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**NEW MEXICO YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL PROCEDURES AND RULES**

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Revised [September 30, 2024](#)

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### 3.01 AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### 3.01.01 GOVERNING PROCEDURES

The procedure contained herein shall govern NMYSA members in all cases in which they are applicable and are not in conflict with the NMYSA BY-LAWS (1.0 and 2.0) and other governance documents available on the NMYSA website at www.nmysa.net, US Youth Soccer, and US Soccer.

#### 3.01.02 LEAGUE REQUIREMENTS TO FILE RULES WITH NMYSA

Leagues/Clubs may ~~deem fit to~~ develop rules and regulations that are more stringent than those included herein, but in no case may the rules be less stringent and must be in compliance with NMYSA, USYS and US Soccer. ~~Leagues must submit their rules and regulations to NMYSA for review and approval (2.05.02). Current copies must be on file with the NMYSA or publicly accessible on the Internet. NMYSA shall insure compliance annually. All Member Affiliates must provide public access of their governance documents, (Bylaws, Policies, Rules) on their website.~~

#### 3.01.03 TEAM AND AFFILIATE MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

Each team shall be responsible for the conduct of its players, coaches, managers, assistants (staff) and parents. It is also the responsibility of each team to ensure that its actions, on or off the field, do not bring discredit upon NMYSA. Each affiliate member shall be responsible for the conduct of those persons associated with its operations and it is the responsibility of each affiliate member to ensure that its actions do not bring discredit to NMYSA.

#### 3.01.04 APPROVAL AUTHORITY OVER TOURNAMENTS AND STATE-SPONSORED EVENTS

The authority for approval/sanctioning and/or operational control over of cup games, tournament games, inter district competition, select team games and other state-sanctioned events, including dates and times of games which are to be played or sponsored by registered teams or affiliated members, shall be vested with the NMYSA Board of Directors. ~~Approved games of this type~~ State Cup/NCS shall take precedence over all league games, including, but not limited to, available referees and field usage.

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### 3.02 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall be used in conducting the business and affairs of NMYSA.

**ACADEMY** – an academy is a group of players that have been registered directly with the NMYSA for the purpose of training and competition. Players are registered to a pool but may be moved to rosters for competition purposes. An academy requesting sanctioning by NMYSA must provide the academy’s governance, structure, policies, procedures, required fees and other documentation.

**AFFILIATION** – An NMYSA approved member league, club, academy, or organization that conducts youth soccer programs in compliance with NMYSA, US Youth Soccer and USSF authority, rules and procedures.

**AGE GROUP/AGE LIMIT** -- Defines age limits for youth status and assignment to a particular age grouping. (See 3.03)

**AMENDMENTS** -- Proposals and/or adoptions of changes to the By-Laws and General Procedures and Rules. (2.16)

**APPEAL** -- A procedure initiated by members, coaches, teams, or parents after a protest has been filed and a decision rendered. Any decision by a League, District Commissioner, or NMYSA may be appealed to the next higher authority. (3.14)

**BAD STANDING** -- A member loses all rights, privileges, and opportunities of affiliation. (2.11.07)

**BAN** – permanent suspension with no further consideration for reinstatement.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)** -- The governing authority of this Association, consisting of members of the Executive Committee and District Commissioners.

**CLASSIC TEAM** -- Means a team 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 permitted; and

(b) one or more league rules restrict the manner in which players may be rostered to participating teams.

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CLUB – a club is an organization which registers players, organizes teams, and secures coaches for each team. A club requesting sanctioning by NMYSA must provide the club’s governance structure, policies, procedures, required fees and other documentation. To be sanctioned by NMYSA, a club must have a minimum of 2 teams, or a minimum of 20 players, under the direct management of the club. As an affiliate member, clubs may register their players and teams directly with NMYSA.

COMPETITIVE TEAM -- Means any non-recreational team.

DISTRICTS -- A definition of territory in which leagues are organized (1.03.02) and represented by a commissioner. (2.06)

ELIGIBLE TO PLAY – Means properly registered and not under suspension.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Committee is responsible for planning, policy, and procedure developments consisting of President, Vice-President (~~Youth Commissioner~~), Financial Officer, Secretary, Director of Cups and Games, the District Commissioner representative and the immediate past President.

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~~FEDERATION – Means the United States Soccer Federation.~~

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FIFA -- Fédération Internationale de Football Association (the world governing body of Football / Soccer.)

GAME ROSTER – A list of players who will participate in a particular competition.

GOOD STANDING -- A member has all rights, privileges, and opportunities of affiliation. (2.11.06)

GRIEVANCE -- A complaint of a general nature, which is not based upon specific rule violations, or upon a specific administrative decision (or lack of decision). General grievances are not handled through protest, appeal, or disciplinary hearing processes. (3.14.02)

GUEST PLAYER – Means a registered player participating in a competition for a team to which the player is not rostered for purposes of league play.

IFAB – International Football Association Board

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INDIVIDUAL MEMBER – An individual who is a player, coach, referee, administrator or adult participant

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- (a) through that individual’s membership or association with NMYSA;
- (b) as an elected officer or member of the Board of Directors;
- (c) if the individual occupies an unpaid administrative position established under US Youth Soccer Bylaw 323;
- (d) is a committee member of NMYSA;
- (e) Parents & Referees are considered indirect members of NMYSA and are subject to all rules of NMYSA

INDOOR CLUB TEAMS -- Teams that are formed for indoor play only for NMYSA sanctioned indoor leagues. These teams must be affiliate members - approved/sanctioned and follow all requirements for indoor teams as specified by NMYSA and US Youth Soccer. Rosters for these teams must be authorized by the member Registrar in accordance with NMYSA procedures.

HOUSE TEAMS -- Registering and participating without a regular team assignment or registered on a team to participate in NMYSA programs.

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~~INTERLEAGUE/CLUB/ACADEMY TOURNAMENT TEAM — Means a tournament team whose roster includes players who are members of more than one affiliate member.~~

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~~INTERLEAGUE/CLUB/ACADEMY TRANSFER — Means the removal of a player from a team’s roster at the request of the player and the contemporaneous addition of the player to the roster of another team in another affiliate member.~~

~~INTRALEAGUE/CLUB/ACADEMY TOURNAMENT TEAM — Means a tournament team whose roster includes players who are members of only one Affiliate Member.~~

~~INTRALEAGUE/CLUB/ACADEMY TRANSFER — Means the removal of a player from a team’s roster at the request of the player and the contemporaneous addition of the player to the roster of another team from the same Affiliate Member, (league, club, academy).~~

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~~INVOLUNTARY RELEASE — Means the removal of a player from a team’s roster at the request of team authorities.~~

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LEAGUE - a league is an organization that provides a schedule of games for teams. A league may set policies governing the acceptance of teams into the league and the

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league's playing rules. The playing rules and game formats must meet approval from NMYSA to qualify as a sanctioned league. A league requesting sanctioning by NMYSA must provide its playing rules, game formats, season dates, organizational structure, policies, procedures and required fees.

MEMBER AFFILIATION/FORMS -- Membership in this Association is by affiliated leagues, clubs, academies consisting of two (2) or more teams or a minimum of 20 players. Member affiliation is accomplished as specified in 2.05 Membership.

LEAGUE TEAM – Means a team that participates in regularly scheduled league play.

MULTIPLE ROSTERED -- A player may be rostered on two (2) or more teams.

MEMBERSHIP -- As defined in the By-Laws. (2.05 Membership)

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS – Means the competitions provided for under US Youth Soccer "National Champion Competition" policy.

PLAYER – Means a youth player registered in accordance with US Youth Soccer and NMYSA rules who has paid their fees and complied with the requirements of 3.05. The youth player must be an individual who is an amateur player.

PLAYER/COACH PASS CARD -- (3.06 Player/Coach Pass Cards) – A photo ID card issued in accordance with NMYSA guidelines to players and coaches in good standing.

PLAYER RELEASE – An interclub release is the formal process by which a currently registered player is released from a team that he or she is committed to during a seasonal year. Release may be voluntary (where the player seeks the release) or involuntary (where the team to which the player has committed seeks the release). (sec. 3.13.02) Intraclub releases are permitted without restriction.

PLAYER TRANSFER -- See section 3.13.

PREMIER TEAM – Means a team in which no rule restricts the manner in which players may be rostered to participating teams, except for rules that

- (a) define and prohibit unethical recruiting behavior, or
- (b) limit the participation of players previously rostered to another team
- (c) define age group participation by team.

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PROOF OF AGE -- See section 3.04.

PROTEST -- A formal procedure in which the actions or decisions of an Affiliate Member, District Commissioner, NMYSA or Competition Director, are challenged with the intent of changing the actions or decisions. A protest may include payment of a fee, which must be included with the filing of the protest. The protest must follow the procedure and rules contained in section 3.14.

RECREATIONAL TEAM -- Means a team 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 league administering the team accepts as participants in the league any eligible youths,
- (c) a system of 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 may play at least one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, discipline or unintentional oversight.

REFEREE ABUSE – ~~a) foul, abusive, insulting, or threatening language directed at a referee, or b) a physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment; this includes but is not limited to spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property or spitting at (but not on) the referee.~~ Referee abuse is extreme, deliberate, and non-contact behavior that causes a Referee or Protected Party significant harm.– See US Soccer Policy 531-9. Assault and abuse include, but not limited to, the following actions or behavior committed against a Referee or Protected Parties;

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- i. Imposing physical harm upon a Referee or Protected Party, including by use of objects or equipment.
- ii. Any act that endangers the Referee's physical wellbeing, weather deliberate or merely reckless.
- iii. Any form of unwanted physical contact, including but not limited to pushing, hitting, striking, kicking, choking, or spitting at the Referee.
- iv. Any behavior that constitutes a criminal offense under any applicable law.
- v. Threatening, either directly or in insinuation, physical harm, including by use of objects or equipment, to a Referee or 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.

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- vi. Threats of harm or any retaliatory action against the Referee or their Protected Parties, including threat of exclusion from assignment or future participation opportunity.

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~~REFEREE ASSAULT – is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee. Assault includes but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing, or running into a referee, head butting, the act of throwing an object at a referee that could result in bodily harm, damaging the referee’s uniform or personal property, i.e., car, equipment, etc.~~ Referee assault is any deliberate physical action against a Referee. Assault and abuse include, but not limited to, the following actions or behavior committed against a Referee or Protected Parties:

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- i. Imposing physical harm upon a Referee or Protected Party, including by use of objects or equipment.
- ii. Any act that endangers the Referee’s physical wellbeing, weather deliberate or merely reckless.
- iii. Any form of unwanted physical contact, including but not limited to pushing, hitting, striking, kicking, choking, or spitting at the Referee.
- iv. Any behavior that constitutes a criminal offense under any applicable law.
- v. Threatening, either directly or in insinuation, physical harm, including by use of objects or equipment, to a Referee or 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.
- vi. Threats of harm or any retaliatory action against the Referee or their Protected Parties, including threat of exclusion from assignment or future participation

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REFEREE Gross Mistreatment – 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 behaviors committed against a Referee or Protected Parties.

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- a. 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.
- b. Extreme verbal attacks that would cause emotional harm to a reasonable person.
- c. Approaching a Referee when they arrive or depart the venue with aggression

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(e.g., intimidation).

d. 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 a Referee or uses hate speech.

e. Questioning the Referee’s character, integrity, honesty, truthfulness, or impartiality.

f. Yelling insults, taunting, making, or expressing derogatory/belittling remarks towards a Referee.

g. Pervasive action that belittles or undermines the Referee’s authority or intended to cast doubt on the Referee.

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REGION – Means one of those regions established under US Youth Soccer Bylaw 322. New Mexico is classified in the West Region.

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REGULAR CLUB TEAMS – Teams that are normally formed for league play. These teams must follow all registration requirements of NMYSA, US Youth Soccer, and USSF. The rosters for these teams must be prepared by the Member Registrar in accordance with NMYSA using the NMYSA registration software.

ROSTER -- A list of registered players submitted on an official NMYSA roster comprising a team with a specific team name and associated coach. Players, only participating in recreational/academy play with a defined member, can be collectively listed in rostered to a pool.

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ROSTER LIMIT – For full sided 11 vs. 11, U13 to U19 age groups, a minimum of seven and a maximum of 22, subject to Rule 3.05. In full sided games, a maximum of 18 players are eligible for any one game. For small-sided games (3v3, 7v7, 9v9) NMYSA is adopting the USSF Player Development Initiatives maximum roster size recommendations as follows:

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4v4 maximum roster limit: 6 players

7v7 maximum roster limit: 12 players

9v9 maximum roster limit: 16 players

11v11 maximum roster limit: 22 players, or more depending on the league

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with 18 listed for a game day roster.

ROSTERING – Means assignment of a registered player to a team.

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~~SCHOOL ASSOCIATED TEAMS — School teams administered under this program shall not be considered rostered teams for purposes of state sponsored tournaments.~~

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SEASONAL YEAR -- The period of time from 1 September through 31 August. (2.09)

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SELECT TEAMS -- The official Select or all-star team of

- (a) NMYSA
- (b) A district or geographical subdivision of a State Association; or
- (c) Any League/ Club/ Academy

STATE ASSOCIATION – Means the administrative body within a territory determined by the USSF National Council to carry out USSF and US Youth Soccer’s programs for youth players.

SUSPENSION -- Means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privilege, such as the right to play, coach or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in NMYSA/USYS/USSF activity, and the suspension is for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.

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TEAM -- Means a group of soccer players and coach(s), ~~that has been~~ formed for the purpose of competition. This competition may be league play and/or tournament play. Each player/coach on the team must be properly registered to the NMYSA registration system with NMYSA through an affiliate member or NMYSA directly before that player/coach may participate in practices/trainings or games for the team.

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~~TEAM ROSTER — Means a list of registered players eligible to play for a team.~~

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TOURNAMENT -- (3.07)

TOURNAMENT/EVENT TEAMS - Those teams that are formed especially for a tournament or event that may be made up of players from other teams, clinic/cup. These teams must be approved/sanctioned and follow all registration requirements of NMYSA and US Youth Soccer. ~~These teams may not interfere with scheduled league or association programs.~~ The rosters for these teams must be submitted by the Member Registrar in accordance NMYSA using the NMYSA registration software.

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UNITED STATES SOCCER ASSOCIATION, (USSF) = The National Governing Body for Soccer in the United States.

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US Youth Soccer (USYS)- United States Youth Soccer Association – [The national youth organization of member youth state associations.](#)

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**VOLUNTARY RELEASE** — Means the removal of a player from a team’s roster/club roster at the request of the player.

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### 3.03 AGE LIMIT DEFINITION / AGE GROUPS

#### 3.03.01 YOUTH DEFINED

The term "youth" as applied to the By-Laws (1.0 and 2.0) and General Procedures and Rules (3.0) shall mean an amateur player who [has not reached 20 years of age prior to December 31 of the current seasonal year.](#) ~~is nineteen before 1 August prior to the end of the seasonal year in which he/she applied for registration.~~

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#### 3.03.02 AGE GROUPS AND TABLE OF MAXIMUM BIRTH YEARS

*Age Groups shall be comprised by player’s birthyear. See USYS for current birth year chart below.*

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BIRTH YEAR MATRIX:								
BIRTH YEAR	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
2025								U6
2024							U6	U7
2023						U6	U7	U8
2022					U6	U7	U8	U9
2021				U6	U7	U8	U9	U10
2020			U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11
2019		U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
2018	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
2017	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
2016	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
2015	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
2014	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
2013	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
2012	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
2011	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
2010	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19		
2009	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19			
2008	U16	U17	U18	U19				
2007	U17	U18	U19					
2006	U18	U19						
2005	U19							

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**3.03.03 PLAYING UP IN AGE GROUP**

Players who wish to be rostered on a team above their normal designated age group, as indicated on the "Birth Year Matrix, may do so provided the coach, player, and the player's parent/guardian sign the NMYSA Playing Up Consent Form for players playing on a team older than his/her designated age group. Furthermore, the player's parent/guardian accepts responsibility for any injury to their child as a result of his/her playing up and will not hold the team, coach, league, NMYSA, US Youth Soccer, or affiliate members liable. Affiliated members may impose additional or more restrictive requirements limiting players playing up. A player may never play down in age group unless authorized by NMYSA under US Youth Soccer Rule 105. 10-year old's and younger cannot head the ball in practice or games due to USSF heading recommendations.

**3.03.04 MINIMUM AGE TO REGISTER WITH THE STATE**

No player may register with the State Association who has not reached his/her third (3rd) birthday.

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### 3.04 PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY

#### 3.04.01 PROOF OF AGE/GENDER

Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the uniformed services of United States, birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency or board of health records, a passport, an alien registration card issued by the United States Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a current driver's license, an unexpired federal, state, or local government identification card (if documentation of date of birth is required), or a certification of a United States citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. **Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted, as per Rule 204 of the US Youth Soccer Playing Rules.**

NOTE: Proof of age in foreign languages must have an English translation and other documents may be required for International Clearances, ~~attached to the original document. Translations may be provided by anyone recognized as a translator by the US Youth Soccer National State Association governing that player. No parent or other family member can translate for any member of their son's or daughter's team unless they are certified and or accredited to teach the specific language, i.e., high school teacher, professor of languages at a university or college, a court translator, or anyone recognized as an official translator by a governing body. All translations will be dated and include qualifications to translate, signature, address and telephone number of the translator.~~

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NOTE: Proof of gender; a player may register with the gender team with which the player identifies, and confirmation sufficient for guaranteeing access shall be satisfied by documentation or evidence that shows the stated gender is sincerely held, and part of a person's core identity. Documentation satisfying the herein stated standard includes, but is not limited to, government-issued documentation or documentation prepared by a health care provider, counselor, or other qualified professional not related to the player.

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#### 3.04.02 INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCES

(a) The Federation and FIFA have international clearance requirements and procedures for players coming to the United States to play soccer. A player who was born outside the United States is required to receive approval from the US Soccer



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Federation prior to being registered with NMYSA.

(b) The failure of a player to obtain the international clearance or to follow the procedures referred to in subsection (a) of this rule may affect the player’s eligibility in regard to any US Youth Soccer program or activity, or any program or activity of a member of US Youth Soccer, unless the Federation provides otherwise.

### 3.05 REGISTRATION AND INSURANCE

#### 3.05.01 PLAYER REGISTRATION FORMS

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Each seasonal year, player’s parent/guardian must register the player electronically to the NMYSA database using the NMYSA designated registration system. Players are not considered registered until they have been properly entered into the NMYSA database, all waivers acknowledged and have paid the NMYSA membership fee and any fees designated by their league or club. Scholarship players or players on payment plans with their league or club are not registered until the NMYSA membership fee is received.

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~~All players must submit electronically properly completed registration data for each seasonal year. (Data must be approved by NMYSA Affiliate Registrars and may include other compliance documents). The data must be submitted electronically on the NMYSA registration system. Players are not considered registered until they are properly entered into the NMYSA database and have paid.~~

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#### ~~3.05.02 TEAM REGISTRATION WITHIN DISTRICTS~~

~~The NMYSA Board of Directors will determine district boundaries that regulate the Districts.~~

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#### 3.05.02 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLAYER, TEAM REGISTRATION, AND PAYMENT OF FEES

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Each affiliated Member shall be responsible for ensuring proper registration into the NMYSA database/system of all players, teams and coaches and for remitting appropriate fees to NMYSA 30 days from the end of the month of registration, to remain in good standing with NMYSA. Each affiliated member engaged in running a sanctioned league/gaming schedule must ensure that all players and coaches are properly registered with NMYSA/USYS.

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**3.05.03 TEAM ROSTER LIMIT**

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A team U13 and above may roster a maximum of 22, (unless allowed for in certain leagues with club pass) players at any one time. For U13 to U19 teams, only eighteen (18) players may be on a game roster for any given game. Game rosters with not more than eighteen (18) eligible players must be provided to the referee at game check-in.

For small-sided games (3v3, 7v7, 9v9) NMYSA has adopted the USSF Player Development Initiatives maximum roster size recommendations as follows:

- 4v4 maximum roster limit: 6 players
- 7v7 maximum roster limit: 12 players
- 9v9 maximum roster limit: 16 players

**3.05.04 REGISTERED PLAYER DEFINED AND INDIVIDUALS CROSSING DISTRICT/STATE BOUNDARIES TO PLAY**

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A registered player is a player who has registered with a NMYSA-affiliated member that has been officially registered into the NMYSA database/system for the current seasonal year, accepted by NMYSA, and who has paid fees for the seasonal year or has been granted a scholarship. Individual players may cross district/state boundary lines to register and may register directly with NMYSA

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**3.05.05 MEMBER AFFILIATES/DISTRICTS MUST FURNISH START DATES FOR PRACTICE / PLAY AND GAME SCHEDULES**

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All members/districts must notify the State office (IN WRITING) as to the start date of practice/play at the time of their initial team registrations. Each league must submit a copy of the scheduled games for fall and spring seasons to the State Registrar. Each league/affiliate member must provide the location for practice/game fields. This is necessary so a certificate of insurance can be issued.

**3.05.06 EFFECTIVE DATE OF PLAYER INSURANCE**

Each player is covered by insurance when the player is properly completed registration registered into the NMYSA database/system form and fees are received by a member registrar or the registrar of a member affiliate and subsequently entered into the NMYSA database.

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**3.05.07 INSURANCE IS SECONDARY POLICY**

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**Insurance coverage is a secondary policy.** Each ~~claim~~ injury notice is to be submitted to the State Registrar for processing and verification of the player. All claims should be filed with the primary carrier first unless no primary carrier is available to the player. All injury claims must be submitted within 60 days to NMYSA.

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**3.05.08 MULTIPLE ROSTERED**

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Players may be multi-rostered on only one Competitive/Classic/Academy team as defined in 3.02. Additionally, players can be rostered on a Recreational team as defined in 3.02-or a school team provided as follows:

1. Recreational teams are those that ~~make up~~ play in a League as defined in 3.02. Recreational Team players do not have to be issued pass cards but must be on an approved NMYSA roster, and no state transfer fee will apply to intra-club transfers. Each league may adopt rules which may impose more restrictions within each league on players who register with that league based upon the special needs and circumstances of that league. Leagues registering recreational team players, who choose not to use pass cards, are responsible for ensuring that at all times, only properly registered players are participating in league-sponsored games and activities.

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2. School teams are those made up of school players that exist during the seasonal year. Such players may be registered through a member affiliate or NMYSA.

3. A player's primary team will be the first team with which he/she is rostered. The secondary team is the team the player registers with after the primary team. The primary team will take preference over any secondary team and the secondary team will defer to the primary team should any conflicts arise.

**3.06 PLAYER/COACH PASS CARDS**

**3.06.01 CONTENTS OF PLAYER/COACH PASS CARDS**

Each player registered in a competitive league or teams that intend to play in tournaments will be issued a player pass card that is to be used for purposes of play. Each coach registered with NMYSA will be issued a pass card after receiving Risk Management clearance. Pass cards must have a current picture attached and shall

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contain the following information before being laminated:

1. Player's/Coach's name
2. Team name and team number
3. Age group
4. Seasonal year date
5. Registration ID number
- ~~6. Signature of player/coach (where required)~~
6. Signature of State Registrar
7. Player's verified birth date (for players only)

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**3.06.02 LAMINATED CARD REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN STATE-SPONSORED EVENTS**

Players/Coaches must have a pass card in order to participate in any NMYSA-sanctioned tournaments/events. All cards must be laminated.

**3.06.03 RECREATIONAL PLAYERS DO NOT REQUIRE PASS CARDS**

Players registered participating in recreational leagues do not have to be issued player pass cards. Each recreational league may adopt rules regarding pass cards depending on their special needs and circumstances. NMYSA members must verify that all players are registered and in good standing. All Coaches must have coach pass cards.

**3.07 TOURNAMENTS**

**3.07.01 TRAVEL AND TOURNAMENT MANUAL GOVERNS CONDUCT OF ALL TOURNAMENTS**

All tournaments will be conducted in accordance with the NMYSA Travel and Tournament Manual.

**3.07.02 DISTRIBUTION OF TRAVEL AND TOURNAMENT MANUAL**

Travel and Tournament Manual is available on the NMYSA website.

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### 3.08 GUEST PLAYERS

NMYSA players may be approved for guest player status on NMYSA teams, ~~by filing the electronic NMYSA Guest Player Authorization Form with NMYSA.~~ NMYSA players may also be approved for guest player status on other USYS teams. Guest player authorization procedures are contained in the NMYSA Travel and Tournament Manual.

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### 3.09 SELECT TEAM PROCEDURES

#### 3.09.01 AUTHORITY FOR FORMATION OF TEAMS

The formation of ~~District and/or~~ state select teams shall be vested with NMYSA ~~the State~~ who may delegate this authority at its discretion.

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#### 3.09.02 GUIDELINES FOR TEAM FORMATION

The formation of select ODP teams shall follow the guidelines as determined by the ~~entity forming the team~~ program.

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#### 3.09.03 DISTRIBUTION OF ODP CODES OF CONDUCT

ODP Code of Conduct will be provided to ODP team coaches and their assistants, ~~as well as to Member Presidents, District Commissioners, Executive Committee members~~ and will be and is available on the NMYSA website.

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### 3.10 DURATION OF GAMES, NO. OF PLAYERS AND BALL SPECIFICATIONS

The maximum length of games, maximum length of overtime periods (if required by league rules), maximum number of players, use of goalkeepers, ball size, ball weight, and ball dimensions for each age group shall be as follows:

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STANDARDS CHART:									
AGE GROUP	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14 & Above
# OF PLAYERS	4v4	4v4	4v4	7v7	7v7	9v9	9v9	11v11	11v11
Goalkeeper	NO	NO	NO	YES*	YES*	YES	YES	YES	YES
Playing Minutes	4 X 10	4 X 10	4 X 10	2 X 25	2 X 25	2 X 30	2 X 30	2 X 35	2 X 35-45
Up to Break Min.	5	5	5	10	10	10	10	15	15
Field Size	25-35 x 15-25	25-35 x 15-25	25-35 x 15-25	55-65 x 35 -45	55-65 x 35 -45	70-80 x 45-55	70-80 x 45-55	110 x 70	115 x 75
Ball Size	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
Goal Size	4 X 6	4 X 6	4 X 6	6.5 X 12**	6.5 X 12**	6.5 X 18.5**	6.5 X 18.5**	8 X 24	8 X 24
Offside Rule	NO	NO	NO	YES***	YES***	YES	YES	YES	YES
Headers	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES****	YES****	YES****
* No punting or drop kicks									
** Can use (U9 & U10 6.5 x 18.5) ( U11 & U12 7 x 21)									
*** Offside modified to use build out line									
**** Heading allowed in games - limited in practice for U12-U14									

### 3.11 RULES OF PLAY

#### 3.11.01 IFAB RULES GOVERN PLAY

The rules of play shall be the "Laws of the Game" as published by IFAB with those modifications stated herein. All contests sanctioned by NMYSA shall abide by the "Laws of the Game" and the modifications made by NMYSA. For U11 and below, no heading will be allowed in games or practices. For 11, 12 and 13-years old, heading is limited in practice.

#### 3.11.02 WEARING OF DANGEROUS APPAREL

A player shall not wear anything that is dangerous to another player or to himself or herself as determined by referee.

#### 3.11.03 COACHING FROM TECHNICAL AREA AND TECHNICAL AREA CONDUCT

One registered coach, designated prior to the game, may coach from the technical area by giving tactical instructions to his/her own team on points of strategy and positioning. Such tactical instructions cannot be continuous in nature and must be conveyed to players in a positive civil tone. No negative or abusive comments may be

STANDARDS CHART:			
AGE GROUP	U6	U7	U8
# OF PLAYERS	4v4	4v4	4v4
Goalkeeper	NO	NO	NO
Playing Minutes	4 X 10	4 X 10	4 X 10
Up to Break Min.	5	5	5
Field Size	25-35 x 15-25	25-35 x 15-25	25-35 x 15-25
Ball Size	3	3	3
Goal Size	4 X 6	4 X 6	4 X 6
Offside Rule	NO	NO	NO
Headers	NO	NO	NO
* No punting or drop kicks			
** Can use (U9 & U10 6.5 x 18.5) ( U11 & U12 7 x 21)			
*** Offside modified to use build out line			
**** Heading allowed in games - limited in practice for U12-U14			

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STANDARDS CHART:

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directed to players on the field of play when giving tactical instructions.

**3.11.04 CONFLICT IN UNIFORM COLORS**

The home teams wear their light color uniforms and socks and the away team wears dark colored uniforms and socks. ~~Where colors of uniforms are similar, if there is a conflict in uniforms as determined by the referee, the team causing the conflict will change, as determined by the center referee, the home team will be required to change to colors that are distinct from those of the opponent.~~

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**3.11.05 SUBSTITUTIONS**

The number of substitutes shall be unlimited, unless a competition specifies and is approved by NMYSA, USYS, USSF.

**3.11.06 REFEREE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Referee shall:

A. Prior to the start of the game, verify the identity of each player/coach with his/her pass card ~~ie approved roster~~. ~~He/she shall collect the player/coach pass cards of those who are to participate in the game.~~ The Referee must allow no player/coach to participate in the game who is not in possession of a current US Youth Soccer pass card unless the rules of the competition allow pass cards from other USSF affiliated organizations. The exception to this rule is for recreational league play ~~or other leagues~~ where the Member Affiliate verifies that all players are registered by roster. All NMYSA registered coaches must have a current coach pass card.

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B. Submit his/her Referee Report to the proper authority as specified by the local referee governing body or league ~~tournament~~. He/she shall also notify, the proper authority of the name and circumstances of any player/coach ejections. A report of the incident shall be sent ~~along with the player/coach pass card(s)~~ to the proper authority. If this happens during tournament play, the player/coach pass card, along with a report, shall be given to the Tournament Director.

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C. Inspect all players' equipment and the playing field prior to the start of the game. This inspection is to assure that the game can be played without jeopardizing the safety of the participants.

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D. File a Game Report for every game worked. A report shall also be filed if the game was a forfeit (single or double).

E. Report any incident of referee abuse or assault to NMYSA within 48 hours.

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### **3.11.07 DELAYING THE START OF A GAME (FORFEITURE)**

Any team delaying the start of a scheduled game more than fifteen (15) minutes without sanction of the proper authority shall forfeit the game to the opponent.

### **3.11.08 MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS REQUIRED ON FIELD**

A full sided (11v11) team will not be allowed to start or continue a game with fewer than seven (7) players on the field. For small-sided play in younger age categories, leagues may, at their discretion, modify rules to accommodate the small-sided play in accordance with NMYSA, USYS and USSF.

### **3.11.09 REFEREE JUDGMENT WILL NOT BE CHALLENGED**

The referee's judgment with regard to the physical condition of the field and its acceptance for play, to the actual happenings and occurrences related to the game, and those prerogatives granted to him/her by the "Laws of the Game" as published by IFAB, shall not be challenged. NMYSA has a zero tolerance for inappropriate conduct towards a referee by players, spectators, coaches/trainers or parents.

### **3.11.10 REFEREE ABUSE AND ASSAULT**

The coach of a duly registered team is responsible for the actions of his/her team's spectators. The coach shall take all possible precautions to prevent such persons from threatening, harassing, or abusing Referees, game officials, players or other spectators before, during or after matches. The coach is responsible for identifying any spectators who threaten, harass, assault, grossly mistreats, or abuses a Referees, game officials, players or other spectators.

Any player, coach, parent, or other adult (spectator either associated or not with a specific team) guilty of referee abuse, as defined in Section 3.02 Definitions, and/or in USSF Policy 531-9, shall be suspended from all NMYSA activities for a minimum of 3 scheduled matches at a minimum ~~within the rules of that competition~~ or longer if the referee is a minor.

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Any player, coach, parent or other adult (spectator either associated or not with a specific team) guilty of referee assault, as defined in Section 3.02 Definitions, and/or in USSF Policy 531-9, shall be suspended from all NMYSА activities for a minimum of 3 months for a slight touching of the Referee or Referee’s uniform or personal property. For any other assault at least 6 months. For an assault committed by an adult and the referee is 17 years or age or younger, at least three (3) years; or for an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least five (5) years as explained in USSF Policy 531-9, a mandatory hearing will be held to determine if the minimum penalty should be increased. If a minor referee is assaulted, additional sanctions will apply.

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NMYSА is the forum for the original hearing of referee abuse and assault cases. NMYSА must address a Referee Abuse or assault allegation within 30 days from the date of verification of an incident. As per NMYSА General Procedures and Rules 3.02 (DEFINITIONS) appeals may be made directly to NMYSА or via the State Youth Referee Administrator. In the event NMYSА does not adjudicate the alleged Referee abuse or assault within 30 days of verification, the USSF has the authority to handle the alleged abuse.

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### 3.11.11 REFEREE MISCONDUCT

Any allegation of misconduct or of conflict of interest by a game official at a match or away from a match shall be made in writing to the State Referee Administrator and NMYSА State Referee Association(s). The State Association has jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter in accordance with United States Soccer Federation Policy.

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### 3.12 EJECTION PROCEDURES Not Used

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If a player or coach is ejected for misconduct, then the referee shall report the misconduct deliver the player’s pass card to the designated league official (in the case of league games) or deliver the report and pass card to the authority specified in tournament play (Tournament Director).

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### 3.13 PLAYER RELEASES, TRANSFERS, AND ROSTER LIMITS

#### 3.13.01 PLAYER BOUND FOR SEASONAL YEAR

Once a competitive player is registered and listed on a NMYSА Official Roster, that player is bound to that team for the seasonal year. except as follows (Releases and/or Transfers):

### **3.13.02 PLAYER RELEASES**

A team may not release, voluntarily or involuntarily, any player from its roster unless a written request, stating the reason why the release has been requested, has been made to, and approved by, NMYSA on the NMYSA release/transfer form. A player may seek a voluntary release by submitting in writing his/her request for release in accordance with the current Rules and Policies of our National Affiliated Organizations. A voluntary release is defined as a release where both the releasing and receiving coach agree that the release and subsequent transfer are in the best interest of the player. A release may also be obtained by citing one of the following reasons:

1. The player has violated current Rules and Policies of our National Affiliated Organizations or State Disciplinary Rules. It is a violation of State Disciplinary Rules for any player to violate the rules of any affiliated league in which the player is rostered or if the player or players parents' conduct is such that if allowed to continue, it would have a negative or detrimental impact on the team. Abandoning a team by non-participation for reasons other than injury is considered detrimental conduct and may be cited by the team in seeking an involuntary release. A player may not seek a voluntary release for this reason.

2. The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance. Determination of what constitutes a reasonable distance is subject to definition by NMYSA.

3. The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season. Any player being given a release who wishes at a later date to return as a registered member, will be treated as a transfer player and must apply as such.

4. The coach has violated current Rules and Policies of our National Affiliated Organizations or State Disciplinary Rules.

There shall be no transfer fee required in the event that a transfer occurs as a result of a team disbanding or ceasing to exist. Any administrative error in the registration process recognized as such by the Member and the State Registrar or the State Board of Directors may be corrected without being treated as a release or transfer. A player rostered under Section 3.05.11 may only transfer from one secondary team to another secondary team or from one primary team to another primary team under normal

rules governing transfers.

### **3.13.03 TRANSFERS**

A transfer of a player shall be defined as adding a currently NMYSA-registered player to a roster or returning a currently released player to a roster. Transfers are given only to a player who moves from one (1) registered Affiliate Member club/league/academy team to another within this Association. All transfers must be applied for at the member level in which the player is originally registered. Exceptions to the transfer rule include participation as a guest player when permitted by the rules of a specific competition, and intraclub transfer with proper authorization (these two cases are not considered transfers).

### **3.13.04 SUBMISSION OF TRANSFER FEES AND PAPERWORK TO REGISTRAR**

All requests for releases and transfers shall be submitted to the Member Registrar in writing on the proper form with appropriate fees. The NMYSA release/transfer form can be electronically downloaded from the NMYSA state web site under "Forms."

### **3.13.05 APPROVAL OF REQUESTS FOR TRANSFER**

Any player being granted a transfer from a dissolved or disbanded team will be allowed to move to another team, without delay and without a fee being imposed. In the event the releasing coach, the club official or the Board of Directors of the releasing club or league fails to sign the appropriate form, the coach's/club's/league's failure to sign may be protested to the NMYSA Protest and Appeals Committee. The following, while not exclusive, are valid reasons for not releasing a player during the seasonal year:

- a) When the player individually or as part of a group of players requesting release would leave the releasing team with an insufficient number of healthy players to field a team.
- b) When the player is indebted to the releasing team and/or club (money, uniforms, or other tangible goods). A scholarship player is not considered indebted for the published amount of the scholarship.
- c) All fees related to a transfer other than the fees defined in section 3.13.05c shall not exceed \$25.00. These fees include but are not limited to a transfer

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fee, administration fee or other fee.

- d) Leagues can institute a transfer window or roster freeze for league play.

Any failure of a player, releasing coach, club official, league official or the Board of Directors of the releasing member to sign the appropriate form, which failure the Protest and Appeals Committee determined to be lacking in good faith or substantial justification, shall be grounds for disciplinary action against a player, releasing coach, club official, and/or the league/member Board of Directors.

~~**3.13.06 ROSTER CHANGES**~~

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~~All inter league/member changes in rosters must be processed by NMYSA~~

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**3.14 PROTEST AND APPEALS**

**3.14.01 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS - IMPORTANT**

1. Proper documentation of all Protests, Appeals, and Disciplinary Hearing matters must be maintained by NMYSA, and all actions must be in accordance with the following procedures and time frames.

2. A claim of ignorance of these policies and procedures shall not be satisfactory grounds for the alteration or waiving of such policies or procedures.

3. The chairman of any committee that is established for the purpose of hearing a protest, appeal, or disciplinary matter, shall be familiar with the policies and procedures defined herein.

4. Any hearing of a protest, appeal, or allegation of misconduct must be as the result of a properly submitted written cause of action. No hearing or other administrative action shall result from circumstances or charges which are only communicated verbally.

5. Disciplinary and appellate procedures at all levels (club, league/member affiliate and state association) must include fair process. Fair process, at a minimum, shall include:

- a) Notice to the accused or opposing party.
- b) That notice must include a statement of the grounds for appeal or conduct alleged along with the specific rule violated.

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c) An opportunity of the opposing party to respond.

6. A party has the right to an open hearing at the original level only. [Suspension of players or coaches for less than thirty (30) days in duration shall be exempt from this requirement.]

### **3.14.02 DEFINITIONS**

PROTESTS may be related to a specific game or administrative action, misconduct or rule violation. Only those persons involved are permitted to protest. Protests on a specific game cannot be filed by third parties, such as coaches from other teams or Affiliate Members/state administrators.

Protests submitted to a competition authority (league, tournament, etc.) must be filed in accordance with the protest procedure and rules of that competition. The protest must be based upon violation of the published rules of the competition or NMYSA Bylaws, General Procedures and Rules, and/or Travel and Tournament Manual. In all cases involving NMYSA-approved competition, the NMYSA Rules and/or procedures shall prevail.

The rights of protest and appeal within the rules of the competition must be exhausted before proceeding to the next level of authority defined herein.

APPEALS arise as the result of an adverse decision from a protest hearing, administrative action, disciplinary hearing, or lower-level appeal. Only those parties to the original action, who are adversely impacted by such decisions, shall be allowed to appeal.

An appeal shall not have the effect of "staying" a previous ruling. Previous decisions remain in force, pending the result of the appeal.

DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS result from allegations of misconduct, which are lodged against individuals or entities within the jurisdiction of the convening authority.

Only the elected and/or appointed officials of duly constituted clubs, leagues, tournament committees, or NMYSA administration may bring charges of misconduct. Referees are recognized as officials of such organizations in matters regarding game misconduct.

GENERAL GRIEVANCES are complaints of a general nature, which are not based upon specific rule violations, or upon a specific administrative decision (or lack of decision). General grievances are not handled through protest, appeal, or disciplinary hearing processes.

Grievances may be heard on an informal basis by the appropriate authority, the District Commissioner, and/or the NMYSA Board of Directors.

### **3.14.03 LINE OF JURISDICTION**

The line of jurisdiction, in ascending order, shall be:

LEVEL 1: Clubs, Leagues and Member Affiliates. These bodies shall hear original protests, appeals, and allegations of misconduct arising from events within their jurisdiction. They may also hear appeals of decisions made by directors or officers of their organizations.

These bodies shall establish their own protest, appeal, and disciplinary hearing procedure. Such procedure must be in writing and must include notification of the right to appeal to higher authorities and the procedure for doing so. These procedures must be published by the beginning of the seasonal year (September 1).

LEVEL 2: District Commissioners. The District Commissioner shall hear original protests, appeals, or allegations of misconduct filed by those persons, clubs, leagues, member affiliates or tournaments under their jurisdiction unless the District Commissioner holds an elected or paid position (under Bylaws 2.06.02) in the Member Affiliate from which the protest, appeal or allegation of misconduct originated. In that event, the NMYSA president will appoint another District Commissioner to conduct the hearing.

Matters arising from game protest will not be heard at Level 2 or 3 until Level 1 protest and appeal procedures have been exhausted.

District Commissioners shall have the option of adjudicating protests, appeals, and disciplinary matters alone, or appointing a District committee for that purpose or submitting the protest up to appeal Level 3. There shall be only one District hearing level.

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LEVEL 3: NMYSA Protests and Appeals Committee. This committee shall hear appeals of Level 2 decisions. The Committee shall be the initial hearing for all allegations of violation of USSF Rules pertaining to referee/assistant referee assault and/or abuse. The Committee may hear appeals of or be the initial hearing for violations of NMYSA Bylaws, General Procedures and Rules, Travel and Tournament Manual of NMYSA. The Protest and Appeals Committee shall be the final level of appeal.

In the case of an appeal, no rehearing is possible. Only an appeal hearing, and a review of written evidence and testimony and lower-level decisions, will be conducted at this level.

LEVEL 4: USSF National Appeals Committee. The appeal of Level 3 decisions shall be made to the USSF National Appeals Committee in accordance with the provisions of USSF Bylaw 705. Any appeal to the USSF National Appeals Committee must be submitted, by the person wishing to make such an appeal, within ten (10) days from the date of receipt of the decision rendered by the State Association, by completing a Notice of Appeal (substantially in the form attached to these General Procedures and Rules) and submitting it to USSF, together with the appropriate appeal fee (\$300.00 Money Order or Cashier Check).

**3.14.04 MANDATORY CONDITIONS**

1. No Level 1 or Level 2 authority shall hear or adjudicate an allegation as it pertains to abuse of or assault on a referee.

2. No level 1 or Level 2 shall hear or adjudicate any allegations as it pertains to issues included in the SafeSport act.

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3. The hearing and adjudication of any protest or allegation of misconduct shall be completed within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the cause of action. If a decision is not reached within this thirty (30) day period, the matter may be submitted to the next higher level without determination, and the fee submitted will be applied at the next level.

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4. At all levels of the appeal process (State and National), if a decision is not reached within thirty (30) days of receipt of the written appeal, the party filing the appeal

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may submit the appeal to the next higher level without determination, and the appeal fee submitted will be applied at the next level.

5. The decision and/or disciplinary sanctions imposed or rescinded as the result of a hearing of any protest, appeal, or allegation of misconduct; shall be binding at all levels, and shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations (leagues, tournaments, etc.) The filing of an appeal shall not "stay" the execution of such decisions and/or disciplinary sanctions.

### **3.14.05 HEARING COMMITTEE COMPOSITION**

1. Committees hearing and deciding protests, appeals, and allegations of misconduct shall be composed of persons having no conflict of interest in the matters being heard and having no interest in or association with the principal parties in the matters. Committee members should be readily available from a time and geographic standpoint. No person shall adjudicate a matter at more than one level.

The chair of any committee shall appoint one committee member to make a written record (minutes) of all proceedings.

2. A District Commissioner may adjudicate Level 2 matters alone, or may form a committee to hear such matters or may ask the NMYSA president to appoint another DC to adjudicate the matter. District Commissioners who hold Affiliate Member offices within their district may not adjudicate Level 2 matters within their own league, or within the district if the hearing concerns a matter between their own Affiliate and another Affiliate. In that case, the NMYSA president will appoint another District Commissioner to hear the matter. Should a committee be formed by the District Commissioner, the District Commissioner may act as its Chair, or may appoint a committee member to act as Chair.

3. Level 3 matters, or original hearings of referee abuse or assault, may be heard by the entire committee of three to five, including the Chairman of the Protest and Appeals Committee or a designee of the Chair. No matter shall be heard by a committee of less than three (3) members.

4. Committee members shall be appointed by NMYSA's President for individual hearings.



### 3.14.06 FILING PROCEDURES

1. All Level 1 authorities must establish well-defined protest, appeal, and disciplinary hearing procedures within their own organization. Such procedures shall be published to their membership prior to the start of each competition season and any changes must be accompanied with adequate notice to those affected.

2. A protest, appeal, or allegation of misconduct must be filed in writing, and should include:

- a. The nature and specifics of the complaint.
- b. A listing of the rules or procedures which have been violated.
- c. A statement of the desired resolution.

A form for this purpose has been attached to this document. Use of this form is not mandatory but doing so assures that the necessary information is presented in the proper manner. Additionally, referees game reports, while conforming to a different format, shall also be accepted.

3. Filing shall be as follows:

The original document of the protest, appeal, or allegation of misconduct, along with all supporting documents, shall be forwarded by ~~Email or U.S. Mail or via email~~. In the case of Levels 1, 2, or 3, appeals, the appeal must ~~by Email or be placed in the U.S. Mail or emailed~~ within forty-eight (48) hours of the receipt by the appellant of the prior adverse ruling (Sundays and holidays excluded, unless the rules of the competition state otherwise). A Level 4 appeal notice (to the USSF) must be filed within ten (10) business days of receipt of the adverse State Level decision, as per 3.14.03. Filing requirements are as follows:

Level 1- According to the published requirements of the appropriate Level 1 authority.

Level 2- To the District Commissioner; one (1) copy unless otherwise required by the District Commissioner.

Level 3- To the NMYSA Office; one (1) copy. Additionally, in an appeal of a lower-level decision, one (1) copy shall be sent by the appellant to the chair of the lower-level hearing board. This copy shall serve as notice of the filing of an appeal.

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Upon such notice, the chair of the lower-level hearing board shall immediately submit all retained evidence and documentation to the next-higher level. This submittal shall also be by Email or Registered, Certified U.S. Mail, or electronically.

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**3.14.07 FILING FEES**

1. Filing Fees-may be:

Level 1 Not to exceed \$25.00 as established by the appropriate Level 1 authority ~~but~~

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Level 2 Not to exceed \$25.00 or as established by the district.

Level 3 Not to exceed \$50.00 or as established by NMYSA

Level 4 \$300.00 or as established by USSF.

2. At Level 2 or 3, if a protest or appeal is rejected, waived, or upheld, the fee will be returned to the appellant. If a protest or appeal is denied, the fee will be retained and deposited in an appropriate fund.

**3.14.08 DOCUMENTATION PROCESSING**

1. The filing of a protest, appeal, or allegation of misconduct shall be in accordance with the provisions of this document.

2. Upon filing of a protest, appeal, or allegation of misconduct, the receiving authority shall institute the following procedures:

a. The appropriate action or response shall be determined by conducting a "validation/review" of the following:

- 1) Identifying the principal parties involved.
- 2) Determining if they are in good standing.
- 3) In the case of a protest, determining the protestor's right to lodge a protest (see 3.14.02 - Definitions, Protest).

4) In the case of an appeal, determining if the appeal is directly related and germane to the decision of the next-lower authority. (If not, the appeal must be rejected and returned).

5) Determining if all the information necessary to adjudicate the matter and reach a decision is included. (Such information may include names, addresses, phone numbers, minutes of previous hearings, applicable rules, referees game reports, etc.)

6) Determining whether the matter has been filed with the proper authority.

7) Determining that specific charges are made, the rules allegedly violated are cited, and the desired resolution has been stated.

NOTE: Forty-eight (48) hours are considered sufficient for the conduct of this "validation/review", not including weekends or holidays.

b. Upon completion of the "validation/review," if all the information and documentation necessary to reach a decision are available, the principal parties are to be immediately notified of receipt of the complaint.

This notification shall also include the date, time, and place of the hearing. If notification of the receipt of the complaint, and notification of the date, time, and place of the hearing cannot be accomplished at the same time, two (2) separate notifications shall be required.

3. Sufficient time should be allowed for the parties to prepare and appear. Unless the rules of the competition dictate sooner, the hearing shall be scheduled within a ~~minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of fourteen (14)~~ 30 days following notification of the receipt of the complaint.

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4. Notification of the receipt of a protest, appeal, or allegation of misconduct, and of the date, time, and place of a hearing, shall be communicated to the principal parties at the same time, and by the same method.

This notification shall be accomplished by one of the following methods (in order of preference):

a. Telephone, with written follow-up sent by e-mail or U.S. Mail (to be sent as per method c or d below).

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- b. E-mail.
- c. U.S. Mail.
- d. Facsimile, with follow-up original.

5. Notifications ~~shall~~ may contain the following:

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- a. A condensed restatement of the cause of action.
- b. The date, time, and place of the hearing.
- c. The type of hearing to be held.
- d. What limits or restrictions (if any) will be imposed on testimony.
- e. Whether or not testimony must be in written form, and the date by which such written testimony must be received.
- f. Any other special requirements.

6. A complete copy of Section 3.14 (Protests, Appeals and Disciplinary Hearings) shall be made available on NMYSA's website, ~~accompany the Notification of Hearing sent to~~ for the principal parties.

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### **3.14.09 PROCEDURES FOR HEARINGS**

1. Types of Hearing - The method of holding a hearing may vary due to distance, time, and the level of appeal. Basically, they are of two types.

- a. OPEN HEARINGS shall be held with the principal parties, witnesses for both sides, and all necessary evidence, appearing before the members of the Hearing Committee.

Testimony from witnesses need not be taken in the presences of other witnesses, but the principal parties shall be present for all proceedings except the deliberations of the Hearing committee.

The Hearing Committee may make an exception of the requirement that principal parties be present in the case of a referee, or more particularly a youth referee, in which case the referee's game report shall stand as the sole testimony of that person.

Deliberations may occur, and decisions may be reached, in either open or closed sessions.

b. CLOSED HEARINGS require that all testimony and evidence (including rules) be submitted in writing.

Testimony and evidence may be considered by committee members on an individual basis, with a decision reached by Email or conference call.

The principal parties must submit all evidence, testimony, and arguments in written form, as specified by the notification.

The original hearing of any protest or allegation of misconduct **must** occur in **open hearing**. Subsequent appeal(s) may be heard in either open or closed hearings.

2. Agenda - All parties, including witnesses, will be brought into the hearing room, (may be virtual) chamber. The following items will be described by the Chair.

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a. Statement of case to be heard, including;

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- 1) Names of parties involved (including team, league, etc.).
- 2) Specific event involved (game, tournament, etc.).
- 3) Date of occurrence.
- 4) Rule numbers and description of rules allegedly violated.

b. Procedures for hearing, including:

1) Parties allowed to remain in hearing room, (can be virtual). All witnesses to wait in other rooms/virtual rooms.

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2) All written evidence should have been presented in advance for distribution and inclusion in the evidence packet.

~~3) All written evidence presented at the hearing will be passed to the Chair. Relevance or authenticity shall be determined by the Hearing Committee pursuant to these rules and/or written criteria set forth by the Hearing Committee.~~

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3) All questions/statements from involved parties will be addressed to the Chair, who will ask the appropriate individual for an answer/rebuttal if he deems it pertinent.

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4) Witnesses may be recalled after initial testimony for further testimony and/or clarification.

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c. All witnesses will then be excused to another room/virtual room.

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- 1) Party originating action will present case.
- 2) Witnesses for that party will be called individually.
- 3) Committee members will question these witnesses as deemed necessary after each testimony has been given.
- 4) Second party will present case.
- 5) Witnesses for that party will be called individually.
- 6) Committee members will question these witnesses as deemed necessary after each testimony has been given.
- 7) Any witnesses may be recalled as necessary.
- 8) First party will make closing statement.
- 9) Second party will make closing statement.

d. Open hearing may be adjourned, and parties excused for deliberations.

3. Evidence and Testimony

a. All evidence, such as identification cards, team rosters, referee's game reports, letters, proof of age documents, and other sources of written or printed information, shall be original or or electronic copies, official only.

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~~Notarized documents shall attest to the validity of the signatures thereon and shall not attest to the validity of the information contained in the document.~~

▲ Proof-of-age documents shall conform to the rules of competition and NMYS General Procedures and Rules.

b. All testimony shall be limited to the principal parties, eyewitnesses, and recognized authorities on the subject (such as the registrar on registration matters).

If a witness cannot appear at an open hearing, written testimony shall be accepted. Notarization may be required by the Hearing Committee or written procedures and such testimony shall be provided to the opposing party a reasonable time prior to the hearing. If written testimony is allowed in an open hearing, the opposing party shall have the opportunity in writing or orally to contest its contents.

Character witnesses and other third-party witnesses shall not be allowed.

In the case of open hearings, testimony may be restricted with respect to time.

c. A document directory shall be established by the Hearing Committee at Level 2 and maintained at each level thereafter.

d. The establishment of this document director at Level 1 is strongly recommended.

e. All documentary evidence received shall be listed. The minutes of the proceedings and a copy of the notification of decisions shall be listed as the final documents for each hearing.

#### 4. Decisions

a. The committee hearing a protest, appeal, or allegation of misconduct shall decide each issue arising from the hearing. The Chair shall vote only when necessary to break a tie.

b. The decisions of the committee, and any disciplinary sanction imposed, shall respond only to the specific issues and allegations contained in the complaint (as filed).

Any other issue and/or rule violation, which may become known or apparent during the hearing, shall be referred to either the convening authority or a lower-level authority. This referral may be accompanied by a recommendation for

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appropriate action. When such matters are referred, notice of the referral shall be included with the notification of decisions rendered.

c. Decisions shall be reduced to written form and shall be forwarded to the principal parties within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of deliberations (Sundays and holidays excepted).

If a suspension is imposed upon an affiliated player or administrator (or on appeal, a suspension is overturned), NMYSA shall receive a copy of the decision [if a level 1 or 2](#).

d. Notification of the decisions of the committee shall be communicated to the principal parties at the same time, and by the same method.

Notification shall be communicated in writing, by one of the following methods.

1) [Email](#)

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2) [U.S. Mail](#)

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3) ~~E-mail with follow up copy.~~

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Verbal communications of decisions shall not be permitted. Consideration should be given to ensure that the method chosen provides adequate notice to parties and/or teams which are impacted by the decision(s).

e. Notification of the decisions shall include a statement of the procedure for appeal. The statement shall clearly indicate the next appropriate level of jurisdiction, including the identity and address of the person and/or office to which the appeal must be directed.

f. Written minutes of all hearings will be considered proprietary and made available only on request from higher-level authorities in direct line of appeal.

5. The forms and appendices attached and duly acted upon by the NMYSA BOD shall be incorporated herein by reference.

### 3. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS IN YOUTH AND ADULT GAMES



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**3.15.01 ~~PROCEDURES TO OBTAIN WAIVER FOR ADULT GAMES~~**

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A youth player shall be permitted to play an unlimited number of adult games in a sanctioned USSF league without losing his/her youth eligibility provided that the player and his/her coach meet all of the following conditions:

- a. The player must complete the NMYSA Amateur Trial Games Waiver Form.
- b. The form shall be submitted to the NMYSA Registrar.

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c. The youth player is to retain his/her youth player pass card and must use that player pass card in all competitions unless permission to use an adult player pass card has been granted in writing by NMYSA.

**3.15.02 USE OF INELIGIBLE PLAYERS**

Any youth playing for a USSF-affiliated adult or youth team may be declared ineligible for youth games if

- a. The youth player did not obtain the properly executed Amateur Trial Games Waiver Form for adult game participation.
- b. The youth player was not properly registered to the NMYSA database.
- c. The player "proof of age" documents requires them to be in a different age division.
- d. The player participated when they were serving a suspension.

**3.16 PLAYING WITH PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS**

**3.16.01 LOSS OF AMATEUR YOUTH STATUS**

Any player signing a Professional Contract or playing with a professional team without the permission of the Board of Directors of NMYSA shall be declared a professional player and shall lose all privileges of youth amateur status. Reinstatement can only be considered at the USSF level.

**3.16.02 PERMISSION TO PLAY IN BENEFIT OR EXHIBITION GAMES**

The Board of Directors of this Association may grant youth amateur players permission to play in benefit or exhibition games only, where professional players are

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involved. Permission must be requested and granted in writing.

### 3.17 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PROHIBITION

#### 3.17.01 PROHIBITION OF USE OR CONSUMPTION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

The illegal use and/or consumption of any controlled substance at the field area by anyone before, during, or after the playing of any youth soccer game, or where prohibited by law, is expressly prohibited.

#### 3.17.02 VIOLATION OF 3.17.01

Anyone who violates this prohibition shall be subject to disciplinary action and/or suspension by the NMYSA Board of Directors.

### 3.18 TEAM TRAVEL PROCEDURES

Any team desiring to travel outside the jurisdiction of NMYSA must follow NMYSA tournament/travel procedures. No travel shall be allowed or authorized until proper approval has been made. Procedures as specified in Section 4.08 of the NMYSA Travel and Tournament Manual will be adhered to by all teams, leagues, and districts.

### 3.19 INDOOR SOCCER PLAY

#### 3.19.01 ~~SEPARATE RULES/REGISTRATION FOR INDOOR PLAY~~

~~NMYSA may sanction member affiliate leagues/clubs indoor soccer play under modified rules specific to indoor play. All participants must be registered to the NMYSA database/system for sanctioning to occur. shall be looked upon as a separate sport from the outdoor game with separate rules for play and registration which apply to all indoor soccer play, league and/or tournaments sanctioned by NMYSA.~~

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#### 3.19.02 ~~MEMBER AFFILIATE/TEAM RESPONSIBILITY~~

~~Member Affiliates and teams shall be responsible for the conduct of their players and for the rules and regulations of their leagues and tournaments subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.~~

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~~**3.19.03 INSURANCE COVERAGE**~~

~~Leagues sanctioned by NMYSA will receive regular association benefits, that include separate insurance protection for indoor soccer at an amount to be determined by the Board of Directors.~~

~~**3.19.04 INDOOR PLAYER PASS CARDS**~~

~~All players in a sanctioned indoor program must be registered with the State Registrar and carry an indoor soccer player pass card.~~

~~**3.19.05 RULES OF INDOOR PLAY CONTAINED IN THE INDOOR SOCCER MANUAL**~~

~~Affiliated leagues conducting indoor soccer programs must adhere to the rules and regulations contained in the NMYSA Indoor Soccer Manual, which is available from the NMYSA web site.~~

**3.20 TRAINING POLICIES**

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Clinicians for coaching clinics sponsored sanctioned by NMYSA must be approved by the NMYSA Technical Director. Host leagues maybe responsible for lodging, food, and in-town mileage expenses. All coaching clinic revenues are to be remitted to NMYSA. All US Soccer license courses must be registered and paid via the US Soccer Learning Center.

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**3.21 VIOLATION OF TERMS OF SUSPENSION**

A coach, program administrator, player, parent or any other person who is currently serving a disciplinary or risk management suspension from participation and/or attendance at NMYSA sanctioned activities and is found during that suspension to be participating in or attending activities in violation of the terms of that suspension, will have the entire term of the suspension begin again from the verified date of the violation. In addition, coaches, teams, club officials or league officials who facilitate or allow such violations are subject to individual loss of risk management clearances, and/or having teams placed in bad standing. All penalties under this Rule are subject to the appeal and due process clauses of Rule 3.14.

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### 3.22 CLUB PASS PLAYER SYSTEM

The Club Pass Player System is designed to allow a properly registered NMYSA player to play for another team from within the same Club on a temporary basis. Individual Leagues, at their sole discretion, may institute playing rules that allow players to play for teams other than their regularly rostered team during regular league play.

A League’s Club Pass playing rules allowed under this rule shall meet the following minimum requirements:

- ~~a) All players must play for only one Club team per day.~~
- ~~b) Club Pass players must be age appropriate to the game in which they are playing. A player may play up in age, but never play down in age.~~
- ~~c) Girls may play for boys’ teams, but boys may not play for girls’ teams.~~

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~~a) Red cards or other disciplinary actions accumulated during Club Pass play must be served in a manner consistent with other disciplinary actions within the league, must be consistent with paragraph (a) above, and must be served within the same club.~~

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Individual leagues are not obligated to adopt a Club Pass Player System. In addition, they are free to implement stricter league rules for the Club Pass Player than the above.

### ~~3.23 ACADEMY PLAYER REGISTRATION~~

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~~Individual affiliate members, at their sole discretion, may institute rules that allow the registration of players of certain age groups into Academy style player pools rather than onto teams. Those league rules may include a variety of opportunities for Academy players to participate in games during the seasonal year, including but not limited to random selection of game rosters on a weekly basis, temporary rosters for a time period of less than a seasonal year and free movement of players between temporary rosters.~~

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