

# Risk Management Policy Manual of Montana Youth Soccer

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# MYSA RISK MANAGEMENT

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## Risk Management

In August 1994, United States Youth Soccer (US Youth Soccer) approved the KidSafe Program and placed it in effect immediately. KidSafe is a risk management program designed to foster safe circumstances for every person, and especially every child, who participates in a US Youth Soccer-affiliated activity. It is a program to inform all US Youth Soccer volunteers and employees of the risks associated with youth programs and to recommend actions, and encourage conduct, to reduce those risks. Risk is defined as the likelihood of injury; injury can be physical, financial, or psychological. As part of this program, US Youth Soccer has charged each state organization with the responsibility of developing a written program outlining safety guidelines and procedures. The Montana Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) Risk Management Program is one part of the overall MYSA mission to develop, promote, teach, and administer the game of soccer for youth in a safe environment in which to play.

## Montana Risk Management Policy Statement

Montana Youth Soccer Association has adopted the following revised Risk Management and KidSafe Program, effective on the date of its adoption, 15 June 2003, to (1) comply with United States Soccer Federation and US Youth Soccer rules and (2) conform with the US Youth Soccer KidSafe Risk Management Program and its mission: To identify all coaches and program administrators, to develop and communicate the KidSafe guidelines to all coaches and program administrators, and to monitor the implementation of these objectives. It is the intent of US Youth Soccer and its affiliated organizations to exclude participation in US Youth Soccer activities, at a minimum, all persons who have been convicted of crimes of violence or crimes against persons. In addition, this MYSA Risk Management Program Manual is consistent with USSF Bylaw 213(1)(a)(2) and Rule 4044.

The United States Youth Soccer Association and each National State Association are responsible for establishing and monitoring a Risk Management Program within assigned territory. At a minimum, this program must include: the use of an employment/volunteer disclosure statement for all volunteers, employees, coaches, and program administrators who are involved with sanctioned or sponsored programs of the affiliated organization; and identification of a Risk Management Coordinator and an alternate for the position.

Further guidelines for implementation of a risk management program are outlined in the document US Youth Soccer KidSafe: A Risk Management Program (available from the US Youth Soccer web site at URL: [http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/downloads/national\\_office/KIDSAFEfrompm65.pdf](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/downloads/national_office/KIDSAFEfrompm65.pdf)).

## MYSA Risk Management Committee

The overall responsibility of the administration of the MYSA Risk Management Program rests with the Risk Manager, who will Chair the Risk Management Committee. The MYSA President shall appoint a Risk Manager with Board approval to administer the MYSA Risk Management Program. If none is appointed,

the MYSA Risk Management duties shall be the responsibility of the MYSA Vice President. The Risk Management Assistant (alternate) will be appointed by the MYSA President or shall be the MYSA Vice President. The Risk Management Committee shall consist of the MYSA Risk Manager, MYSA Assistant Risk Manager, MYSA President.

## **Program Administration**

The MYSA Risk Manager and MYSA Risk Management Committee shall administer this program. All members of the committee shall have legally sensitive criminal history and background checks. The Risk Manager's background check result will be sent directly to the President of MYSA. Upon clearance, the President will forward the record for proper storage.

The MYSA Risk Manager and Risk Management Committee duties are to monitor compliance with the KidSafe Program, which includes but is not limited to:

- Sec-1. Monitoring and documenting MYSA/league compliance. Leagues may have separate Risk Management guidance and documentation that the MYSA Risk Management committee shall periodically review for compliance with USSF and US Youth Soccer mandated guidelines. In the event a league does not have separate Risk Management guidelines this document shall serve.
- Sec-2. Review of disclosure forms.
- Sec-3. Manage and oversee registration procedures for coaches and program administrators.
- Sec-4. Ensure MYSA member leagues compliance.
- Sec-5. Act as the first line of contact for member leagues when risk management problems occur.
- Sec-6. Immediately report any incident of noncompliance to the MYSA Board of Directors.
- Sec-7. Coordinate criminal history and background checks.
- Sec-8. Supply administrative notification of exclusion to those applicants (whether new applicants or returning members) who fail to meet the standards of this program as defined by the MYSA Risk Management and KidSafe Program.
- Sec-9. Referee disclosure statements and compliance will be through their USSF certification and registration. To ensure compliance only referees assigned by a USSF certified referee assignor may referee MYSA games and tournaments.
- Sec-10. The MYSA Risk Manager will, at MYSA Board meetings, report on the progress and implementation of criminal history and background checks and related risk management issues.
- Sec-11. The MYSA Risk Manager will review all MYSA Official Documents for compliance with USSF- and US-Youth-Soccer-mandated risk management guidance with particular emphasis on financial matters as spelled out in the MYSA Financial Policies and Procedures (Including Office Administration) document.

## **MYSA Member Club Responsibilities**

Each MYSA member Club shall appoint a Risk Manager. If none is appointed, the Club Risk Management duties shall be the responsibility of the Club President. The Club Risk Management duties will include:

- Sec-1. Implement a league risk management policy/procedure with reference to the MYSA Risk Management document to educate and train club program administrators, coaches, parents, players, and other volunteers.
- Sec-2. Annually verify that no club program administrator or coach is on the Montana register of convicted sex offenders.
- Sec-3. Ensure disclosure completion procedures are followed by their club members.
- Sec-4. Coordinate with the MYSA Risk Manager to ensure that all coaches and program administrators have submitted a correctly completed disclosure and passed a background check before being allowed to participate in the soccer program.
- Sec-5. Have a representative attend risk management training as provided by MYSA. Providing training and assistance to league and club officials as well as parents and players. This training may be in conjunction with MYSA assistance.
- Sec-6. Act as the first line of contact for Risk Management problems.
- Sec-7. Report each incident or non-compliance to the MYSA Risk Manager, Risk Management Assistants or Risk Management Committee.
- Sec-8. Coordinate paperwork for anyone in the league who has had a legally sensitive criminal history and background checks for US government security clearances, federal or state law enforcement employment, public school teacher employment, or other checks approved by the MYSA Risk Manager.

## **Player Transportation**

It is recommended players do not drive themselves and others to or from MYSA competition out-of-town.

# **MYSA RISK MANAGEMENT AND KIDSAFE PROGRAM**

## **General Rules**

- Sec-1. MYSA has adopted a Risk Management and KidSafe Program and all coaches and program administrators must meet the conditions of this program.
- Sec-2. Coaches and program administrators are defined as state, district, league, and club officers and program directors, team managers, athletic trainers, coaches, assistant coaches and substitute coaches and anyone else who has an official capacity in the soccer program.
- Sec-3. All coaches and program administrators must complete a disclosure statement and be registered with MYSA.
- Sec-4. All coaches and program administrators must agree to be subject to a legally sensitive criminal history and background check. In some cases, a federal or state government background checks can be utilized. In these cases, the individual who has had the check will supply the MYSA Risk Manager with signed documentation attesting to a completed background check with no findings.
- Sec-5. MYSA will process legally sensitive criminal history and background checks. All coaches and program administrators as defined above (Sec-2) will be subject to these checks.
- Sec-6. Any coach or program administrator, who, for any reason, may be thought to present a risk to the welfare of MYSA, its leagues, clubs, or players, may be subject to a legally sensitive criminal history and background check at the discretion of the MYSA Board of Directors with input from an MYSA member league and/or the MYSA Risk Manager.
- Sec-7. MYSA will establish a procedure for handling a complaint of child or sexual abuse against a currently employed or volunteer coach or administrator, including identifying a point person and an alternate to receive such complaints and to follow the procedures outline in the US Youth Soccer KidSafe Program.

## **Registration Procedure for Coaches and Program Administrators**

- Sec-1. Signed Disclosure Statements will be good for a 1-year period.
- Sec-2. Signed Disclosure Statements will be submitted to MYSA. Background checks will be submitted electronically through their website (GotSoccer).
- Sec-3. While the Disclosure Statement may be submitted through a league or club or in hardcopy, they shall not be accessed by any person other than the MYSA Risk Manager or his/her designated assistants.
- Sec-4. After verifying that the Disclosure Form is complete and a background check has passed, MYSA will indicate the clearance in the registration software and the coach's and/or administrator's pass card may be generated.
- Sec-5. The MYSA Risk Manager will, at MYSA board meetings, report the progress of Disclosure Statement submissions by affiliated clubs.

## **Registration Rules for Coaches and Program Administrators**

Sec-1. Coach's and program administrator's pass cards will be laminated and distributed by the respective club registrar. Registration and pass cards are required for:

- 1) All members of the MYSA state coaching staff.
- 2) All coaches and program administrators who are responsible for players whose travel require overnight stays.
- 3) Any coach or program administrator whose club requires registration.

Sec-2. All coaches and program administrators must submit to a sensitive criminal history and background check or attest to such a check.

Sec-3. All coaches and program administrators may be required to view or read risk management presentations as determined by MYSA and the MYSA Risk Manager.

## **Registration Procedure for Referees (All Categories)**

Referees, assistant referees and 4th officials are independent contractors who shall be governed by the rulings of the Montana Soccer Referee Association, State Youth Referee Administrator, United States Soccer Federation and MYSA. Referees shall be required to submit Disclosure Statements through their USSF registration. Referees may obtain registration pass cards indicating a successful criminal history and background check by following the procedures.

## **Denial, Suspension, and Revocation of Coaching and Program Administrator Privileges**

Sec-1. The MYSA President, with the MYSA Board of Director's approval, has the authority to deny, suspend, or revoke any employee's, volunteer's, coach's, or program administrator's right to participate in MYSA, its leagues, its clubs, and its teams, for risk management concerns or concerns for the well-being of any MYSA league, club, team, or player arising from the Risk Management policies, pending a risk management hearing by the MYSA Board of Directors.

Sec-2. A Club may, upon written request, petition MYSA to deny, suspend or revoke the privileges of a coach or program administrator or applicant for Risk Management concerns. The written request shall be submitted to the MYSA Risk Manager and MYSA President in care of the State Office in an envelope marked "Confidential" and to be forwarded to the two aforementioned individuals. The MYSA Risk Manager shall investigate the request and reply in writing within thirty (30) days to the Club.

Sec-3. MYSA considers the following as grounds for automatic exclusion from serving as a MYSA coach or program administrator, however the MYSA Risk Management committee with approval from the MYSA BOD may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis:

- 1) Any conviction for a crime of violence, a crime against a person, a crime against property, or a felony.
- 2) Any report of child abuse appearing on the Child Abuse Index.
- 3) Any record of sexual offense and/or sexual misconduct.

- 4) Admitted use of/or conviction for use of illegal drugs. May be reconsidered by the local club after 3 years have passed since the conviction.
- 5) 2 convictions for driving under the influence in the preceding 10-year period or 3 convictions for driving under the influence in an applicant's lifetime.
- 6) Intentionally falsifying information on the Disclosure Form.
- 7) Refusal to fully complete the Risk Management Disclosure Form.
- 8) Refusal to submit fingerprints when required by MYSA Risk Management.
- 9) Any conduct which discriminates against any individual on the basis of race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, age, marital status, sex and any request for sexual favors, unwanted sexual advances or propositions, verbal physical and visual harassment, stalking and unwanted sexual contact.
- 10) Any other information that casts serious doubt on the applicant's ability to be entrusted with the supervision, guidance and care of minors.
- 11) Any person participating in a sanctioned or sponsored program of MYSA 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 MYSA Risk Manager and/or MYSA President 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 MYSA risk manager at the completion of the litigation. Within sixty (60) days of receipt of the written request of the suspended person, the MYSA Risk Manager shall make recommendation to the Board of Directors for reinstatement of privileges or continued and/or permanent suspension based on the review of the issue. The MYSA Risk Manger will issue a letter of reinstatement or denial of reinstatement within fifteen (15) days of the Board of Directors decision. Matters detrimental to the welfare of youth players shall include crimes of moral turpitude and felonies. The person has a right to appeal whether the matter, which is the substance of the accusation, if true, is detrimental to the welfare of youth players. (US Youth Soccer Rule 4043).
- 12) Appendix A is a quantitative mechanism whereby MYSA decides an individual's eligibility to be issued a risk management clearance.

### **Exclusion of Coach and/or Program Administrator**

Sec-1. A coach and/or administrator who is found, through his or her disclosure form or by any other means, to meet any reason(s) for possible automatic exclusion will be notified through regular, return receipt mail.

Sec-2. Said coach and/or administrator will have five business days to request a hearing of consideration from MYSA.

Sec-3. A hearing will be scheduled within 14 days of receipt of the coach and/or administrator's request.

Sec-4. If information deemed necessary to conducting the hearing, such as a criminal history, takes longer than 14 days to secure, a hearing may be postponed until such information is available.



Sec-5. If a hearing is not requested, the coach and/or program administrator's right of participation in MYSA will be automatically denied pending a hearing by the MYSA Risk Management Committee and denial of participation will be in effect.

Sec-6. It may be necessary for the coach and/or program administrator to undergo a legally sensitive criminal history and background check, which may require fingerprinting, at the time a request for a hearing is made.

Sec-7. Once a coach and/or program administrator's privilege to participate has been denied, suspended, or revoked by MYSA, it may not be restored except through the decision of the MYSA Risk Management Committee or through the appeal process.

## **Appeal Procedures**

Sec-1. All appeals will be held at the MYSA Board of Directors level according to MYSA Bylaws

Sec-2. A coach and/or program administrator whose privileges are denied, revoked, or suspended has the right to appeal on the basis of whether the matter, which is the substance of the accusation, if true, is detrimental to the welfare of youth players.

## **Confidentiality and Ethics**

Sec-1. The disclosure forms shall be used only for the purpose of registering coaches and program administrators in MYSA, including denial, suspension, and revocation of coaching and/or program administrator privileges. Information may be used in the hearing process for denial, suspension, or revocation of privileges by the MYSA Risk Manager, the Risk Management Committee, and any committees or MYSA Board of Director members deemed necessary for the implementation and monitoring of the MYSA Risk Management and KidSafe Program.

Sec-2. Record storage will be under lock and key in the MYSA administrative office and only accessible by the MYSA Risk Manager, MYSA President, or duly appointed alternate(s).

Sec-3. Record reproduction will be limited to a single copy of the disclosure form and/or the results of the criminal history check (along with any supporting documents) to be controlled by the MYSA Risk Manager when needed. The original will be filed at the MYSA administrative offices.

Sec-4. Any record may be reproduced for use during a hearing and/or appeal of denial, suspension, or revocation as needed. Any record reproduced for such use will be collected and destroyed at the conclusion of the hearing and/or appeal.

Sec-5. The MYSA Risk Manager and members of the MYSA Risk Management Committee will agree to sign and abide by the "Standards of Ethical Conduct Statement". The purpose of this statement is to inform the MYSA Risk Manager and all members of the MYSA Risk Management Committee of the security and confidentiality requirements of the information that they will be gathering. Misuse of risk management information may result in legal action.

Sec-6. A coach's or program administrator's disclosure form and associated information shall be retained for three years following the last season of registration.

## HEALTH, SAFETY, AND FINANCIAL GUIDELINES

These health, safety, and financial guidelines are provided for informational purposes only, with the strong recommendation for implementation by MYSA affiliates. MYSA is not responsible for the implementation or administration of the following health, safety, and financial guidelines. All leagues should have a Risk Manager to implement risk management guidelines and procedures at the local level.

### Child Abuse Guidelines

All coaches and program administrators should immediately report any suspected abuse to the local county child abuse authorities and to the MYSA State Risk Manager. The MYSA Risk Manager, upon notification from a Program Administrator of such a report, should follow up with the Child Abuse authorities. Child abuse reporting: call Centralized Intake Number 1-866-820-5437, this unit then refers to the appropriate agency for review. There are four types of reportable child abuse that include:

Sec-1. Sexual: This involves improper touching of private parts, penetration, flashing, the use of pornography, or similar acts. This includes any type of improper behavior where there is a difference in power and control (e.g., adult/child, older child/younger child). There may be threats against the victim or members of the victim's family.

Sec-2. Physical: Anything that leaves a mark is reportable, such as black eyes, swollen lips, finger marks on the face or other areas.

Sec-3. Neglect: Incapacitation by the caregivers. This could include not providing a home, food, water, clothing, or supervision for long periods of time or while taking illicit drugs.

Sec-4. Emotional: Verbally abusing a child.

It is not the responsibility of the reporting parties to investigate the allegations. Once the report has been made, the legal authorities will investigate. All information on the reporting parties will be kept in confidence by the legal authorities. It is the responsibility of every Program Administrator to avoid situations with minors that have the potential of being misunderstood or misinterpreted.

### First Aid

Minimizing potential risks before they occur is, of course, preferable to dealing with problems when they arise. Knowing what to do if a player gets overheated on a hot day, learning the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke could save a life. Learning the signs and symptoms of a serious head injury. Learning when not to move an injured player, when not to send a player back on to the field. What to do if a bystander has a heart attack. All these are areas coaches need to be aware of. Rule of thumb: when in doubt, call 911 and let the professionals deal with it. If a player gets a bloody nose, or other cut, make sure all blood is cleaned off the player and a Band-Aid applied before the player takes the field again.

Sec-1. In the event of a medical emergency, appropriate action must be taken immediately.

Sec-2. It is recommended that each league/club require each team to have a first aid kit on the field at all times. The First Aid kit should include, but is not limited to:

- 1) Antiseptic wipes

- 2) Tweezers
- 3) Scissors
- 4) Band-Aids
- 5) Roll Gauze
- 6) Triangular Bandage
- 7) Instant Cold Packs
- 8) Eye pads
- 9) Feminine pad (for heavy bleeding)
- 10) Ace bandages
- 11) Plastic bags (for ice)
- 12) Adhesive Tape
- 13) Latex gloves (several pairs)
- 14) Plastic trash bags
- 15) Small bottles of Hydrogen Peroxide and Distilled Water
- 16) Tube of Antibiotic ointment
- 17) Spray bottle containing a solution of 1:10 chlorine bleach to water.

These items can be put into a large storage bag or plastic container and kept in the coach's bag.

Sec-3. All medical release forms must be on the field at all times during practices and games. Assure that the emergency phone numbers are listed.

### **Procedures for Injuries Pertaining to Blood**

Sec-1. The first concern is always to make sure the player is not seriously injured. Never move a player that may have internal injuries. If serious injury is suspected, clear the field and summon medical help. It is recommended that standby medical help be present at all tournaments.

Sec-2. If it will not hurt the player more, remove him/her from the field to the sidelines away from spectators.

Sec-3. Carry plastic bags at all times in the coach's bag. These bags should be large enough to carry a uniform and shoes. It is also recommended that rags be carried and a spray bottle containing a 1:10 solution of chlorine bleach and water for wiping up surrounding areas. All tainted grass should be sprayed with the solution. A separate bag should include all contaminated articles including bandages, rags, wipes, etc. This bag should be tied off and placed in a covered container.

Sec-4. Referees will be instructed to not allow a player on the field with a uniform that has an unacceptable amount of blood on it. It is recommended that extra clothing be carried as a precaution. Referees for recreational play will allow a T-shirt of the same color as the jersey to be worn should an accident happen. More information can be found at URL:  
[http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/downloads/national\\_office/HandlingBloodbornePathogens.pdf](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/downloads/national_office/HandlingBloodbornePathogens.pdf)

Sec-5. US Youth Soccer supplies guidelines for financial management URL:  
[http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/downloads/national\\_office/FinancialManagement.pdf](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/downloads/national_office/FinancialManagement.pdf)

## Coaching Guidelines

- 1) It is the responsibility of the coach to set the standard of behavior on the field. It is also incumbent upon the coach to control the actions of the coaching staff, players, and spectators. Some things that are not acceptable are:
- 2) Name-calling or harassment of a player, referee, coach, or spectator by anyone.
- 3) Name-calling or harassment of a player by a coach or parent of another player, or another player, especially a teammate.
- 4) Name-calling or harassment of the referee, assistant referee, or 4th official by anyone.
- 5) Hitting or slapping a player, coach, referee, or spectator by anyone.
- 6) Failure to control spectators (especially parents).
- 7) Failure to treat injuries.
- 8) Inadequate supervision, e.g., during travel, before practice (late arrival of coach), during practices, after practice (failure to wait for late parents). It is recommended that the coach have a procedure for these events and communicate this plan to the parents at the first team meeting.
- 9) Leaving player(s) unattended.
- 10) Failure to report signs of abuse.
- 11) Recognizing and dealing with dangerous field and weather conditions, e.g., cold, heat, lightning, high winds, etc.
- 12) The coach shall always have medical consent to treat (membership form) on the field and should carry a fully stocked first aid kit.
- 13) The coach should have appropriate pre-game warm-ups and conditioning.
- 14) The coach should have a standardized travel checklist.

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLUB RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

## General Guidance

### Sec-1. Determination of Risk

- 1) Look for Risks: Consider who and what can be considered at risk.
- 2) People – Board members, coaches, referees, players, volunteers, spectators, and others.
- 3) Property – Fields, equipment, buildings, bank accounts, and others.
- 4) Income – Registration fees, donations, sales, team funds for trips, tournament fees, and other contributions.
- 5) Food – Sale of food and drink at games and tournaments.
- 6) Goodwill – Reputation of League, community standing, future fundraising, future players, future volunteers, future field usage.

Sec-2. Assess Risks: Leagues need to develop conscious decisions about which risk it can accept, what type of insurance is needed, and how risks can be reduced and controlled. After risks are identified, assess each in relation to the League's overall mission of providing soccer, and do not lose sight of the reason for the League's existence.

Sec-3. Decide How to Control Risks: A risk assessment provides a basis for determining sensible controls of the risks. No plan is perfect, but a reasonable plan can be developed so that volunteers providing services to the league and players will feel reasonably secure in their assigned tasks.

## Implement your Strategy:

Sec-1. There are six concepts to help your risk containment strategy.

- 1) Avoid – Do not offer a service that the League considers too risky.
- 2) Modify – Change the activity so that chance of harm occurring, and the potential damage, are acceptable.
- 3) Transfer – Shift the financial aspect of risk through contracts or insurance. (Make sure the league and owners of fields are properly insured, and wherever possible have field ownership in City, County or State government.)
- 4) Retain – Accept the risk and prepare for the consequences.
- 5) Develop – Come up with a list of resources that will help you determine what risks exist and how best to deal with them.
- 6) Review and Revise Periodically: Review and revisions of a League's risk management program will ensure continued application. Every officer, coach, referee, and league member should continue to keep their eyes open for potentially hazardous conditions, and if one is reported to the League, the League needs to follow through on such a report.

## Sec-2. Methods of Prevention:

- 1) Prevention of injury to players:
  - a) Assure safety of personal equipment and grounds at games and practices.
  - b) Coaches and referees should check personal equipment and disallow participation until standards met.
  - c) Referees and field marshals should check grounds, including proper installation and anchoring of goals, and identify, correct or mark dangerous areas and communicate to participants and spectators.
  - d) Referees should call the game if a dangerous situation cannot be corrected, and coaches should call practice for the same reason.
  - e) Leagues should, when possible, have certified referee assignors to assign referees to games based upon age level, experience and anticipated difficulty. MYSA will provide assignor certification training to leagues upon request.
- 2) Assure the intentions of the adult participants:
  - a) Screen volunteers prior to participation for past problems
  - b) Watch for uninvolved spectators
  - c) Whenever possible, have at least two adults present at all team functions or player interactions.
  - d) Have league officials monitor practices and games for inappropriate behavior by adults.
  - e) Communicate with other leagues and associations should problems arise and solutions to problems.
- 3) Preventing injury to coaches, referees, volunteers and spectators:
  - a) Clinics – create safety awareness by requiring clinics for all adult participants that address safety. Communicate to parents the importance of safety awareness.
  - b) Fields – Check that grounds are safe. Clearly mark dangerous areas. Communicate to spectators as well as participants.
  - c) Facilities – The League needs a secure setting that is safe from both crime and bodily harm. Leagues should work closely with local law enforcement officials to provide adequate security for league events.
  - d) Food – Food preparation for events needs to meet Montana Environment Department standards, or contracts for food and concession services need to be with an entity which meets those standards and provides proof of adequate insurance.
  - e) Signs – Leagues should maintain, when possible, adequate signage at all fields and facilities that warns of the potential risks.
  - f) Minors playing in adult leagues – Leagues should discourage the play of minors (those being under the age of 18) in adult leagues.

### 4) Club:

Each Club should advise coaches and referees that, whenever possible, two adults should be present with youth players during practice, games or other situations. Leagues should impress upon coaches that parents should be encouraged to be involved with the team, to attend parts of the practice and to pick up their children immediately upon practice or games terminating. Never leave a child unattended after practice. If the field cannot be

clearly seen from the street or parking area, ask parents to escort their children to the field and make sure that a coach or other team adult is present before leaving. Children who need to leave practice early should be picked up on the field by the parent. The parent should make sure the child is leaving. If carpools are arranged by the parents, make sure the coach is informed. Leagues should advise coaches and discourage coaches from providing transportation to players either to or from practice and games.

## **Lawsuit Guidelines**

MYSA registered coaches or administrators are covered by liability insurance and professional assistance and guidance is available. Any litigation process requires tremendous cooperation and time commitment for the persons involved. The burden cannot be solely that of the insurance company or a defense attorney. More information can be found at URL:

[http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/downloads/national\\_office/LivingThroughaLawsuit.pdf](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/downloads/national_office/LivingThroughaLawsuit.pdf)

The following immediate actions are suggested:

Sec-1. Contact the MYSA administrative office to obtain insurance company information immediately.

Sec-2. Photocopy the suit and any additional information pertaining to the incident.

Sec-3. Send, via registered mail, the original of the summons/complaint and any other pertinent information to the insurance company.

Sec-4. Do not discuss the case with any person other than your lawyer or insurance representative.

Sec-5. Call the insurance representative if no response has been received from the insurance company representative or company-appointed lawyer within three days.

Sec-6. Take the time to provide all the information and details to the company-appointed lawyer.

## Appendix A - Background Check Review Standard

Driving while Under the Influence (DUI) are involved with 50% of the individuals with convictions and 30% have convictions for Possession or Manufacture of a Controlled Substance (Possession). Police report that convictions for DUI are infrequent compared to the number of times an individual actually drives while under the influence. The same may be said for possession of a controlled substance. Our intent is to create and maintain the safest environment possible for the children associated with Montana Youth Soccer, and to select coaches who demonstrate desirable behavior to teach the children. The Criminal Conviction Matrix for Participation Acceptability will be used when evaluating coaches, and this standard used when notifying clubs and individuals of the results of background checks where conviction history is noted. Once the conviction is noted on records maintained by Montana Youth Soccer, repeating this notice following future checks will not intentionally be sent out unless new convictions are recorded. The intent is to place the club and the individual on notice and that additional convictions will result in removal from further soccer related activities.

### Sec-1. One DUI conviction within 10 years:

Any individual who has been convicted of a DUII will have a notice sent to the club informing them of the conviction and any suspensions prescribed per the matrix, with a copy to the individual.

### Sec-2. One Drug related conviction within 10 years:

Any individual who has been convicted of Possession will have a notice sent to the club informing them of the conviction and any suspensions prescribed per the matrix, with a copy to the individual.

### Sec-3. Any conviction of Manufacturing or distributing Controlled Substances:

Any individual who has been convicted of Manufacturing or Distribution will have a notice sent to the club informing them of the conviction and any suspensions prescribed per the matrix, with a copy to the individual.

### Sec-4. Any conviction of abuse or physical violence against a person:

Any individual who has been convicted of Physical Violence or Assault will have a notice sent to the club informing them of the conviction and any suspensions prescribed per the matrix, with a copy to the individual.

Multiple convictions indicating a pattern of behavior that suggests disregard for laws, rights or safety of others shall be reviewed to determine appropriateness of participation in Montana Youth Soccer. The MYSA Risk Manager reviews background check findings and submits recommendations regarding participation to the Risk Management Review Board for a determination. The results of any review will be made known to the club President and/or the club Risk Manager as well as the individual involved to retain confidentiality. The letter will include information on the process for filing an appeal. Clubs are obligated to ensure that sanctions and suspensions are upheld. Violations may result in loss of insurance coverage and/or sanctions against the club.



This form should be considered a guide because each case may pose unique situations not covered by a standard format. When multiple convictions have occurred - the "No" on the matrix should be the number of years since last convicted.

**No** = MYSA determination not to allow individual to participate

**Club "D"** = Club Decision to allow individual to participate

Type of Conviction	Years Since Last Conviction											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	>10	
<b>Felony</b>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Misdemeanor excluding Traffic violations</b>	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"
<b>Sexual Offense</b>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Special Issues - DUI</b>												
<b>1 Conviction</b>	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"
<b>2 Convictions</b>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>3+ Convictions</b>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Drug Possession</b>												
<b>1 Conviction</b>	No	No	No	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"	Club "D"
<b>2 Convictions</b>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>3+ Convictions</b>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Drug Manufacturing &amp; Distribution/Sales</b>												
<b>1 Conviction</b>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>2+ Convictions</b>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Manufacturing Meth</b>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No