organization plans to impose at the tournament.

Violation of the above may result in the revocation of the approval by FYSA of the Tournament.

902.9 No Tournament shall advertise in any fashion its tournament as approved, prior to receiving final approvals from FYSA, Regional, and National authorities as may be required, unless the wording "Pending Approval" is included. (Note---This wording must be of the same type and size as the predominate type in the advertisement.)

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

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

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

902.13 TOURNAMENT REFUND POLICY

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

Tournament entry fee returns/refunds as follows:

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

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

1. Tournament red card summary report along with copies of the game and supplemental referee reports must be faxed, e-mailed, or submitted online to the FYSA office within seventy-two (72) hours after

completion of the event, inclusive of weekends. If the red card summary report is submitted online, then the game and supplemental referee reports must be faxed or emailed separately with a copy of the red card report. The report must be filed even if there are no red cards issued.

2. The post tournament report must be filed within fifteen (15) calendar days of completion of the event via fax, email, or online submission. Said report is to include a statement from the tournament referee assignor explaining whether or not each tournament game was staffed by the appropriate number of certified referees based on the requirements per age category. If not, then the assignor is to identify how many games were not completely staffed and a reason for the lack of certified referees, if available. The tournament may be fined a per game fee for each game not fully staffed as defined under FYSA Rule 905.1.
3. All original game reports and team rosters must be maintained by the hosting organization for a period of not less than ninety (90) calendar days.

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

903. TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

903.1 Travel requirements shall be established for affiliated teams that wish to compete in tournaments or other competitions outside their club/league, within their FYSA region, within the State of Florida, within US Youth Soccer Region III ("Region III"), outside of Region III but within the United States, or outside the United States (foreign travel). The necessary forms may be obtained from the club registrar and furnished to FYSA together with additional information and/or fees required per Rule 903.3, 903.4 and 903.5. Permission to travel shall be granted by FYSA for only those events sanctioned by US Youth Soccer or other National State Associations as defined by USSF.

903.2 Travel within the State of Florida requires no special application or approval.

903.3 Travel outside the State of Florida but within Region III shall require the following. Except for normal league play, notification must be sent for each event:

1. Copy of Region III Interstate Travel Notice form.
2. Copy of approved tournament application, hosting agreement, league information.
3. Official FYSA roster with properly executed guest form(s) attached.
4. Appropriate fees, as required.

903.4 Travel outside of Region III but within the U.S. shall require the following submitted to FYSA:

1. US Youth Soccer Application to Travel form, properly completed and signed by the affiliate's agent of record.
2. Copy of approved tournament application.
3. FYSA computer-generated roster with properly executed guest form(s) attached.
4. Affiliate letter signed by the "agent of record" granting permission for travel and accepting responsibility for the team's conduct while traveling.
5. Appropriate fees, as required.

903.5 Travel to foreign countries shall require the following submitted to FYSA:

1. For travel outside the United States, approval is required by and therefore must be obtained from USSF. Denial by USSF shall negate State approval. Approval shall be granted only for properly sanctioned events.
2. US Youth Soccer Application to Travel and USSF travel forms properly completed and signed by the affiliate's agent of record.
3. Copy of approved documentation from the hosting National Federation and pertinent information regarding the proposed matches.
4. Official FYSA roster with properly executed guest form(s) attached.
5. Appropriate fees. See Fees/Fines Structure.
6. Notice of approval from USSF will be sent to the National Federation of the Country to which the team

is traveling, to FYSA and to the traveling team.

- 903.6** While traveling either nationally or internationally, all teams or players/coaches/volunteers must carry with them the following:
1. US Youth Soccer Player/Coach Pass for each player, guest player and team official listed on the roster and traveling with the team.
 2. US Youth Soccer Application to Travel, officially approved if applicable.
 3. Official FYSA roster with properly executed guest form(s) attached.
 4. Medical releases forms, signed by parent/guardian authorizing emergency medical care (for all players under the age of 18).
- 903.7** Travel Application deadlines are:
1. Outside State and within Region III: Not less than 24 hours.
 2. Outside Region III but within the United States: Thirty (30) days prior to tournament or match. Fifteen (15) to twenty (20) days, a late fee shall be assessed. Less than fifteen (15) days, travel may be denied and application not accepted by the Tournament and Travel Committee.
 3. Internationally: Ninety (90) days prior to tournament or match. Forty (40) to eighty-nine (89) days, a late fee shall be assessed. Less than forty (40) days, travel may be denied, and application not accepted by the Tournament and Travel Committee.

904. HOSTING TEAMS FOR EXHIBITION GAMES

- 904.1** Hosting teams either from outside the Region, outside the State, foreign, Senior, amateur, or professional, for exhibition or games, may only be done following special guidelines as required by FYSA and USSF.
- 904.2** Hosting Teams:
1. Hosting teams from within Florida but outside the team's home region shall require notification of the hosting team's RVP not less than 24 hours prior to the match.
 2. Hosting teams from outside the State shall require using US Youth Soccer player passes and a roster verified by the National State Association of the traveling team being submitted to the RVP.
 3. Hosting teams from outside Florida but within Region III shall require notification of FYSA by fax or e-mail not less than 24 hours prior to the match. FYSA shall notify the appropriate RVP. It shall be the responsibility of the hosting affiliate to ensure that the proper level of referees is assigned to the match.
 4. Hosting teams from outside Region III (within the United States) shall require the following:
 - a. US Youth Soccer Application to Host form properly completed and signed by the hosting affiliate's agent of record.
 - b. Approval by FYSA and payment of the appropriate fee.
 - c. Club responsibility form on file with FYSA.
 - d. A copy of the Tournament Rules.
 - e. Appropriate fees as may be required.
 - f. The hosting affiliate must notify the Area Director of Assignors to ensure that the proper level of game officials is assigned to any match.
 5. Hosting foreign teams shall require the hosting team to use an Official FYSA roster, an FYSA or US Youth Soccer player pass and passports for visiting teams and submitting the following to FYSA. (Note-Once Passports are verified)
- 904.3** International teams invited to play exhibition games must supply, before the games are played, to the RVP, Federation documentation permitting the teams to travel within the U.S. and proof of medical insurance.
- 904.4** Youth teams may be permitted to compete against non-FYSA and/or US Youth Soccer teams subject to conditions as outlined below:
1. Teams not affiliated with USSF (e.g., high school teams, college teams, etc.):
 - a. A request must be submitted to the FYSA office in writing and be accompanied with an official

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

904.5 Hosting team's application deadlines are:

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

905. TOURNAMENT AND TRAVEL FEE SECTION

Tournament hosting Application Fee

Within home region

\$50.00

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

Tournament Hosting late fees

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

Amendments to Applications:

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

Tournament Web Advertising:

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

Application to travel:

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

Foreign Travel

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

Game Hosting Fees/game

(Fees listed are per game involving the visiting team)

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

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

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

Foreign Teams:

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

Tournament and Travel fines:

Failure to timely file or file red card reports	\$250.00
Failure to timely file or file post tournament reports	\$500.00
Failure to staff games with required number of certified referees	The higher of \$25.00 per game or the referee game fee for the unstaffed position(s)
Failure to follow FYSA min red card sanctions	\$1,000.00
Failure to follow posted tournament rules	\$1,000.00
Failure to follow refund policy	10 times entry fee

Failure to maintain games report/rosters for 90 days	\$1,000.00
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Hosting a tournament without proper permission:

Teams from within Florida	\$500.00
Teams from outside Florida within the USA	\$1,500.00
Any Foreign Teams	\$2,500.00

Hosting or playing against teams without permission

Failure to properly notify FYSA for teams within Region III	\$100.00
Out of Florida within United States	\$1,500.00
Any Foreign Team	\$2,500.00

Traveling without Permission

Out of Region within State of Florida	\$500.00
Out of Florida within the United States	\$1,500.00
Foreign Travel	\$2,500.00

1000. OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

1001. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1001.1** FYSA shall offer an Olympic Development Program following US Youth Soccer and USSF Bylaws and policies.
- 1001.2** The Director of Coaching & Player Development, in coordination with the Olympic Development Program Committee, shall have oversight of the program.
- 1001.3** Participants shall be required to be registered with FYSA.
- 1001.4** The FYSA Olympic Development Program shall identify players based on ability and establish pathways for identification and development.

2000. COACHING DEVELOPMENT

2001. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 2001.1** FYSA shall offer coaching education opportunities in accordance with USSF Bylaws, policies, and mandates.
- 2001.2** Procedures for hosting courses shall be published and posted on the FYSA website. The procedures shall provide the process for scheduling courses, course curriculum, current fee schedule, time requirements and any other directions necessary for obtaining a State-level coaching license. The hosting procedures shall be binding on all affiliates and/or participants.
- 2001.3** Program administration shall be overseen by the Vice President of Player and Coaching Development.
- 2001.4** State coaching courses will conform to curriculum developed by US Soccer Federation. Additional courses and clinics may be developed by FYSA to meet the needs of its membership.

3000. BOD MEMBERS HOLDING OFFICE IN AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

- 3000.1** The FYSA BOD members shall annually disclose to the Board any conflict of interest. An FYSA BOD member shall be considered to have a conflict of interest if (a) such BOD member has existing or

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

3001. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- 3001.1** Cause for removal from office of any Officer, Staff Member, Administrator, Committee Member, or any person delegated to represent FYSA in any capacity shall include but not be limited to the following:
1. Actions contrary to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of FYSA.
 2. Infractions as enumerated in Rule 505.
 3. Unauthorized expenditure of funds. Authorized expenditures include only those that were approved by the BOD as part of the annual budget or approved by special request of the BOD.
 4. Unauthorized travel to any meeting or functions not previously approved by the BOD as part of the annual budget or by request to and approval from the BOD, for which the traveler expects expense reimbursement in part or full. All parties traveling to the same meeting or function other than a Committee meeting must have prior approval to attend and be reimbursed for or otherwise have their expenses paid by FYSA.
 5. Any unauthorized disclosure of registration information is in direct violation of FYSA Bylaws.

3002. REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS, ETC.

- 3002.1** Due to resignation, removal, death, injury, etc., any Officer, Staff Member, Administrator, Committee Members, or any person delegated to represent FYSA in any capacity shall be replaced as soon as possible and according to the following requirements and procedures.

3003. ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES (STAFF)

- 3003.1** The President and Executive Director shall be responsible for assignment of tasks and direction. No other Officer or Affiliate shall assign tasks to the Office Staff. The Staff shall not accept or respond to special requests without prior approval of the Executive Director. Specific job description shall be included in the Personnel Manual. The Executive Director has the authority to hire and fire office staff.

4000. MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

4001. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 4001.1** Rules for the conduct of meetings shall only govern the method in which meetings are held and shall in no way govern, apply to or affect the established rules and regulations contained within the previous sections of the Rules of FYSA.
- 4001.2** Meeting preliminaries, which are the necessary preparations that must be accomplished prior to conducting a meeting, for the AGM, BOD shall include the following:
1. Notice
 2. Agenda
 3. Quorum
 4. Credentials

4001.3 Conducted by Chair, who is usually the President. The President may relinquish the chair to a specific person. Should the President be unable to attend the meeting, he/she shall appoint the Vice President of Player and Coaching Development to conduct the meeting in his/her absence.

4001.4 The agenda shall be followed in order unless the body agrees to suspend or postpone an agenda item by majority vote.

4001.5 Motions must be properly made, clearly stated, accurately recorded, seconded, debated, and voted upon according to "Robert's Rules", as shall amending, tabling, etc. The chair may not make or second a motion and can only vote on a motion in order to break a tie.

4001.6 Debating motions at regular meetings can be restricted the same as for the AGM (see next section).

4001.7 Debating motions at the AGM, in the interest of time and fairness, the chair may set a time limit for each speaker in advance of discussion on a particular agenda item.

4001.8 All other meetings called by RVPs, committees, etc., may be held on an informal basis with a report on the meeting presented at the next scheduled regular meeting.

4001.9 Proper conduct shall be expected of each member attending and each meeting shall be conducted properly without intent to circumvent the Rules.

4002. AGENDAS

4002.1 A regular meeting proposed agenda shall be mailed to BOD members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting date set, whether the meeting was scheduled in an annual calendar or called with a thirty (30) day notice.

4002.2 A special called meeting agenda shall include only the issue(s) for which the meeting is being called may not be amended.

4002.3 Amending a proposed agenda of a regular meeting shall be at the beginning of the meeting by a majority vote of the membership and shall then become the final agenda.

4002.4 Adoption of the final agenda shall take place at the beginning of the meeting by a majority vote of the members present. Upon adoption of the final agenda, it may not be amended; however, items may be suspended or postponed for consideration at another time during the meeting or at another meeting. See Agenda format, Rule 5003.6.

4002.5 Agenda items to be presented as motions, whenever possible, should include the text of the motion. Members should not be confronted with unexpected decisions or be unprepared on important matters.

4002.6 Agenda format for BOD regular meetings shall be as follows:

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

4002.7 Agenda format for the AGM shall be as follows:

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

4002.8 RULES COMMITTEE CONDUCT AT THE AGM

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

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

4003. CREDENTIALS

4003.1 The Credentials Committee shall be responsible for verifying credentials and maintaining all records of verification as established either by Roll Call or the Credentials Report. The Secretary shall report to the body the members present and eligible to vote. Only Affiliates "in good standing" shall be able to participate in all matters considered at the AGM.

4003.2 Voting on motions and elections as prescribed in Bylaw 8, Rule 5007, Rule 5008 and Standing Committees C-50, when requiring a Roll Call vote or Credentials Report shall be conducted by the Committee. The

Secretary shall report the results to the body and the Committee shall record and maintain the results. A Year

4004. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

4004.1 Minutes shall be taken of every regular or special called meetings of the BOD and AGM, by the Secretary or his/her designee. The minutes can be taken electronically, by hand or by shorthand at the convenience of the Secretary.

4004.2 Minutes shall be sent, typewritten, by the Secretary to the Affiliates for all AGM, BOD meetings within thirty (30) days following the meeting. The Secretary shall sign all minutes. If someone other than the Secretary recorded the meeting, that person must be noted in the minutes.

4004.3 Minutes shall contain, adhering to the order of the agenda, the following:

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

4005. RECORDING MOTIONS

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

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

4006. ELECTIONS

4006.1 Annual elections shall be held to fill positions in accordance with Bylaws 2.5, 3.1 and 8., also, in accordance with Rule 3008.

4006.2 RC elections shall be held within the Region prior to the AGM and supervised by the RVP or his/her designee. Nominations shall be due 30 days prior to the election and only accepted from the floor if no nominations were received 30 days in advance. Eligibility requires the affiliate to be "in good standing" at the time of the election. Election by email shall be permitted under the supervision of the RVP and the FYSA Secretary, who shall approve the procedure.

4006.3 RVP elections shall be held at the AGM after all other elections have been conducted. The Credentials Committee shall conduct the election. Only those Affiliates within the Region who have been verified and are "in good standing" shall be eligible to vote for their Regional candidates. If a candidate is unopposed,

voting need not be by secret ballot. Nominations shall be due 30 days prior to the AGM and only accepted from the floor if no nominations were received 30 days in advance.

- 4006.4** Eligibility shall include "in good standing" status. Eligibility shall be verified by the Credentials Committee as to status and number of available votes.
- 4006.5** Proxies shall be counted if they have been verified by the Credentials Committee prior to the deadline set to register proxies. All proxies must be submitted to the FYSA Secretary using a form (found on the FYSA website), signed by the affiliate's "agent of record" and prepared in accordance with the Bylaws. If specifically directed on the proxy to vote a specific person to a particular position, proxy holder must cast votes as directed; otherwise, the person holding the proxy may vote as they choose.
- 4006.6** FYSA shall post a notice of all elections, their duties, and the process for nominations on the FYSA website at least 90 days prior to the AGM. FYSA will present a slate of candidates for all positions at least 20 days prior to the AGM. The list of candidates shall be given to the affiliates at registration. FYSA does not choose the candidates only facilitate an orderly nomination process. The candidates must be nominated in the same manner from the floor.
- 4006.7** Nominations shall be due 30 days prior to the AGM and only accepted from the floor if no nominations were received 30 days in advance. The maker of the nomination may speak for one (1) minute and the nomination must be seconded. The person seconding the nomination shall not speak. The person nominated can refuse the nomination. Nominations for that position shall then be closed by the Secretary hearing no further nominations.
- 4006.8** Candidates shall have five (5) minutes to speak on their behalf or have someone speak for them. The candidates shall speak in order, alphabetically by last name.
- 4006.9** Conducting elections shall be the responsibility of the Credentials Committee as chaired by the Secretary. Should the Secretary position be on the ballot, the Secretary shall temporarily step aside for that position election. The Committee shall choose a temporary chair and so notify the body.
- 4006.10** The method of voting shall be by secret ballot, supervised by the Credentials Committee to ensure the eligibility and accuracy of votes. An exception to this rule applies in cases of election by acclamation, where a single candidate runs unopposed, thereby waiving the requirement for a secret ballot.
- 4006.11** Ballots can be destroyed only after having been held by the Credentials Committee for a period of thirty (30) days. The Committee shall also keep the tallying receipts for the same period.
- 4006.12** Contesting an election of a particular position can be done by anyone (1) of the opposing candidates who may then ask for a recount. An election need not be contested before close of business at the AGM, however, it must be contested in writing to the Secretary within the thirty (30) days the Credentials Committee is required to hold the ballots.
- 4006.13** An invalid election shall be re-held, if so determined by the BOD after a recount by the Credentials Committee. If found to be invalid during the AGM, the election shall be re-held immediately. If found to be invalid after close of business at the AGM, a ballot containing the slate of candidates, as approved on the floor during the meeting, shall be sent to all Affiliates. The Affiliate shall vote, sign and have the ballot notarized and returned to the Secretary. All rules for a normal election concerning quorum, eligibility, verification, etc., shall then apply. The results shall be published to all Affiliates.
- 4006.14** A motion for election by acclamation may only be made if a candidate is unopposed. A motion may then be made to destroy the ballot, at the meeting, for the unopposed candidate only

5000 FYSA HALL OF FAME

5000.1 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

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

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

5000.2 PROCEDURE AND DEADLINE

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

GLOSSARY

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

<u>National State Association</u>	An affiliated member of USSF representing all leagues, clubs, teams, and players within the territory assigned to the National State Association by the USSF National Council. (FYSA is a National State Association.)
<u>Non-Player</u>	Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, or any other person assisting the team; spectator
<u>Not In Good Standing (NGS)</u>	All rights and privileges of FYSA are removed.
<u>Official FYSA Roster</u>	The computer-generated roster from the FYSA secure site in printout form.
<u>Player</u>	A youth properly registered in accordance with the rules of USSF, US Youth Soccer the National State Association rules.
<u>Previously Rostered Player</u>	Any player who has been rostered to another team during the same seasonal year in any fashion and then transfers to any other team.
<u>Protest</u>	A formal method to question and request reversal of an event.
<u>Recreational all-star team</u>	Means an intraclub tournament team whose roster only includes players selected from teams that participate in the same recreational league or recreation plus league.
<u>Recreational league</u>	Means an intraclub league in which— (A) the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any similar process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited; (B) the club administering the league accepts as participants in the league any eligible youths (subject to reasonable terms on registration); (C) a system or rostering players is used to establish a fair or balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating; and (D) league rules require that each player must play at least one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline.
<u>Recreational plus league</u>	Means an interclub or intraclub league in which— (A) the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any similar process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited; (B) the club or clubs administering the league accept as participants in the league any and all eligible youths (subject to reasonable terms of registration); and (C) the league does not otherwise meet the definition of a recreational league.
<u>Recreational plus team</u>	Means a team that participates in a recreational plus league.
<u>Recreational team</u>	Means a team that participates in a recreational league.
<u>Referee</u>	All currently registered USSF referees, linemen, 4th official or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match. Also, any non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee, a club linesman.
<u>Region</u>	One of the four (4) geographically sub-divisions of the National State Association.
<u>Regional Commissioner</u>	A member of the Regional Board. Provides affiliate representation to the Regional level. Provides assistance to affiliates within their Region. Elected RC's provide affiliate representation to the BOD (2 per Region).

<u>Registration</u>	The signing of an intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of fees to become a member of US Youth Soccer and the National State Association.
<u>Rostering</u>	The assignment of a registered player to a team.
<u>Team Roster</u>	A list of registered players eligible to play for a team.
<u>Game Roster</u>	A list of players who will participate in a particular competition.
<u>Spectator</u>	Any individual observing a game.
<u>Suspension</u>	The temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges such as, but not limited to: the right to play, coach, referee, or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in the game of affiliated soccer. Any person or group (team, club, league, board, etc.) that has been suspended with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.
<u>Team</u>	A recognized entity organized for the purpose of playing the sport of soccer.
<u>Transfer</u>	The removal of a player/coach from one team's roster and the addition of the player to another team's roster.
<u>Verified</u>	Proper birth documentation has been submitted.
<u>Voluntary</u>	The removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of the player.