

# MONTANA YOUTH SOCCER



## POLICY MANUAL

Revised 8.12.2023

# MISSION STATEMENT

*It is the mission of the Montana Youth Soccer Association to establish, administer and promote a program devoted to the development and training of soccer players as a means of recreation and fitness; to foster an interest in soccer competition amongst the youth of Montana; to give encouragement, coaching and instruction to recreation and competitive youth soccer players; and to foster and engender the principles of team play, good sporting behavior, fairness and the advancement of individual players' ability within the team concept and ultimately to contribute to the overall character of the youth in Montana.*

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# POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## **PART I**

### **MYSA/CLUB RELATIONSHIP**

## **Policy 1-000 - APPLICABILITY OF POLICY**

The rules contained herein shall govern members of this Association in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with the Charter, Constitution and Bylaws of this Association. These rules and regulations may be modified by majority vote of the Montana Youth Soccer Association Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting. All competition shall be governed by the rules stated herein unless the rules of a specific competition determine otherwise.

All written correspondence referred to in these rules shall be sent by certified mail with the date of receipt being deemed, for all purposes, two (2) days after mailing.

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rule 102*

***Revised 01/23/2016***

## Policy 1-100 – MYSA BUSINESS PRACTICES

### Sec-1. Conflict of Interest

Each seasonal year every member of the MYSA Board of Directors, all MYSA employees and certain consultants employed by MYSA shall sign and file with the MYSA Executive Director a Conflict of Interest Statement on a form provided by MYSA. The Conflict of Interest Statement shall contain an affirmation that those required to sign it

- A. shall derive no personal profit or gain, directly or indirectly, by reason of his or her participation with the MYSA.
- B. shall disclose any personal interest which he or she may have in any matter pending before MYSA and shall refrain from participation in any discussion and decision on such matter.
- C. shall identify his or her affiliation with any MYSA affiliated club and/or with any vendor or corporate partner or sponsor of MYSA and shall refrain from participation in any discussion or decision relating in any way to that affiliated club, vendor, partner or sponsor.
- D. shall refrain from obtaining any list of MYSA affiliated clubs and/or MYSA members for personal or private solicitation purposes at any time.
- E. shall avoid even the appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest in any and all MYSA business dealings and functions.

### Sec-2. Employee Protection (Whistleblower) Policy

MYSA shall not retaliate in any manner against any MYSA employee who

- A. in good faith, has filed a complaint against some practice of MYSA, or of any individual or entity with whom MYSA has a business relationship, on the basis of a reasonable belief that the practice is in violation of law, or a clear mandate of public policy.
- B. discloses or threatens to disclose to a supervisor or a public body, any activity, policy or practice of MYSA that the employee reasonably believes is in violation of a law or a clear mandate of public policy.

### Sec-3. Document Retention and Destruction

MYSA shall, in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and accepted business practices, establish clear policies concerning the retention and destruction of MYSA business documents including corporate records, financial records, tax records, personnel records, insurance records, contracts, records of donations and management plans and procedures. When timely, documents shall be destroyed by shredding.

### Sec-4. Availability of Registration and Personal Information

- A. Electronic Communications – MYSA’s electronic communications systems are to be used only for business purposes. MYSA has the right of access to all electronic communications and all information on its own computers. No individual should have any right or expectation of privacy with regard to messages sent to or received from MYSA. Any individual who violates this policy or uses the electronic communications systems for improper purposes shall be subject to discipline or termination and possibly, other legal remedies.
- B. Availability of Registration and Personal Information – MYSA shall establish specific safeguards to protect the interest of the players, coaches, their families and clubs with regard to the use and control of

registration information.

- C. MYSA Access to Registration and Personal Information – MYSA shall have access to this information for registration purposes, to accomplish day-to-day administrative functions and operations, risk management procedures and any other legitimate communication and business function for which MYSA needs access and use of such information.
- D. Email Marketing and Mailing Lists – MYSA may use registration and email information to promote MYSA programs and events to its membership. MYSA shall not sell email addresses of any MYSA member or group of members to any third party for marketing purposes. MYSA may sell email or mailing lists of its members to any third party for marketing purposes under the following conditions
  - 1) The use shall be a single use.
  - 2) The sale and use of any mailing list shall only be accomplished through an independent and bonded mailing house.
  - 3) Only surnames shall be used, and no player or family member shall be identified by their first name. For example, mailings shall be sent to “The Smith Family”.
  - 4) MYSA shall have the right to approve or disapprove the business or entity seeking to purchase any mailing list and shall have full approval authority over the content of any materials to be mailed.

#### Sec-5. Employee Manual

MYSA shall maintain an employee manual and shall give a copy thereof to each full-time and part-time employee of MYSA upon the date of their hire. The Employee Handbook shall detail conditions of continued employment, payroll and compensation, benefits, vacation policies, holidays observed and other MYSA business practices, procedures and expectations of its full-time and part-time employees.

***New 01/27/2020***



## **Policy 1-200 - CLUB AUTHORITY**

- Sec-1. Clubs may deem fit to include rules and regulations more stringent than those included herein but in no case, shall rules and regulations be less stringent.
- Sec-2. Clubs must submit their rules and regulations for review and approval by the Board of Directors of this Association.
- Sec-2. Clubs must be a 501(C)(3) organization and maintain their status with the State of Montana. A club that fails to sustain their status may lose their MYSA membership.

***Revised 01/27/2020***

## Policy 1-300 - NEW MYSA AFFILIATION

### Sec-1. PURPOSE

This policy details the process in which prospective Clubs will apply for affiliation to become a MYSA member. MYSA will affiliate as a club any properly constituted local soccer group if all requirements of affiliation are met.

### Sec-2. PROCEDURE

A prospective club must submit a completed affiliation packet to MYSA. The packet shall consist of:

- A. a completed Affiliation Application Form;
- B. a written letter to MYSA requesting the Executive Director accept the application for membership as an Affiliated Club with MYSA. The letter shall include:
  - 1) a complete list of all Board Members of the Club. Clubs shall have at least five (5) active Members on their Board of Directors; and
  - 2) if applicable, confirmation the composition of their Board of Directors is not made up of more than one-third of Club coaches if the Club will only field competitive teams;
- C. a copy of the Club's Bylaws for review. The Bylaws shall state:
  - 1) the name of the Club;
  - 2) the purpose of the Club. In it, the Club desiring to become a part of MYSA membership must identify a need for youth players which it proposes to provide, and which is not otherwise being met;
  - 3) who the initial members of the Club will be;
  - 4) the geographical boundaries of the Club;
  - 5) the operating Officers and their duties;
  - 6) the Board of Directors;
  - 7) the terms of office for the Board of Directors and/or Officers;
  - 8) details of when the annual meeting will take place;
  - 9) who can vote at the annual meeting;
  - 10) the fiscal year;
  - 11) grievance, protest, and appeal language; and
  - 12) dissolution of the club language;

- D. a copy of the Club Policy-Manual for review. The Policy Manual shall include:
- 1) formation of teams or leagues language;
  - 2) hearing procedures;
  - 3) field policies, including the prohibition of dogs and pets in facilities;
  - 4) registration Policies; and
  - 5) any other policies as necessary;
- E. a list of all expected participating teams within the Club. Applicants with the intent of participating in any sanctioned league and that would be within a geographic area already served by a MYSA Member Club shall have at least two (2) teams in different age groups registered with MYSA. Applicants within an underserved geographic area shall have at least one (1) team with players registered or to be registered with MYSA;
- F. applicants shall have a Club Referee Coordinator and a list of all certified referees within associated with the club. Applicants shall have at least one (1) Grassroots or better Referee representing each team registered to play in each competitive league. This Referee must be able to fulfill the position of Assistant Referee on any games this team is scheduled for in the MYSA league. The Club shall certify at the time of registering its teams that it has complied with this rule. It is the responsibility of each Club to recruit and encourage potential and existing referees, and to see that they attend proper annual training sessions. This should be done in cooperation with the Referee Mentor. Failure to provide a qualified certified Referee at the request of a league assignor will result in the forfeiture of the match;
- F. a list of all fields the Club has secured for its teams to practice and play games. Fields must be suitable for play and be the appropriate size for the age level of the teams in the club. Clubs shall have at minimum enough available fields for their teams based on the guidelines below:
- 1-3 teams – 1 field
  - 4-6 teams – 2 fields
  - 7-9 teams – 3 fields
  - 10-13 teams – 4 fields
  - 14-18 teams – 5 fields;
- G. an acknowledgement that the Club is prepared to apply for tax-exempt status (501(c)(3)) if they have not already. Clubs shall provide the appropriate documentation to MYSA once approved by the State of Montana for this status;
- H. proof of contact via email with the MYSA Technical Director. The Club shall introduce itself, request information for coaching clinics and provide possible dates it could host a clinic within six (6) months if approved for affiliation;

- I. proof of contact via email with the MYSA SYRA. The Club shall introduce itself, apprise the SYRA of their current referee situation and request information for referee training opportunities; and
- J. proof of contact via email with the MYSA Registrar. The Club shall introduce itself, request information on Registration Policies and procedures and provide possible dates its Registrar would be available for training on the MYSA registration platform within one (1) month if approved for affiliation.

Sec-3. APPROVAL

- A. Upon receiving an affiliation application MYSA will:
  - 1) review the application for completeness and verify all supporting documentation is provided. If errors are found, the application will be returned for correction;
  - 2) notify the President of clubs from the same geographic area of the pending application;
  - 3) approve all completed applications; and
  - 4) notify all interested parties of the decision.

All new affiliates will immediately be afforded all rights of MYSA membership.

***Revised 08/12/23***

## Policy 1-400 - CLUB RESPONSIBILITY

- A. All clubs shall be responsible for governing those persons associated with their operation.

In completing this obligation, each club shall participate actively in the state association's Risk Management program and shall appoint a club risk management chairman who shall be responsible for implementing both state and club risk management policies.

- B. Each club shall be responsible for the conduct of its administrators, managers, coaches, players, club members, etc., and it is the responsibility of each team to ensure that its action on or off the field does not bring disrespect upon the Association. THE CODE OF CONDUCT as contained in these rules binds all players, coaches, administrators, and officials who belong to Montana Youth Soccer Association. The US Soccer Federation and US Youth Soccer rules, bylaws, and policy statements further bind all clubs. It is the responsibility of all clubs to acquaint themselves with those rules, bylaws, and policy statements.
- C. Each club, to remain in good standing, shall send a representative to State Council meetings and shall require their registrar to complete such course or courses as required by and provided by the state association.
- D. Each club shall register 100% of its players with Montana Youth Soccer or another US Soccer Organization Member to remain in compliance with US Soccer Policy 212-1.
- E. Each club shall convey to its members, players, coaches, and administrators all applicable directives, rules, and communications from the state association. To ensure compliance with this rule, each club shall designate a person to receive this information electronically and, should they fail to designate such person, the responsibility shall fall on the president of the local club.
- F. Each club shall annually deliver to the Executive Administrator of this association on or before August 31st of each year, a list of its current officers, directors, and administrators along with their addresses, phone numbers, and electronic contact numbers. Further, each club shall notify the Executive Administrator of this association within 30 days of the change in any of the foregoing.
- G. Each competitive club shall have at least one (1) Grassroots or better referee representing each team registered to play in each competitive league. This referee must be able to fulfill the position of AR on any games this team is scheduled for in the MYSA league. The club shall certify at the time of registering its teams that it has complied with this rule. It is the responsibility of each club to recruit and encourage potential and existing referees, and to see that they attend proper training sessions. This should be done in cooperation with the referee instructor. When a team fails to provide a certified referee upon request by a league assignor a forfeit may occur.
- H. Each club shall be responsible for providing adequate fields and officials in order to host sanctioned home games. The adequacy of the facilities shall be determined or judged by the Montana Youth Soccer Association Executive Director. The adequacy of the officials shall be determined by the State Youth

Referee Administrator (SYRA) prior to the scheduled play for the season. Each club shall submit to the appropriate director on such forms as he or she indicates an annual report dealing with the adequacy of the club facilities.

- I. Contacts with state directors and officers regarding play shall be made only by club officers. State officers are not entitled to discuss internal club affairs with anyone who is not the president of the local club or his/her designee unless such contact deals with the violations of these rules or the association by-laws by the president of the club.

***Revised 8/8/2021***

## **Policy 1-500 - FALSIFICATIONS OF RECORDS**

Falsifications of records shall be grounds for disbarment from future participation and/or membership in this Association. Falsifications of records includes, but is not limited to, failing to fully or honestly disclose travel papers, or forms accompanying the payment of registration fees.

## **Policy 1-600 - PLEA OF IGNORANCE**

A plea of ignorance to the Charter, Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations of the Association, of US Soccer Federation, or US Youth Soccer, is not sufficient and violators may expect appropriate actions by the Board of Directors of the Association.



## Policy 1-700 - FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### Sec-1. Debts

Debts: This Association shall not assume, not be liable for debts, nor the financial responsibilities, either implied or incurred, by any of its members, member clubs, member coaches, managers, or teams. No club shall incur any debt in the name of Montana Youth Soccer Association.

### Sec-2. Checks Payable

Checks Payable: All bank checks, drafts, and money orders submitted to the Association shall be made payable to the Montana Youth Soccer Association or to MYSA. Failure to honor such draft shall be grounds for disciplinary action against the club or its members.

### Sec-3. Reimbursement for MYSA Expenses

The following are reimbursement guidelines and rates for MYSA activities. Requests for reimbursement must be submitted on the proper expenditure forms, with the exception of certain communications expenses that recur monthly.

Checks will be written on the 15th and 30th of each month. Before a check can be written, an expense reimbursement form must be completed with all necessary information and original receipts and submitted to the State Office. Any purchase or expenditure exceeding \$500.00 not included in the approved budget shall require approval from the President, Treasurer and Administrator.

A. Travel: All out of state travel must be approved by MYSA prior to going to the event to be eligible for reimbursement

- 1) Round-trip airfare to approved events is reimbursed with receipt; the lowest time- convenient airfare should be used.
- 2) Mileage round trip to approved events is paid at the per mile rate as defined by the standard federal government rate when driving own vehicle. This is intended to cover cost of gas, wear and tear on driven vehicle, insurance, etc.
- 3) Hotel/motel cost (room only) for approved events when overnight stay is required or needed is reimbursed with receipt.
- 4) Meal expenses are reimbursed on a per diem basis at \$45.00 per day in State (B5, L6, D14) and \$55.00 per day Out of State (B8, L9, D18). If claiming the per diem rate or less no original receipts will be required

On travel days, meals occurring during travel are compensated at the B, L, and D listed in section 4. Per Diem is reduced by the applicable meal amount when paid directly by MYSA. There is no "hometown" per diem unless there is a pre-approved exception.

- 5) Reasonable destination transportation (shuttle, taxi, and car rental) and airport parking (with receipt) are reimbursable.

- 6) Registration fees for workshops and meetings are reimbursable with receipt or meeting notice showing registration costs. If sharing costs (lodging, transportation, etc.), indicate with whom and share requiring reimbursement

B. Communications

- 1) Long distance phone charges when conducting MYSA business are reimbursable (documentation required).
- 2) Internet fees will be reimbursed at the percentage of use appropriate to the amount of MYSA business for the Administrator, President, Vice President, Registrar, SYRA, Director of Development, and Director of Competition.
- 3) Postage, copies, and supplies needed to conduct MYSA business are reimbursed with receipt.
- 4) Phone line monthly charges for MYSA dedicated business is reimbursed for the Administrator and Registrar.

C. All other expenses as approved by the Board of Directors.

***Revised 01/23/2016***

## **Policy 1-800 - MEDICAL INSURANCE**

All players registered with this Association or participating in any league sanctioned or sponsored by this Association shall be required to have in effect the medical insurance program specified by the Association.

Sec- 1. Uninsured Players: Uninsured players participating in practices or taking part in games will not be recognized and clubs are not authorized by this Association to play with or against uninsured players.

Sec-2. Medical Claims: All claims made against the medical insurance shall be completed on the proper form (obtainable from the club). All reports of injuries must be submitted to the club within seventy-two (72) hours of the injury. The club shall check the claim against their records and forward all claims to the MYSA office.

***Revised 01/23/2016***

## Policy 1-900 - REGISTRATION

- A. All coaches, players, and administrators are required to provide properly completed US Youth Soccer registration information to his/her club. The electronic registration of a player binds that player to that club/team for the seasonal year for an event unless he/she is granted a transfer. (Not applicable to recreational soccer or intra-club as to transfer)
- B. Each team through its club shall be required to submit to the State Registrar copies of such registration information in a form specified by the Registrar (electronic or paper), and pay all dues, fees, or fines that may be levied by the Association. All dues, fees, or fines must be paid within the thirty (30) days of the registration of the player or the commencement of the playing season, whichever occurs later.
  - 1) A player is deemed registered upon paying his/her fees and acceptance thereof by his/her local club.
  - 2) The State Registrar and Treasurer shall submit the appropriate fees and registration for the player to US Soccer Federation and/or US Youth Soccer.
- C. Any team that has the same name (e.g., club's name) must be identified by a numerical prefix or a different name. The same team name shall not be used for more than one team in the same age or event. (Not applicable to recreational soccer)
- D. Each club shall be responsible for proper registration of the players and coaches, affiliation of the teams, a proper accounting of fiscal transactions, and accurate reporting to this Association. All registrations will be billed to the club by MYSA by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. These player registrations fees are due and payable by the end of each month. Any club not paying in full by the next billing period may be suspended. Upon club suspension, the club will not be allowed to register any future teams or players until all amounts are paid in full.
- E. Clubs may protest any player registration fees only after paying all amounts due. Protests will be directed to the MYSA Treasurer with a **detailed** accounting of what amounts are protested and why. MYSA Treasurer may credit the club the amounts requested or some lesser amount upon a showing of good cause. If the MYSA Treasurer denies the request or some fraction thereof, the protesting club may request a review by the MYSA Board.
- F. Players and coaches must use their full legal name as it appears on the birth certificate, for all registration materials (middle initials are acceptable).
- G. This Association shall have first call on all players registered with the Association.
- H. Each coach, assistant coach, manager, and other bench personnel shall complete a registration form, obtain a Bench Pass, and be listed on the Official Team Roster generated out of this Association's registration platform. No more than four (4) persons may be rostered as Bench Personnel per team,

exclusive of club coaching authority or president. This Association will issue a Bench Pass for each person so listed and having met the following requirements.

No Bench Pass shall be issued to anyone who is either not a currently certified referee or has not instead completed an annual coaches or referee's online rules clinic administered by the SYRA. (Not applicable to recreational soccer).

***Failure to comply with these requirements will make the club/team ineligible unless granted a waiver from the Board of Directors.***

- I. A youth player must register each seasonal year in the State Association in which he or she resides with his or her parent(s)/guardian(s), or, for a student in resident at a boarding school, college, or university, the player may register in the state in which the boarding school, college, university, or division of the college or university is located. Any other questions of residency may be determined by the State Association in which the player is registered to vote or holds a current driver's license.
  
- J. Permission for play in other states:
  - 1) Any youth player wishing to play on a team of a member of a State Association other than MYSA where the player is registered, must receive written permission from:
    - a) MYSA and
    - b) the other State Association of the team on which the player wishes to play.
  - 2) Permission must be obtained each seasonal year. (See MYSA Policy 4-400)
  
- K. Age Documentation:
  - 1) Any player can be called upon to prove his/her legal age by the Board of Directors or by the Registrar.
  - 2) 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 the United States, a 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 or any other government issued document with date of birth listed. Hospital, baptismal, or religious certificates will not be accepted.
  - 3) A copy of a player's birth certificate or other proof of age documentation as defined by US Youth Soccer. Upon registrar's review of the proof of age document, that document shall be returned to

the player or shredded. No proof of age documents shall be kept on file, other than the uploading of the document into the player's GotSoccer profile in secured documents folder.

- 4) If and when requested by the MYSA office, proof of age documents shall be made available for review. If proof of age is requested by MYSA office or other authority, acceptable proof of age must be obtained, or the player may be disqualified which may affect the eligibility of the team.

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rules 201, 202, 204*

***Revised 8/8/2021***

# POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## **PART II**

### **CODE of CONDUCT**

## **Policy 2-000 - APPLICABILITY OF POLICY**

See MYSA Policy 1-000.

***Revised 01/23/2016***



## Policy 2-100 - ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, MARIJUANA AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

### Sec-1. Commitment

It is the policy of Montana Youth Soccer to provide an environment for its youth soccer players that is free of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and illegal drugs. Therefore, alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and illegal drugs are not to be at Montana Youth Soccer Events for youth soccer players. As an organization committed to providing a developmental, healthy, and safe environment, Montana Youth Soccer recognizes that the health of its youth players is paramount. It is the responsibility of the Competition Authority of Montana Youth Soccer events to ensure that this policy is strictly enforced.

### Sec-2. Definitions

- 1) "Alcohol" means any beverage or food item that contains a liquid produced by the fermentation of sugar or starch.
- 2) "Tobacco" means processed dried leaves typically, but not limited, for smoking.
- 3) "Marijuana" means the dried flowers and leaves of the cannabis plant, which can contain both mind-altering and non-mind-altering compounds and can be consumed by smoking, vaping, or ingesting.
- 4) "Illegal drugs" means those substances that are prohibited for sale or consumption by local, state, or Federal law, and may, in some circumstances, include controlled substances.
- 5) "Adult" in this Policy means an individual at least 21 years of age.
- 6) "Board of Directors" means the Board of Directors of Montana Youth Soccer.
- 7) "Montana Youth Soccer Event" means any soccer activity event or meeting hosted by Montana Youth Soccer or any of its Member Clubs, including but not limited to, practices, games, tournaments, Montana ODP, annual general meetings, Board of Directors meetings and committee meetings.

### Sec-3. Prohibitions

- 1) Alcohol and tobacco may not be displayed, used or provided at any Montana Youth Soccer Event that is primarily for youth soccer players.
- 2) Marijuana and illegal drugs may not be displayed, used or provided at any Montana Youth Soccer Event with no exceptions.

### Sec-4. Enforcement

- 1) Any person violating Section 3 of this Policy shall be immediately removed from the Event by the Montana Youth Soccer Competition Authority managing the Event.
- 2) The use of alcohol by adults at a Montana Youth Soccer Event may be allowed by the Board of Directors in its discretion (1) for a specified activity at a Montana Youth Soccer Event if the Event is not primarily for youth soccer players, and (2) in a designated area or areas that are away from areas of youth soccer players and any field of play or practice.

- 3) The use of tobacco by adults may be allowed at a Montana Youth Soccer Event by the Board of Directors in its discretion in a designated area or areas that are away from areas of youth soccer players and any field of play or practice.
- 4) If a person is removed from an Event for a violation of this policy, the party may appeal as provided in the Bylaws of Montana Youth Soccer.

#### Sec-5. Modification and Delegation

The Board of Directors may amend and waive provisions of this policy as appropriate on a case-by-case basis and may delegate its authority.

***Revised 01/31/2021***

## **Policy 2-200 – PROHIBITION OF DOGS AND ANIMALS AT FIELDS**

### **Sec-1. Commitment**

Montana Youth Soccer strives to provide the safest environment for its youth soccer players and all individuals in attendance at its Events. Therefore, dogs and all other animals are strictly prohibited from being near playing fields or within a field complex during a MYSA Event.

### **Sec-2. MYSA Event Examples**

- 1) Club Training Sessions
- 2) Club League Games
- 3) MYSA League Games
- 4) Club Tournaments
- 5) MYSA State Tournaments
- 6) ODP Training Sessions
- 7) All Other MYSA Sanctioned Activities

### **Sec-3. Prohibitions**

- 1) Dogs and all other animals may not be on the sideline of a playing field, within the boundaries of a field complex or in any area where soccer activities are taking place during a MYSA Event. The use of a leash does not absolve this prohibition.

### **Sec-4. Exceptions**

- 1) Service animals and service animals in training are permitted to attend MYSA Events as allowed by both Federal Law (ADA) and Montana Code Title 49. Human Rights, Chapter 4. Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Part 2. Rights of the Physically Disabled.
- 2) Animals not trained to perform tasks that mitigate the effects of a disability, including those used solely for comfort or emotional support, are not considered service animals by both Federal Law (ADA) and Montana Code Title 49. Human Rights, Chapter 4. Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Part 2. Rights of the Physically Disabled and are therefore allowed only in the parking lot during a MYSA Event if they remain leashed and under full control of the owner.

### **Sec-5. Enforcement**

- 1) Any person violating Section 3 of this Policy shall be immediately removed from the Event by a Montana Youth Soccer authority present at the Event such as a club official, field marshal, coach or referee.

- 2) Failure by a MYSA affiliate to enforce this Policy at their facility during a MYSA Event may result in disciplinary action which would include:
  - a) First Offense - \$250 fine
  - b) Second Offense - \$500 fine
  - c) Third Offense - \$1000 fine and possible suspension from MYSA activities
- 3) If a person is removed from an Event for a violation of this policy, the party may appeal as provided in the Bylaws of Montana Youth Soccer.
- 4) MYSA member clubs may be liable for any injuries or damages if an incident involving a dog or other animal occurs on the sideline of a playing field, within the boundaries of a field complex or in any area where soccer activities are taking place during a MYSA event.

***Revised 8/8/2021***

## **Policy 2-300 - FAVORITISM**

No official, club, league administrator or officer when acting in a position at any tournament, game, or competition, which requires neutrality, shall engage in any conduct which creates the appearance of favoritism.

***Revised 01/23/2016***

## Policy 2-400 - SPORTSMANSHIP

Individual clubs, their administrators, directors, and boards are responsible for the sportsmanship behavior of all players, coaches, parents, fans, and administrators, who are members of/or associated with individual teams or players of that club. Sanctions directed upon individual teams, players or coaches from that club may be applied to any or all teams, players or coaches from that club, if significant and satisfactory actions ARE NOT TAKEN by the club to eliminate UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR by their membership. Said Remedial Actions are to take place and be documented in writing to this Association.

A. UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR SHALL INCLUDE but not be limited to:

- 1) cheating, including
  - a) knowingly and continually breaking or attempting to circumvent the laws of the game;
  - b) teaching, condoning, or allowing players to knowingly and continually break or circumvent the laws of the game;
  - c) intentionally lying to referees, administrators, or other match/tournament officials concerning any matter related to the integrity of the game.
- 2) verbally directing comments to, or in the vicinity of, players from either team, coaches from team, referees, assistant referees, match/tournament officials intended to intimidate; insult; or distract any of them from the normal aspects of a match.
- 3) physically engaging in behavior intended to gain an unfair advantage in any match; intimidate, insult or distract any participant in a match.
- 4) assaulting non-verbally (gestures or spitting at or on) or verbally any official, player, coach, fan, or parent before during or after any match or tournament event.
- 5) battery of any nature directed at any individual before, during, or after any match or tournament event.
- 6) destruction of any property of any participant, official, fan, or parent before during or after any match or tournament event.

B. These above rules establish ethical violations, which are sanctionable by this Association. They are not intended to usurp or replace the directive regarding referee abuse, referee assault or assault by a referee as prescribed by US Soccer Federation

***Revised 8/8/2021***

## **Policy 2-500 – COACH MISCONDUCT**

Coaches who engage in unsportsmanlike behavior:

- A. Engage in UNSPORTSING BEHAVIOR, SERIOUS MISCONDUCT, ASSAULT (VERBAL OR PHYSICAL) OR BATTERY on referees, assistant referees, officials, other players or fans shall be guilty of IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR.
- B. Refusal to assist in the identification of players from their team who have participated in UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR; SERIOUS MISCONDUCT; ASSAULT (VERBAL or PHYSICAL) on a referee, assistant referee, officials, other players, or fans shall be guilty of IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR.
- C. Coaches, bench personnel and other team officials are reminded that they are authority figures for the players they are charged with teaching the game of soccer and must set a good example of sportsmanship and fair play. As such, their conduct must be at all times one of support and they must exhibit a positive and encouraging attitude. As such, their actions and behavior are held to a higher standard. Coaches and bench personnel must conduct themselves in a responsible manner at all times. If they do not, the referee, according to Law 12 (Fouls and Misconduct), may caution (yellow card) or send them off (red card) from the field of play and its immediate surroundings. This authority is granted to the referee under Law 5 of IFAB's Laws of the Game.
- D. See MYSA Policy 3-900(C) for Disciplinary Sanctions to be served by coaches.

***Revised 8/8/2021***

## **Policy 2-600 - REMOVAL of JERSEY**

If the removal or exchange of jerseys occurs for the purpose of hiding a player's identity from the referee or match/tournament officials, this action will be considered SERIOUS MISCONDUCT. This action will result in the offending player(s) and his/her team being suspended from the remainder of the match/tournament and is subject to such other penalties as determined in appropriate disciplinary proceeding.

If coach or bench personnel knowingly participates in this deception and/or fails to notify the referee, this action will be considered USPORTING BEHAVIOR (see MYSA Policy 2-400, (A)(1)(c)) and shall be guilty of IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR.

See MYSA Policy 3-900(C) for Disciplinary Sanctions to be served by coaches.

***Revised 01/23/2016***



## Policy 2-700 - MISCONDUCT TOWARD GAME OFFICIALS

**Misconduct Toward Game Officials in the Form of Referee Assault or Referee Abuse:** Montana Youth Soccer Association adheres to the following policy from the US Soccer Federation Referee Administrative Handbook for ALL MYSA events, competitions and leagues.

US Soccer Federation Policy 531-9 - Misconduct Toward Game Officials.

### Sec-1. General

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

### Sec-2. Rule Application

- 1) This policy shall supersede all rules of Organization Members that pertain to assaults or abuse upon US Soccer Federation referees, assistant referees, the manner and means of hearings, appeals, and re-hearings in matters pertaining thereto.
- 2) Nothing in this policy rule shall be construed to restrict or limit any league, event/tournament or State Association from applying equal or greater restrictions to anyone not listed in section 4(a)(1) of this Policy (i.e., spectator associated with a club or team.)
- 3) This policy shall not apply to players, coaches, managers, club officials, or league officials while participating in Professional League member activities.

### Sec-3. Terms and References

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

### Sec-4. Abuse

- 1) Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.
- 2) Abuse includes but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; or verbally threatening a referee.

- 3) Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as “I’ll get you after the game” or “You won’t get out of here in one piece” shall be deemed referee abuse.

#### Sec-5. Penalties and Suspensions

##### 1) Assault

- a) The player, coach, manager, or official committing the referee assault is automatically suspended as follows:
  - i) for a minor or slight touching of the referee or the referee’s uniform or personal property, at least three months from the time of the assault;
  - ii) except as provided in clause (c) or (d), for any other assault, at least six months from the time of the assault;
  - iii) for an assault committed by an adult and the referee is 17 years of age or younger, at least three (3) years; or
  - iv) for an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at last five (5) years.
- b) A State Association adjudicating the matter may not provide a shorter period of suspension, however, if circumstances warrant, may provide a longer period of suspension.

##### 2) Abuse

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

## Policy 2-800 - ZERO TOLERANCE

All clubs are to develop and adhere to a policy of Zero Tolerance for referee Abuse (and abuse directed toward anyone).

The purpose of such a policy is:

- 1) To establish an environment that is conducive to good sportsmanship. The game will benefit if respect is shown by and to everyone involved including referees, coaches, players of teams, parents and fans.
- 2) To establish an environment that is conducive to recruitment and retention of referees. Youth (young) referees are especially vulnerable to improper comments or behavior exhibited by coaches and fans.
- 3) To establish a policy that requires referee abuse in any form to be dealt with quickly and convincingly. Appropriate sanctions for improper behavior need to be established and enforced without exception.

In order for any policy or rule to be effective the total cooperation of Montana Youth Soccer Association and any affiliated clubs is required. Without such cooperation, there will continue to be great difficulty in the recruitment and retention of referees. Guidelines are already available and should be enforced by all Montana Youth Soccer Association affiliated clubs. Refer to the following:

- 1) USSF Referee Administrative Handbook.  
Policy 531-9 – Misconduct Toward Game Officials.
- 2) Montana Youth Soccer Association Administrative Manual. Policy 1-400(B)  
Policy 1-900(H)  
Policy 2-100 – Code of Conduct Other  
rules as they apply.

It is expected that everyone involved in Montana Youth Soccer Association activities will behave in a responsible manner. Please be aware of the following:

- 1) Youth soccer is a learning experience and mistakes are made by all involved.
- 2) Respect should be shown to all players, coaches, supporters, and officials.
- 3) Supporting a team does not give you the right to be rude or abusive.
- 4) Please respect the integrity and judgment of the officials and refrain from abusive, inappropriate actions or words.
- 5) Please behave in a manner that exhibits class and that would never cause Montana Youth Soccer Association or the embarrassment of its member clubs.

Montana Youth Soccer Association affiliated clubs are expected to hold on an annual basis:

- 1) Team meeting – coaches, bench personnel, players and parents in attendance.
  - a) Online Meeting to be led by the SYRA.
  - b) Meeting to be brief.
  - c) Topics to be addressed should include, but are not limited to:
    - i) Zero Tolerance
    - ii) USSF and Montana Youth Soccer Association guidelines
    - iii) Sportsmanship
    - iv) Proper behavior
    - v) The Letter of the Law vs. The Spirit of the Game
    - vi) Techniques to help maintain proper behavior.
    - vii) Any new interpretations of rules issued by IFAB that will pertain to teams competing in the upcoming season.
  - d) Behavior/Attendance form to be dated and signed by attendee
  - e) A club representative will be responsible for certifying with this Association they shared the Online Meeting information with their membership (coaches, bench personnel, players and parents) and instructed them to view the recording.

***Revised 8/8/2021***

## Policy 2-900 – IMPROPER RECRUITING

Anyone who benefits from recruiting can be found to be in violation of MYSA Improper Recruiting restrictions. Examples of such parties include but are not limited to clubs, coaches, players, team officials and parents of players. All parties are responsible for knowing and adhering to all MYSA standards regarding the Improper Recruiting of players from other member clubs.

- A. Once the registration process is complete between a player and a MYSA club, that player is registered and bound to that club for the remainder of the seasonal year unless he/she is granted a transfer. The MYSA seasonal year runs September 1 to August 31.
- B. Improper Recruiting shall be defined herein as any effort or activity whatsoever that could reasonably be construed as attempting to encourage, induce, entice or solicit a player registered with one club to transfer to another club. Improper Recruiting shall include any form of communication or action, whether written or verbal and whether by post, in person, electronically or by means of mass marketing.
- C. Improper Recruiting shall include but is not limited to the following:
  - 1) demeaning or degrading any club in any manner that may reasonably be construed as calculated to encourage any player or his or her parents to transfer from one club to another.
  - 2) marketing or promoting one club in a manner that may be reasonably construed as specifically targeting the players of another club.
  - 3) permitting any player to train, practice or play with one club while the player is duly registered with another club without the expressed written consent of the player's club.
  - 4) offering to any player or parents at any time any material goods, gifts, compensation or other inducement holding any intrinsic value.
  - 5) misrepresenting the potential benefits (e.g., college recruitment) to any player if that player should agree to register with a particular club.
  - 6) encouragement by the coach or anyone on behalf of the coach, of a team registered in one club to move to and register with a different club the following seasonal year.
- D. The Improper Recruiting standards shall apply to all coaches, all club administrators, all employees or staff, all players and all parents and any other relative of players. These standards shall also apply to any third party employed or utilized by any of the above to accomplish Improper Recruiting on behalf of any team or club.
- E. The recruitment of players between seasons (summer) as defined herein shall be limited as follows:
  - 1) No players or their parents shall be utilized in any manner to recruit players.
  - 2) No contact shall be made directly to any player under the age of 18 outside the presence or the player's parent or guardian.
  - 3) All contact and communications with a player shall cease immediately upon the request of the player and or the player's parent or guardian to do so.

F. Acceptable recruiting practices shall include, but shall not be limited to the following:

- 1) General public announcements, advertisements and promotional materials.
- 2) Direct communications by a club with players currently registered with the same club and their parents.
- 3) Direct communication to players who have not been registered with any club at any time during the current seasonal year.

G. Complaint, Determination of Violation and Appeal

- 1) Any Complaint of Improper Recruiting shall be filed with the MYSA Executive Director and must include supporting documentation in the form of witness statements, emails, correspondence or other written materials. MYSA shall submit such Complaint along with the supporting documentation to the party or parties accused of Improper Recruiting and give such part or parties ample opportunity to respond to the Complaint.
- 2) Thereafter MYSA shall make a determination as to whether it is more likely than not that the party or parties accused did engage in Improper Recruiting. MYSA shall communicate its decision to all parties involved and, if appropriate, shall assess whatever penalty or penalties it determines fair under the circumstances.
- 3) Should MYSA determine a party or parties has engaged in Improper Recruiting and therefore assessed any fine or penalty, such party or parties shall have the right to appeal MYSA's decision, at which time an Appeals Committee will be created.

H. Enforcement

- 1) Member clubs shall be held responsible to MYSA for any act or omission by their club officials in violation of the Improper Recruiting Policy whether or not any member of the governing board of the association had advance knowledge or opportunity to prevent the club official from a violation of this Improper Recruiting Policy. It is the responsibility of member clubs to ensure that their club officials are familiar with the Improper Recruiting Policy and to make it part of the terms of their employment that they not violate this Policy. Nothing herein is meant to prevent member clubs from internal discipline or correction of their club official if or when a violation should occur.
- 2) Club officials shall be held responsible to MYSA for violations of the Improper Recruiting Policy by any coach under their supervision or by any person associated with his/her club. It is the responsibility of member clubs to ensure that their club officials are familiar with this Policy.
- 3) Club officials of member clubs must report any violation of the Improper Recruiting Policy known to them to have taken place by any person in their association or by any other association to MYSA.

I. Penalties and Sanctions for Violation of Improper Recruiting.

- 1) Any coach or individual found to have Improperly Recruited any player or players in violation of this Policy shall be subject to suspension from participation in any MYSA sanctioned soccer event for a period of up to 3 years from the date of the violation for first offense and up to a life-time suspension for any subsequent violation.

- 2) For any violation of the Improper Recruiting standards set forth herein or official or anyone reasonably construed to be acting on behalf of the recruiting club, the club shall be assessed a fine of up to \$1,000.00 for the first offense and a fine up to \$5,000.00 for any subsequent offense.
- 3) The action of leaving MYSA membership by any coach, individual or club with an outstanding penalty or sanction assessed by MYSA for Improper Recruiting does not absolve the remaining penalties or sanctions assessed to them. Should such a coach, individual or club return to MYSA membership, their penalty or sanction will immediately be reinstated until the terms of the punishment are met.
- 4) If the Improper Recruiting occurred during an Olympic Development Program training session or event, the individual involved shall be subject to suspension from ODP involvement.
- 5) If the Improper Recruiting occurred during an Olympic Development Program training session or event, the individual involved shall be subject to dismissal from ODP involvement.
- 6) Any player recruited or solicited in violation of the Improper Recruiting Policy may be removed from the roster of the offending club's team for a specific period of time, including league games or state tournaments.

***New 07/12/2018***

## **Policy 2-1000 - RISK MANAGEMENT**

- Sec-1. A disqualification or other disciplinary action for violation of Risk Management policies imposed by MYSA against a person participating or seeking membership in a program of US Youth Soccer, MYSA, or a program of a member of a State Association shall be recognized by all member State Associations with US Youth Soccer.
- Sec-2. A Risk Management disqualification imposed by a State Association upon a prospective member who has been convicted of or is a defendant in litigation alleging that the person has committed a felony, crime of violence, or a criminal offense against a child shall be recognized by all State Associations upon proper notification to and by US Youth Soccer.
- Sec-3. The MYSA Board of Directors or its designee shall conduct a review or hearing before allowing membership with MYSA to any individual who has been disqualified or otherwise disciplined by another State Association for violation of its Risk Management policies. The review or hearing shall be limited to whether the conduct giving rise to the Risk Management action taken by the State Association constitutes a violation of the MYSA's Risk Management policies. Nothing herein shall prevent MYSA from disqualifying other prospective members in accordance with its own Risk Management policies.

***Revised 01/23/2016***



## **Policy 2-1100 – GOAL SAFETY**

Safeguards for Soccer Goals Include:

- A. Securely anchor or counterweight movable soccer goals at ALL times.
- B. Players shall not move goals.
- C. Coaches should always conduct a visual inspection of goals prior to all scheduled activities.
- D. Referees MUST conduct a visual inspection of goals prior to every game.
- E. The designated home team MUST rectify any goal related issues presented to them by the referee. The match may be delayed up to 15-minutes past its scheduled start time before the game is declared a 0-0 draw.

***New 8/8/2021***

# POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## **PART III**

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS and SANCTIONS**

**Policy 3-000 - APPLICABILITY OF POLICY**

See MYSAs Policy 1-000.

*Revised 01/23/2016*

## **Policy 3-100 - CLUBS PRIMARY DISCIPLINARY RESPONSIBILITY**

Clubs shall have the primary disciplinary responsibility in this association, but this association may invoke disciplinary process should MYSA find the club's process inadequate, or should it determine that the actions requiring discipline are a direct violation of a rule governing the relationship between a team, club, or member of this association and this association.

***Revised 01/23/2016***

**Policy 3-200 - NO PENALTY LESS STRINGENT**

Clubs shall adopt no penalties less stringent than contained in these Policies.

## **Policy 3-300 - ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS**

This association and its clubs may adopt administrative sanctions that may be imposed for violation of rules without hearing. The rules for which this association may adopt such sanctions shall be specifically set forth herein. It is understood however, that an administrative sanction may be appealed except in the situation where it is a discipline resulting from game ejections, accumulations of cautions and forfeitures due to improper registration or failing to appear or similar matters.

## **Policy 3-400 - ASSOCIATION PROCEDURES**

Upon reviewing evidence of a violation of this association's rules and/or bylaws, USSF bylaws/policies or US Youth Soccer Bylaws/Policies, the Director of the Competition or the Association President shall notify the offender of the violation and the penalty for such violation. The offender may, in his or her sole discretion, accept the penalty or file an appeal which shall be logged with the president of this association. In the event the president is the person originally issuing the decision, the appeal may be logged with the vice president of this association. Such an appeal shall be mailed within five (5) days of the date of the decision.

- A. A committee of the Board of Directors excluding the officer who issued the original decision, chaired by either the president or vice president of this association shall hear the disciplinary hearing. A majority of the remaining members of the board present in person or by telephone shall constitute a quorum to hear the matter.
- B. The officer issuing the original decision shall prosecute the action.
- C. The accused shall be entitled to have legal representation or such other representation as he or she deems appropriate present at the hearing, but such representative shall supply advice directly to the accused and not participate in the examination witnesses, cross examination witnesses, presentation of evidence or argument.
- D. A record of the preceding shall be kept through a tape recording. Any affected party may at its cost secure the services of a court reporter. The chairman shall determine the official record.
- E. Within five (5) days of receipt of the request for hearing, the chairman shall assure that all parties have copies of the basis for the original determination, and a request for hearing. He/she shall in writing notify the parties that they have ten (10) days in which to deliver to him/her and exchange all written exhibits and a list of witnesses with a brief summary of what each witness shall state. The chairman shall also set a date for the hearing which shall occur not more than thirty (30) days after the request for hearing unless waived by both parties.

***Revised 01/23/2016***

## **Policy 3-500 - DEFINITION OF APPEAL**

An appeal is a review of a decision made by a subordinate body (for example, the club) or administrator. An appeal must be based upon the subordinate body's or administrator's violation of a Bylaw, a rule, the charters or Policies of this association, US Soccer Federation or US Youth Soccer. An appeal may not be conducted with respect to a fact determination by a game official, tournament official, subordinate body or administrator except if it is established there was no evidence from which the original decision could have been made. Further, the appeals committee shall not have the authority to make a fact determination contrary to the original fact determination provided there was any evidence to support the original determination.

***Revised 04/16/2005***



## **Policy 3-600 - APPEALS COMMITTEE**

A committee of the Board of Directors, excluding the officer who issued the original decision, if any, chaired by either the president or vice president of this association shall hear the appeal. A majority of the remaining members of the board present in person or by telephone shall constitute a quorum to hear the matter. It shall be determined that there are no less than three (3) disinterested directors in attendance. With consent of the parties, the president of this association may appoint a committee of five (5) disinterested club presidents to hear the matter in lieu of the Board of Directors.

## Policy 3-700 - FILING AN APPEAL

The sanctioned party may file an appeal which shall be logged with the president of this association or, in the event the president is the person originally issuing the decision, with the vice president of this association. Such an appeal shall be mailed within five (5) days of the inclusion of the event causing the appeal. The complaining party at the same time shall deliver a copy of the appeal to the person or body whose action is being appealed.

- A. There shall be no protest on the referee's factual interpretation. (See Law 5). Protest of an action in a game must be called to the referee's attention either at halftime or at the conclusion of the game and the referee shall include the existence of a protest and the team making the same in his/her report.
- B. Contained in the notice of appeal shall be the following:
  - 1) all documents relating to the decision made below which are in the possession of the complaining party;
  - 2) copies with references thereto in the text of the appeal of all rules, Bylaws, or Policies which are claimed to have been violated;
  - 3) a check in the amount of \$100 payable to this association; and
  - 4) a short, plain statement of why the complaining party is entitled to relief and the specific relief sought.
- C. Within five (5) days of the service of the notice of appeal with all attachments, the party originally issuing the decision shall submit all documentation which supported the determination of his/her decision, a summary of all interviewed the witnesses, and any other pertinent material supporting the determination.
- D. The officer issuing the original decision shall prosecute the action.
- E. The accused shall be entitled to have legal representation or such other representation as he or she deems appropriate present at the hearing, but such representative shall supply advice directly to the accused and not participate in the examination witnesses, cross examination witnesses, presentation of evidence, or argument.
- F. A record of the preceding shall be kept through a tape recording. Any affect party may at its cost secure the services of a court reporter. The chairman shall determine the official record.
- G. Within five (5) days of receipt of the request for hearing, the chairman shall assure that all parties have copies of the basis for the original determination, and a request for hearing. He/she shall in writing notify the parties that they have ten (10) days in which to deliver to him/her and exchange all written exhibits and a list of witnesses with a brief summary of what each witness shall state. The chairman shall also set a date for the hearing which shall occur no more than thirty (30) days after the request for hearing unless waived by both parties.

H. At the conclusion, the evidence the committee shall render a written decision which shall be mailed to the parties within five (5) days of the conclusion of the hearing. This notice shall include a notification of the appeal rights to US Soccer Federation

## **Policy 3-800 - AUTHORITY OVER APPEALS**

Authority over both appeals and discipline occurring during a tournament shall be delegated to the appeals and discipline committee(s) of that tournament whose decision with respect to the tournament shall be final. Such a tournament committee may recommend further disciplinary action to the association disciplinary committee who shall then assume jurisdiction over any further disciplinary activities.

***Revised 01/23/2016***

## Policy 3-900 - DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

The sanctions indicated below are automatically applied and it is the responsibility of the club, the team, all coaches and administrators for either the team or the club to assure that the penalty is served. Failure to invoke the penalty may result in further sanctions against the penalized party and sanctions against the club, the team, and any and all of their administrators or coaches.

### A. Rules which invoke an automatic penalty and the penalty:

- 1) The receipt of three (3) cautions during a playing season or a tournament, unless stipulated otherwise in the particular tournament rules, shall require the player to sit-out one game. Thereafter, upon the receipt of two (2) additional cautions during the same season or tournament, the player shall sit-out a second game OR the applicable penalty as stipulated in Policy 2-700 – Misconduct Toward Game Officials, whichever is appropriate. It is understood that if a player receives an ejection as a result of receiving two (2) cautions in a single game, the second caution of a match that led to the ejection shall NOT be counted as part of the accumulation of cautions since it resulted in a sit-out already. All required sit-outs MUST be served during the next scheduled league/tournament game(s) within that division.
- 2) The receipt of an ejection shall require the player to sit-out the remainder of the present game and the entire next game. Upon the second and third ejections in any season or tournament, the player shall be required to sit-out the remainder of the game being played when the ejection was received and an additional two (2) and three (3) game, respectively. An additional ejection or caution received after the third ejection shall suspend the player from the remainder of the present game and for the remainder of the seasonal year OR the applicable penalty as stipulated in Policy 2-700 – Misconduct Toward Game Officials, whichever is appropriate. All required sit-outs MUST be served during the next scheduled league/tournament game(s).

B. Cautions and/or Ejections received at out of state tournaments: Players, coaches, and/or bench personnel receiving cautions/ejections at out of state games/tournaments requiring game sit-outs MUST sit-out the next scheduled corresponding game(s). If the penalty was received in the team's last game of that specific event, the sit-out shall be served at the next scheduled Montana Youth Soccer Association league/tournament game(s). Incurring a penalty out-of-state does not relieve the team member from serving the proper penalty.

C. Coaches or Bench Personnel who are dismissed from a match shall be automatically suspended from the next two games scheduled and played under US Youth Soccer Affiliation and competition for which they are rostered, OR the applicable penalty as stipulated in Policy 2-700 – Misconduct Toward Game Officials, whichever is appropriate. All required sit-outs MUST be served during the next scheduled league/tournament game(s) within that division. Upon receiving a second dismissal during a season the coach or bench personnel shall miss the next four scheduled league/tournament matches played under US Youth Soccer Affiliation and competition for which they are rostered, OR the applicable penalty as stipulated in Policy 2-700 – Misconduct Toward Game Officials, whichever is appropriate. Said coach cannot participate in any other division matches as well. Sit-out

requirements will carry over to the next season if they have not been fulfilled by the end of the season. If coach or bench personnel should receive a third dismissal the coach or bench personnel shall be temporarily suspended for the remainder of the existing season and the next season pending review by both the club for which he/she participates in as well as MYSA.

- D. Documentation of Sit-Outs: It shall be the coach's responsibility to see that all sit-outs by players, coaches, and/or bench personnel shall be documented by the center referee of the game for which the sit-out occurs

# POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## **PART IV**

### **PLAYERS and TEAMS**

## **Policy 4-000 - APPLICABILITY OF POLICY**

See MYSA Policy 1-000.

***Revised 01/23/2016***



## **Policy 4-100 - TEAMS PRIMARY CONDUCT RESPONSIBILITY**

Each team shall be responsible for the conduct of its managers, coaches, players, club members, etc. and it is the responsibility of each team to ensure that its actions on and off the field do not bring disrespect upon this Association. [Please review CODE OF CONDUCT – Policy Section 2].

## **Policy 4-200 - INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCES**

Montana Youth Soccer incorporates the following:

US Soccer Federation and FIFA have international clearance requirements and procedures for players coming to United States to play soccer. Consult US Soccer Federation about those requirements and procedures.

The failure of a player to obtain the international clearance or to follow the procedures referred to in above section of this rule does not 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 US Soccer Federation provides otherwise.

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rule 207*

## Policy 4-300 - AGE & GENDER CLASSIFICATIONS

### A. AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

- 1) The term “youth” as applied to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations shall mean an amateur player who has not attained his/her nineteenth birthday on or after August 1st of the current seasonal year. This “youth” shall be allowed to compete during the seasonal year.
- 2) All clubs, unless otherwise sanctioned by the Board of Directors of this Association, or by the appropriate director of the competition which the club engages, shall divide play among teams of equal age groupings as follows and all competition will adhere to these age classifications:

Season	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
<b>Birth Year</b>									
<b>2020</b>									
<b>2019</b>									
<b>2018</b>									
<b>2017</b>									
<b>2016</b>									U9
<b>2015</b>								U9	U10
<b>2014</b>							U9	U10	U11
<b>2013</b>						U9	U10	U11	U12
<b>2012</b>					U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
<b>2011</b>				U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
<b>2010</b>			U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
<b>2009</b>		U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
<b>2008</b>	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
<b>2007</b>	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
<b>2006</b>	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
<b>2005</b>	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
<b>2004</b>	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19		
<b>2003</b>	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19			
<b>2002</b>	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19				
<b>2001</b>	U16	U17	U18	U19					
<b>2000</b>	U17	U18	U19						
<b>1999</b>	U18	U19							

- 3) For any age group not specifically listed, the player must have reached the age listed for that competition no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### B. GENDER CLASSIFICATION

- 1) US Youth Soccer and MYSA recognize two types of team genders:
  - a) Teams with females only are girls’ teams.
  - b) All other teams are boys’ teams.

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rules 103 & 104*

## Policy 4-400 – PLAYER TRANSFERS

- A) A transferred player shall become eligible to play for the new team upon receipt of the new player pass and the name being added to the STATE Roster Form.
- B) Any team which, through its responsible officials, officers, or representatives, attempts to induce a registered player of any team, under the jurisdiction of this Association, to leave his/her team before the end of the current seasonal year shall be deemed to have committed an offense of unsporting behavior and be subject to the disciplinary process of this association.
- C) Within the State of Montana: A player desiring to transfer from one team to another must secure the following prior to the transfer being completed.
  - 1) Within a club: The President or Registrar for the club shall notify in writing on a form prescribed by the state association that the player has been transferred, and upon receipt of the new player pass, the transfer shall be deemed completed. The player's signature, or his/her parent's signature and his/her signature if a minor, shall also be required on the form prescribed by this association.
  - 2) Between Clubs: The President or Registrar for each of the clubs, the coach of the team receiving the player, and the coach of the team transferring the player, shall notify in writing on a form prescribed by the state association that the players has been transferred, and upon receipt of a new player pass the transfer shall be deemed completed. The player's signature, or his/her parent's signature and his/her signature if a minor, shall also be required on the form prescribed by this association.
  - 3) Transfer to a Team outside of Montana: A registered Montana player desiring to transfer to a team of another state association shall deliver to the president of this association an application on a form prescribed by the association, signed by his/her club registrar or president, himself/herself or himself/herself and his/her parents or guardians if a minor, along with the signature of the club president or registrar from the team to which he/she wishes to transfer and the coaches from both affected teams. Upon approval of the president of this association, the player must secure that permission from the state association (not the club or local league) before he/she is officially eligible to play for such association. A copy of this permission from the foreign state association must be sent to the president of Montana Youth Soccer Association within 10 (ten) days of receipt.
  - 4) For an inter-club transfer, a player is deemed registered with a team when he/she submits a duly signed registration form in any seasonal year, regardless of whether he/she has been rostered on a team. The seasonal year runs from September 1 to August 31st. If the club is unable to form a team for the player in his/her age bracket, the provisions shall not apply.
  - 5) Transfer to a Montana team from a team outside of Montana: Prior to registering, a player from a foreign state association must deliver to the president of Montana Youth Soccer Association on such form as prescribed by this association his/her consent to his/her transfer signed by the president of the state association from which he/she is transferring in addition to the signatures required under (C)(3) above.
  - 6) NCS Maximum Transfers: Pursuant to National Championship National Rule 221, Section 2, no team may have more than five (5) transfers during a seasonal year. The term transfer shall include the

adding of a previously rostered player to a roster for any different team, whose roster has at least 16 players upon registration, or the removal of a player from a team. (Coaches are advised to check with MYSA on current interpretation of this rule)

***Revised 01/23/2016***

## Policy 4-500 – GUEST PLAYERS

Certain tournaments and competitions allow guest players. This rule applies only to those situations and guest players are not allowed unless the rules of the competition or tournament specifically so provide.

- A. A guest player is defined as a player who is rostered on a different team than the team for which he/she will play in the tournament or competition.
- B. Within a Club (Club Pass): The President or Registrar for the club shall signify in writing on a form as prescribed by the state association that the player is allowed as a guest player for a specific competition or tournament. The player's signature, or his/her parent's signature and his/her signature if a minor, shall also be required on the form prescribed by this association.
- C. Between Clubs (Secondary): The President or Registrar for each of the clubs, the coach of the team receiving the player, and the coach of the team transferring the player shall signify in writing on a form as prescribed by the state association that the player is allowed to be a guest player for a specific competition or tournament. The player's signature, or his/her parent's signature and his/her signature if a minor, shall also be required on the form prescribed by this association.
- D. Guest Player on a Non-Montana Team: A player registered in this state and desiring to play as a guest player for a specific competition or tournament on a team from another state association shall deliver to the president of this association an application on a form prescribed by the association, signed by his/her club registrar or president, himself/herself and his/her parents or guardians if a minor, along with the signature of the club president or registrar from the team for which he/she wishes to play and the coaches from both affected teams. Upon approval of the president of this association, the player must secure the permission from the foreign state association (not the club or local league) before he/she is eligible to play for such association. A copy of this permission from the foreign state association must be sent to the president of Montana Youth Soccer Association within 10 days of receipt.
- E. Guest Player to a Montana team from a Non-Montana Team: Prior to playing as a guest player for a team registered in this state, a player from a foreign state association must deliver to the president of Montana Youth Soccer Association on such form as prescribed by this association the consent to have him/her playing as a guest player on Montana team signed by the president of the state association in which he/she is registered. Montana shall accept the consent and the President of this association shall signify consent on the form unless there is risk management or discipline issues which the President determines are detrimental to this association or its players. Such a determination may be appealed to the Board of Directors.

The forms prescribed above shall be submitted with all tournament or competition rosters and all requests for permission to travel.

## Policy 4-600 - ROSTER LIMITATIONS

- A. Except as otherwise provided, every team shall have an Official State Roster and will present a Game Roster for every match or competition.
- B. The Team Roster shall be approved by MYSA. Unless specified in a separate Policy for a League or a Tournament, roster limits are as follows:
  - 1) 10U teams may not have more than 14 or fewer than 6 players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
  - 2) 11U-12U teams may not have more than 18 or fewer than 7 players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
  - 3) 13U and older teams may not have more than 22 or fewer than 7 players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
- C. The Game Roster shall be prepared by the team/club, authenticated by MYSA and submitted to the competition authority at a time designated by that authority. Every player listed on the Game Roster must be included on the Team Roster to be eligible to participate with the team except for tournament competitions that may accept Guest Players. Unless specified in a separate Policy for a League or a Tournament and in conjunction with Section B of this Policy, Game Roster limits are as follows:
  - 1) 11U-12U teams may designate the entirety of their Team Roster, up to 18 players, to their Game Roster. Teams shall have at minimum 7 present players on the Game Roster before a game may start.
  - 2) 13U and older teams may designate up to 18 players to their Game Roster. Teams shall have at minimum 7 present players on the Game Roster before a game may start.

***Revised 07/12/2018***

## **Policy 4-700 - PLAYING WITH PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS**

Because the following is allowed by both US Soccer Federation and US Youth Soccer, the following rules apply:

- A. Any player signing a “letter of intent”, a professional contract, or playing with a professional team without the permission of the Board of Directors of this Association shall be declared a professional player and shall lose all privileges of youth amateur status and not be permitted to reinstate to youth amateur status.
- B. The Board of Directors may grant a youth amateur permission to play in benefit or exhibition games only where professional players are involved. Permission must be requested and granted in writing.
- C. Senior Trial Games:
  - 1) A youth player will be permitted to play an unlimited number of senior games without losing his/her youth eligibility. The youth player must obtain permission from his/her youth coach or other authorized team official. The youth coach or other authorized team official shall, in writing or by form, request eligibility clearance from the State Youth Association. The youth coach or other authorized team official must, in writing or by form, request permission from the State Senior Association. When the above clearance and permissions have been granted, the State Senior Association has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play senior games and will be responsible for establishing the procedures under which this will be implemented.
  - 2) All youth playing for a senior club without the above-described clearance and permissions shall be declared ineligible for youth games. Any youth team using such an ineligible player shall forfeit all games in which that player took part by a score of 1-0.



## **Policy 4-800 - PLAYING IN ADULT LEAGUES**

A. A youth player may play an unlimited number of adult games without losing his/her youth eligibility. The youth player must notify his/her youth coach or other authorized team official of the player's intention to play adult games. The youth player shall request, in writing:

- 1) eligibility clearance from MYSA, and
- 2) permission from the appropriate Adult State Association. When the clearance and permission have been granted, the Adult State Association has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play adult games and will be responsible for establishing the procedures under which the youth player will be allowed to play. In the event of a conflict between an adult game and a youth game, the youth game shall take precedence. A youth player who is required to sign an adult form shall retain youth eligibility.

B. Youth Teams.

- 1) A youth team with the written permission and mutual consent of both the Youth and Adult State Associations may play in an adult-approved league and not lose its youth eligibility to compete in the US Youth Soccer National Championships competitions. If the youth team's players are required to sign an adult form, the team shall retain its youth eligibility.
- 2) The youth team will be required to play under the rules of MYSA concerning registration, roster rules, transfer rules and any additional qualifications that are required to be eligible for the US Youth Soccer National Championships competitions. Whether participation in any adult league shall qualify a youth team for the US Youth Soccer National Championships competitions play shall be determined by MYSA.

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rule 208*

**Revised 01/23/2016**

## Policy 4-900 - ODP

- A. Except as provided by Section B of this Rule, a player wishing to try out for the Montana Olympic Development Program (ODP) may only try out and be selected for the Program through the State Association in which the player may be registered under this Policy.
- B. A player given permission to play in a State Association other than where the player is registered, may request written permission to try out for the Montana Olympic Development Program of that other State Association. To be eligible to try out in that other State Association, the player must receive written permission from:
  - 1) The State Association where the player is registered; and
  - 2) The other State Association where the player wishes to tryout.
- C. A player may only try out for the Olympic Development Program in one State Association. A player is responsible for all Montana Olympic Development Program fees of the State Association in which the player tries out.

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy on Players and Playing Rules – Rule 203*

- D. The following list shall be used in the event there is a scheduling conflict for a Montana ODP player with their MYSA affiliated club team. Items on the top of the list shall be regarded as the highest priority.
  - 1) National ODP events (e.g., training, games, camp or showcase)
  - 2) Far West ODP events (e.g., training, games, camp or showcase)
  - 3) Far West Region games and/or events
  - 4) Montana State Tournament games
  - 5) Montana ODP Sub-Regional event
  - 6) Montana Competitive League game
  - 7) Tournament with MYSA affiliated club team
  - 8) Montana ODP friendly game
  - 9) Montana ODP State training
  - 10) Montana ODP State tryouts
  - 11) MYSA affiliated club team training
  - 12) MYSA affiliated club team tryouts
  - 13) All other soccer activities

**Revised 07/12/2018**

## **Policy 4-1000 - PLAYING FRIENDLY GAMES AGAINST NON-US YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION TEAMS**

### **Affiliated MYSA teams may play “friendly” games with Non-US Youth Soccer teams provided:**

- A. MYSA is notified by email of all games when scheduled.
- B. A certified referee crew is assigned to work all games. A U.S. Soccer Federation certified Referee crew is assigned by a certified assignor to work all games, including friendlies.
- C. The Non-US Youth Soccer team’s club is affiliated with another US Soccer Federation affiliate.
- D. All players on the Non-US Youth Soccer team are registered and in good standing with their club.
- E. The Non-US Youth Soccer team has an active roster and set of player passes.
- F. When hosting a MYSA team, the Non-US Youth Soccer team must provide a certificate or proof of liability insurance for their facility.

Revised 8/12/23

## **Policy 4-1100 - PLAYING ON NON-US YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION TEAMS**

A Player may register and play for any team even if the same is not affiliated with US Soccer Federation or US Youth Soccer. But, this association, its insurers, US Soccer Federation and US Youth Soccer are not responsible for the player registering with a non-affiliated team for or during any practices or competition or travel to any practices or competition with respect to such team. Players and their parents are advised to assure themselves of insurance coverage and risk management protection by or through the non-affiliated team.

## **Policy 4-1200 - MULTIPLE ROSTERING**

### **A player may play on as many teams as he/she desires provided:**

- A. The Player may not play in more than two (2) games on any day. All coaches using the player are responsible for this rule and will be subject to discipline up to and including suspension for such use of the player. The player may also be subject to discipline including suspension.
- B. The Player must appear on all rosters and be issued a card for each team.
- C. The registration of the player must include a primary team and all others are to be considered Club Pass or Secondary teams.
- D. The membership on two (2) or more teams within a club must be approved by the club registrar. The membership on two (2) or more teams from different clubs must be approved by MYSA. Such approval will not unreasonably be withheld.
- E. A player may not play on more than one (1) team in the same age division of the same league or on more than one (1) team at any tournament.

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rule 206*

## **Policy 4-1300 - IMPROPER USE OF PLAYERS**

The improper use of a Player Pass or Roster issued by this association for a player to play with any team not authorized with this association, unless as provided above, shall constitute a falsification of records and subject the parties including the player to a suspension of not less than one (1) seasonal year nor more than two (2) seasonal years.

A team shall forfeit each game of the team in which

- A. an unregistered player was with the team at the game in a uniform, or
- B. a player was improperly entered on the team's roster.

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rule 209*

***Revised 01/23/2016***

## **Policy 4-1400 – PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

A player may not use any equipment not authorized by the Laws of the game when participating in soccer activities.

Casts or hard arm/wrist braces must be fully covered with ½” non-compressing foam or another padding material. Approval of the covering from the center referee must be granted prior to the match. The referee has full authority to approve or deny the player from playing if they deem it unsafe. Knee braces do not require this covering so long as the brace has not been modified from the manufacturers intended design.

***Revised 8/8/2021***

## **Policy 4-1500 - PERMISSION TO TRAVEL AND HOST TOURNAMENTS AND GAMES**

Permission to travel and host tournaments and games is as provided by the US Youth Soccer and MYSA Travel and Tournament Policy.

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rule 401*



# POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## **PART V**

### **APPLICATION of PLAYING RULES**

**Policy 5-000 - APPLICABILITY OF POLICY**

See MYSAs Policy 1-000.

## Policy 5-100 – HEADING RESTRICTIONS

### Prohibitions, Limitations and Permissions

- A. All players in the 10U age group and younger are prohibited from heading the ball during all soccer activities.
  
- B. All players in the 11U and 12U age groups are prohibited from heading the ball during games.
  - 1) However, these players may head the ball on a limited basis during practice. Heading training for players in 11U and 12U programs shall be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers per player, per week.
  - 2) All coaches should be instructed to teach and emphasize the importance of proper techniques for heading the ball.
  - 3) In the event a player, in the discretion of the referee, intentionally heads the ball during a game the referee shall immediately stop play and award the opposing team an indirect free kick.
  - 4) The rules of play at the 12U age group shall not be modified from prohibiting players younger than a true 12U to head the ball.
  
- C. All players in the 13U through 19U age groups are permitted to head the ball freely with no limitations during any soccer activities.

***Revised 01/27/2020***

## **Policy 5-200 - DEVIATION OF PLAYING RULES**

Clubs or Leagues who desire to deviate from the playing rules as set forth later herein, must secure the written permission of the Director in charge of such competition. Should the Director decline to give such permission, the matter may be appealed to the Board of Directors of this association whose decision on the issue shall be final.

## **Policy 5-300 - CLUB/LEAGUE COMPETITION RULES**

All clubs or leagues shall provide to the appropriate director of their competition copies of any competition rules which are the rules of their club or leagues at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the playing season each year. The director of the appropriate competition shall review the rules and advise the clubs if they are in deviation from the playing rules provided herein and are therefore not valid and need to be deleted unless permission for the deviation is granted pursuant to Policy 5-200.

## **Policy 5-400 - US YOUTH SOCCER RULES**

Except as provided by US Youth Soccer or MYSA, the IFAB “Laws of the Game” apply to all competitions sponsored by US Youth Soccer. Players 10 years of age and under may play soccer in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer’s Development Player Program – Modified Playing Rules for Under 10, Under 8 and Under 6. MYSA mandates that US Youth Soccer’s Development Player Program – Modified Playing Rules shall also apply to teams Under 12, 11 and under as per Policy 5-100.

US Youth Soccer mandates State Associations may not approve games involving teams 10 or younger, unless those games are conducted with not more than 8 players on each side.

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rule 301.*

## Policy 5-500 - PLAYING AGE

Playing Up. A player participating on a team beyond the player's birth year age group.

- A) It is the Policy of MYSA that all players compete at a level they are capable of physically, emotionally and developmentally.
- B) Players between the 8U age group and the 15U age group shall be permitted to play up two (2) age groups if approved by the player's club and a parent/legal guardian.
  - 1) Players in the 11U age group and the 12U age group that play up at or beyond the MYSA approved competition heading age of 13U shall be permitted to head the ball in competition while on a team in the 13U age group or older with the approval of the player's club and a parent/legal guardian via a special consent agreement.
  - 2) Clubs may petition MYSA to allow an exception for players between the 11U age group and the 15U age group to play beyond these limits if approved by the player's club and a parent/legal guardian.
  - 3) Clubs may not petition MYSA to allow an exception for players between the 8U age group and the 10U age group to play beyond these limits. MYSA will not accept play up petitions for players in these age groups.
- C) Players at the 16U age group and older may play up to the 19U age group if approved by the player's club and a parent/legal guardian.
- D) Clubs shall keep an appropriate record for each play up they approve.

Playing Down. A player participating on a team below the player's birth year age group.

- E) Clubs may petition MYSA to allow an exception for players to play down one (1) age group on a younger Academy, Classic or Select team at the 11U age group or older.
- F) Clubs may not petition MYSA to allow an exception for players to play down on a Premier team. MYSA will not accept play down petitions for players to join Premier teams.

**Revised 01/30/2022**

## **Policy 5-600 - GAME PLAY WITH NON-MEMBERS**

- A. The US Youth Soccer and MYSA Board of Directors or its designee may grant temporary permission to a regional or US Youth Soccer team to participate with a team of an organization that is not a member of US Soccer Federation or FIFA. In granting that permission, the Board or its designee shall ensure that all US Youth Soccer and MYSA requirements have been met, including insurance requirements.
  
- B. MYSA may grant temporary permission to a State Association team, or to a team of a member of the State Association, to participate in games with a team of an organization that is not a member of US Soccer Federation or FIFA. In granting that permission, the State Association shall ensure that all US Youth Soccer and MYSA requirements have been met, including MYSA insurance requirements.
  
- C. Temporary permission under this rule may not be given for more than a period of one seasonal year. Permission may be renewed.

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rule 106*

(See also MYSA Policy 4-1000)



# POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## **PART VI**

### **LEAGUES**

## **Policy 6-000 - APPLICABILITY OF POLICY**

League Competitive Rules shall remain in effect unless modified in a section specific to each set of League rules. These rules apply to all Premier, Select, Classic and Academy Divisions and the National Championships, unless a rule is specifically addressed to a particular League. Recreational leagues shall provide a set of rules for that particular league approved by the Director of Recreational or Developmental Soccer.

(See also MYSAs Policy 1-000)

***Revised 01/23/2016***

## Policy 6-100 – GENERAL RULES of COMPETITION

This Association may provide for specific rules in addition to the following for competitions sponsored by this association. Clubs or groups of clubs forming a league may provide supplemental rules for competitions sponsored by that club or league, but such rules must be approved by MYSA.

These rules of play shall govern all competitions sanctioned by this association unless one of the exceptions stated in this rule applies.

- A. The rules of Play shall be the “Laws of the Game” as published by U.S. Soccer Federation IFAB with those modifications (approved by U.S. Youth Soccer) or stated herein. All Contests sanctioned by this Association shall abide by the “IFAB Laws of the Game” and modifications as published and by this Association. These rules apply from the time the Referee enters the general playing area at the beginning of a match until the officials have left the general playing area following the end of play for a sanctioned match. (Policy 5-400)
- • The designated home team shall wear their dark light uniforms (jersey and socks) and the designated away team shall wear their light dark uniforms in all matches. Where colors of uniform jersey and socks are similar, the designated home team must affect a change to colors that are distinct from those of the opponent. Goalkeepers must wear a jersey color that is distinguishable from the other players and officials. Goalkeepers’ socks may be the same as their own team but must be distinct from their opponent. Shorts or pants are excluded from these requirements.
  - • The uniforms and player's apparel shall conform to the “Laws of the Game”. No jewelry of any kind shall be work during play.
  - • Numbered Jerseys: All Players shall wear like colored jerseys, numbered on the back in a contrasting color, with each player having a different numbered jersey. These jerseys, except with the consent of the Referee, shall not be removed or exchanged until the completion of the match and the Referees have left the field and the general playing area. The players’ numbers shall be given to the referee prior to the match on an **unmodified** “OFFICAL STATE ROSTER”. Failure to abide by these rules makes the offending player(s) ineligible for the competition.
- B. The designated home team shall wear their light uniforms and the designated away team shall wear their dark uniforms in all matches. Where colors of uniform jersey and socks are similar, the designated home team must effect a change to colors that are distinct from those of the opponent.
- C. The uniforms and player's apparel shall conform to the “Laws of the Game”.
- D. Numbered Jerseys: All Players shall wear jerseys numbered on the back in a contrasting color, with each player having a different numbered jersey. These jerseys, except with the consent of the referee, shall not be removed or exchanged until the completion of the match and the referees have left the field and the general playing area. The players’ numbers shall be given to the referee prior to the match on an

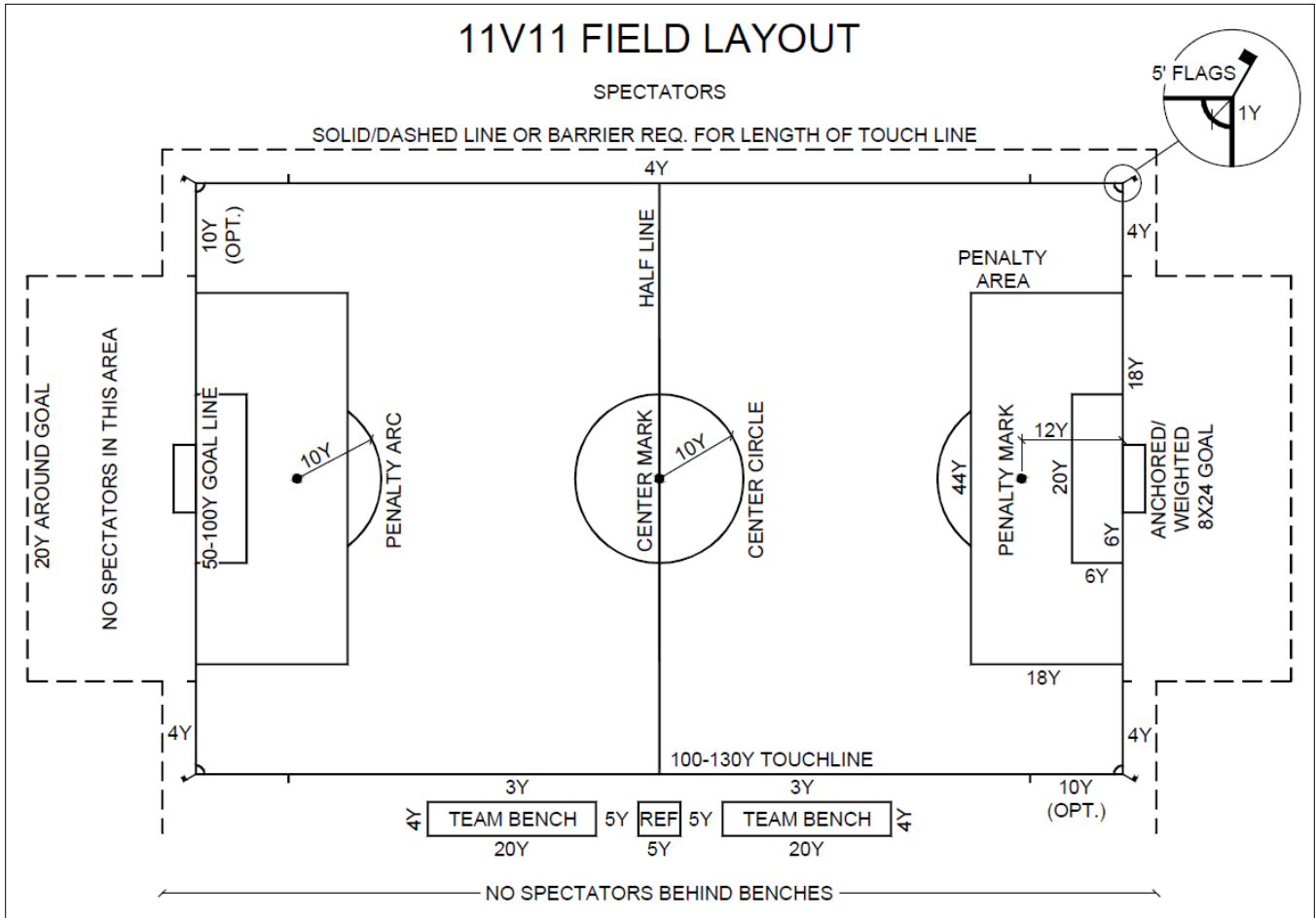
**unmodified** "OFFICIAL STATE ROSTER". Failure to abide by these rules makes the offending player(s) ineligible for the competition.

- E. Coaching from the sidelines is permitted. This is governed by the Decisions of the International F.A. Board, Law 5, July 1995, decision 14 and IFAB Law 1.9. **This is to be coaching by ONE PERSON stepping to the edge of the technical area and giving TACTICAL directions and STEPPING BACK TO HIS/HER BENCH.** Constant yelling or violating the code of conduct is PROHIBITED.
- F. Matches shall be played on regulation sized soccer fields that meet the minimum size requirements and do not exceed the maximum size requirements.

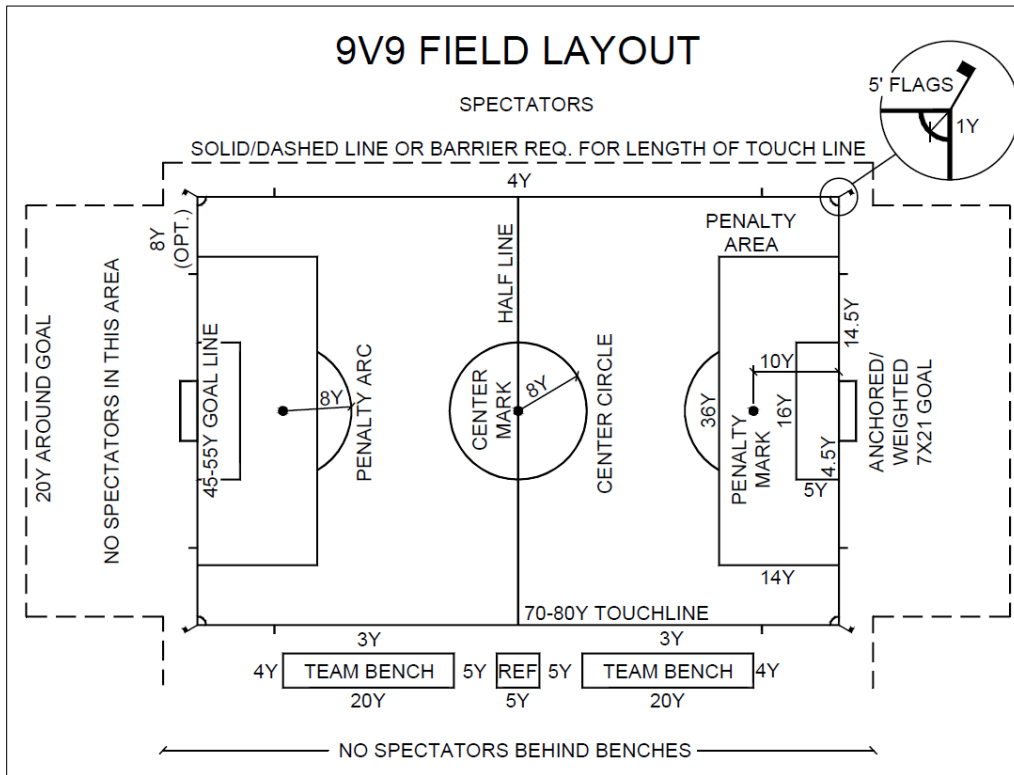
Field of play must include the appropriate markings. Painted markings are required by the Host Club for each field to designate the Technical Area and Spectator Area as they are defined below.

- 1) Technical Area: Coaches, players, and bench personnel, including a Club Director or President, are restricted to their team side "Technical Area" and may not leave the area at any time. The technical area is defined as that area being three (3) yards behind the touch line beginning ten (10) yards from the halfway line extending twenty (20) yards towards the goal line. Players to be substituted into the game shall wait one (1) yard off the field at the touch line and the halfway line. If there is no technical area marked, the referee may designate an area in order to assist in match management.
- 2) Spectators Area: Spectators are restricted to the "Spectator Area" which is recommended to be four (4) yards behind the touch line but required to be no less than three (3) yards from the touch line for the length of the field. As an alternative, Host Clubs may institute a spectator or restraining barrier which must be the required minimum of three (3) yards from the touch line and run the length of the field. In addition, spectators shall not watch the game from or remain behind the goal line and net during games at a distance closer than 20 yards.
- 3) Field Diagrams

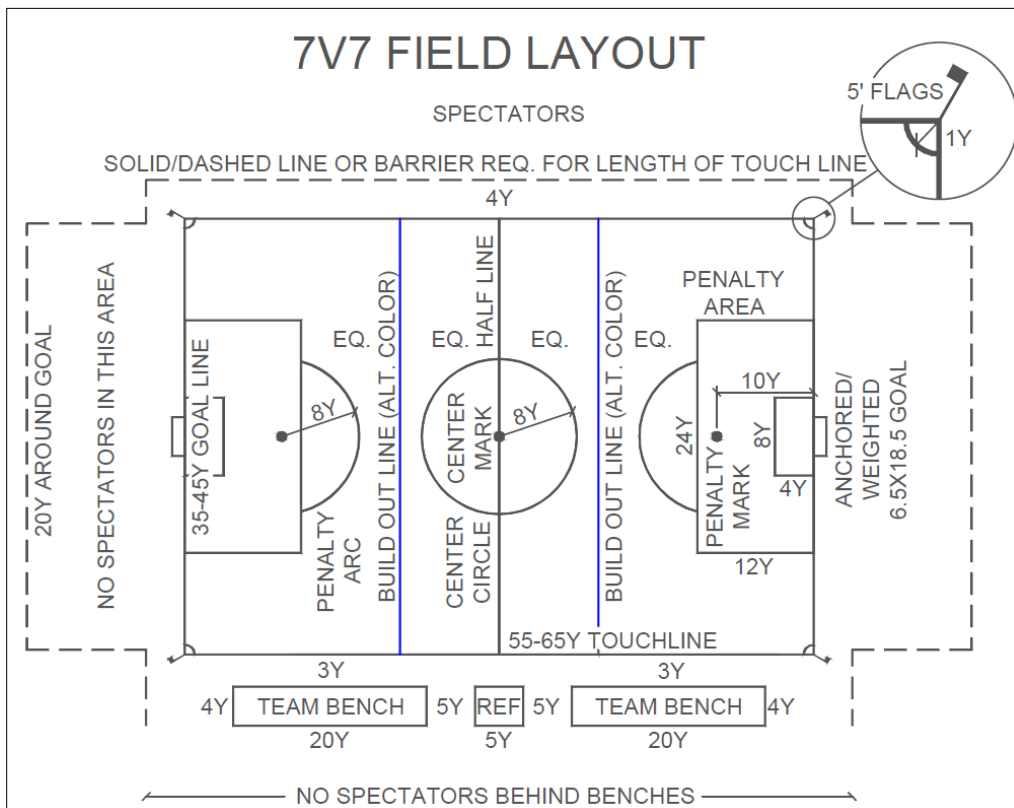
11v11 Field:



9v9 Field:



7v7 Field:



- 4) If certain fields cannot be painted with Technical Area and Spectator Area markings in accordance with this Policy, the Host Club shall clearly mark the areas with cones.

Failure by the Host Club to provide the required markings of these areas will result in a \$50 fine for each field out of compliance per game day, unless prior approval is provided by MYSA. Teams from clubs with an outstanding balance towards fines at the time of their qualified Montana State Tournament will be deemed ineligible to participate in the event.

- G. Field Marshals: The home club shall supply designated field marshal(s) for all sanctioned league, tournament and friendly games. The field marshal(s) shall have authority, upon request of the center Referee, to eject any person from the playing and/or spectating area. Any person removed from the field of play must remain out of sight and sound of the match for the duration of the match and 30 minutes following the match.
- H. No referee, coach, substitute, player or spectator is to make derogatory remarks or gestures or to use profanity directed at the coaches, referees, other players, substitutes, or spectators.
- I. No referee, coach, assistant coach, manager, substitute, player, or club official is to incite, exhibit, or condone, in any manner, unsportsmanlike or disruptive behavior during, prior to, or after any match.
- J. It is the coach's responsibility to see that his/her team's fans spectators behave in a proper and respectful manner. Matches may be suspended by the Referee to ask the coach(es) to police spectator behavior. Failure to do this may result in the match being abandoned. See policy 3-1000.
- K. It is the coach's responsibility to provide complete, accurate and timely team documentation for the event. This includes but is not limited to:
  - 1) an **unmodified** "Official State Roster" signed by a "State Registrar"
  - 2) accurate Player and substitute numbers
  - 3) all coaches and bench personnel that will be in the technical area
  - 4) documentation for team suspensions
  - 5) any such other information as deemed necessary by MYSA
- L. Should the match be delayed by a team for more than 15 minutes due to any of the above the match will be deemed a forfeit by the offending team and subject to the appropriate sanctions. The coach of each team shall present the referee with the team's original STATE ROSTER (Team roster form with coach, bench personnel and players) If a player is injured, cautioned or sent off, the referee shall include the action in his/her report. If a player is sitting out a mandatory suspension, the referee will so note on the

GAME CARD. The referee shall sign and date the form and return it to the coach. The form and copy shall include all the players' and bench personnel's names, pass numbers, and if applicable, jersey numbers so that they may be identified. **IT IS THE COACH'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSURE THE REFEEE HAS NOTED ALL SIT OUTS.**

M. Players may be substituted only during a stoppage of the game according to Law 3. The number of substitutions shall be unlimited unless a competition superseding the jurisdiction of this Association or section specifically determines otherwise – (Example: US Youth Soccer NCS Qualifying Premier League Matches). Both teams are allowed substitutions at any stoppage of play only with the permission of the referee. The substitute enters the field of play after the player being replaced has left and after receiving a signal from the referee. This applies to all competitive levels unless specified otherwise – See MYSA Policy 6-300(5).

N. Whenever the Referee authorizes a coach/bench trainer personal to enter the field to attend to an injured player (excluding the goalkeeper or field player who has been injured in a collision with the goalkeeper, and both are injured), they player **MUST** leave the field and **MAY** be substituted. If not substituted, the injured player may only re-enter the field from the nearest touch-line after the match has restarted and only with the permission of the Referee. Referees are reminded that the safety of the players comes first and decisions regarding injuries should be based upon age of players and level and speed of competition. The referee should **ALWAYS** error on the side of player safety.

O. Exceptions to this rule are:

P. 1) a goalkeeper is injured

2) a goalkeeper and an outfield player have collided and need attention 3) players from the same team have collided and need attention

4) a severe injury has occurred

Q. 5) a player is injured as the result of a physical offense for which the opponent is cautioned or sent-off, if the assessment/treatment is completed quickly

6) a penalty kick has been awarded and the injured player will be the kicker

R. In any case, neither a substitute nor anyone else may enter the field of play until the rReferee signals permission for the substitute(s) and or team personnel to enter. It is strongly recommended that the rReferee follow the mechanics for substitution as outlined in Law 3.

S. The length of games, overtime periods, and ball size for each age group shall be as follows:

Division	Game Length	Overtime Periods	Ball Size
11U-12U	Two 30-min. halves	Two 10-min. halves	#4
13U-14U	Two 35-min. halves	Two 10-min. halves	#5
15U-19U	Two 40-min. halves	Two 15-min. halves	#5

All halftime intervals shall be 10 minutes unless referees and both coaches agree to shorten.

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rules 105, 302, 303, 304*



**The rules below apply to MYSA Competitive League play and not recreational soccer unless otherwise stated.**

- T. If it is determined a game must be terminated due to inclement weather and/or unsafe field conditions and one half of the game has been completed prior to termination, the results of the game at the time of termination will stand and the game will not be replayed.
- U. Games that result in a forfeiture will be scored 1-0 in favor of the non-forfeiting team.
- V. Any team that fails to play a duly scheduled game shall be deemed to have forfeited that game. The referee shall grant a team up to 15-minutes after the scheduled start time to have the minimum number of players required to start/play a match before determining the team to be a no-show. The referee shall submit a game report with no score and a full detail of the times at which the game was called. If a game is started with the minimum number of players and additional players show, they are permitted to play and should report to the referee to be checked in.
- 1) The forfeiting team will be responsible for submitting a detailed explanation to MYSA within 48 hours after the game as to why they did not play the game.
  - 2) If an explanation is not provided in a timely manner or MYSA determines the forfeiting team acted in bad faith by failing to play the scheduled game, the following penalties will be applied:
    - i the team will lose eligibility in any MYSA State Tournament and
    - ii the team's club will be fined \$500 due to MYSA within five (5) business days.
- W. Requirements for Player's Pass and use. Pass must contain a current (within two (2) years) photo or may be declared unofficial by the referee.
- 1) All players shall present their player passes to the referee before the start of the game.
  - 2) All passes are to be returned to the coach or manager of the team after checking in the players.
- X. Player/bench personnel not in possession of documentation: No player or bench personnel shall be allowed to participate in any match without presenting official identification and being **properly** listed on an **unmodified** "Official State Roster". No coach or club shall attempt to cause such an occurrence and no Referee shall allow such player person on the field of play or in the technical area. Should there be a difficulty in processing passes a letter signed by an MYSA official may relieve a player from the pass/roster requirement. These letters are issued for processing problems at the State Association or similar difficulties and not because of late or incomplete registrations.
- 1) If a player does not present a player pass to the referee and cannot be identified by official government documentation prior to the game, that player may not participate in that game.

- 2) If a player plays in a game and is not properly registered as explained above, the team shall automatically forfeit that game and may face further disciplinary action by this Association, depending upon the nature of the violation.

***Revised 8/12/23***

## Policy 6-200 - ELIGIBILITY

- A. The eligibility rules for league play are determined pursuant to the state eligibility rules for coaches and players found in these rules and the national rules regarding qualification for the National Championship Series (NCS). These rules shall apply except that the Board of Directors for Montana Youth Soccer Association may, at the Annual summer meeting, waive any or all of these rules as to the Non-Premier League.
- B. Each team at each competition shall submit a roster in a manner determined by MYSA on or before the date set by MYSA. This deadline may be waived by the State President at his/her discretion as long as the waiver applies equally to all teams in the division of play and does not conflict with any US Youth Soccer policies. There shall be no changes on the roster after the deadline. Failure to submit a complete/accurate roster ***shall cause the team to forfeit the right to participate in the league.***
- C. Each team participating in the league will submit, where designated by the deadline set by MYSA, a team information containing the following:
- 1) A complete roster with sufficient detail for each referee at each game to be potentially played;
  - 2) Registration information for each player and coach including medical release;
  - 3) Proof of birth (age) including if appropriate, the government certified birth certificate of each player or such other proof as acceptable under the stricter of the National or Regional rules for National Cup Play or a photocopy of the same;
  - 4) The player passes arranged in alphabetical order with the coaches passes placed before the first player on a ring;
  - 5) A disclosure contact phone numbers for the team's coach and club representative along with the information required in Section 6 below.
  - 6) A designation of a team representative if other than the coach to receive notifications from, this shall be in writing and include contact phone numbers where the designate can be reached. If this designation is not included the coach shall be deemed the team's representative;
  - 7) Certification from the team's club registrar or state registrar that the players on the roster have been properly registered "Official State Roster", that the documents discussed above have been properly placed in the team book and that the club/state registrar has reviewed the documents and certifies that they are correct; and
  - 8) A team is not eligible to compete in a post-season MYSA Tournament unless the forgoing rules are adhered to. Should the material required to be included in the book not be present at the time of the credentials check in for a post-season MYSA Tournament, or the coach not appear at the mandatory coaches meeting, the team shall be declared ineligible. The League may level a fine up to the amount of the league fee for late arriving books or failure of the coach to attend

the mandatory meeting, but such fine need not be paid if the team withdraws and does not participate in the league.

- D. Each team scheduled into the MYSAs League play must have one (1) Grassroots or higher referee capable of being an assistant referee (AR) on its own game if needed. If only one AR is needed on the match the home team listed on the game card is responsible to fill the position. If two ARs are needed each team will provide one.
- E. Penalty: If a team fails to provide a certified Grassroots referee when requested a forfeit may occur. Either team may provide two Certified or Club ARs to prevent a forfeit.
- F. A team that commits to one of the leagues herein discussed and does not appear or appears with faulty credentials will forfeit their league fee and not be allowed to participate as well as other sanctions MYSAs deems appropriate.

***Revised 8/8/2021***

## Policy 6-300 – ADDITIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE RULES

- 1) **All qualifying Premier teams are required to adhere to the National Championship Series rostering rules.**
- 2) Premier League A winners in each age and gender will qualify and be required to represent MYSA at the Regional Event of the association's choice (Far West Regionals or Presidents Cup). A fine of **Seven Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$7,500.00)** will be assessed to the qualifying team/club should the team not attend the Regional Event of the association's choice.
- 3) Each team participating in the Premier League A will deliver prior to the date set by MYSA on a form prescribed by MYSA, their agreement that should they win the league they shall participate at the Regional Event of the association's choice. The club President or Director in addition to the coach shall sign this form.
- 4) No team 12 and under will be eligible to qualify for or to compete in Regional Events.
- 5) Scoring for League Table
  - a) Seeding point system utilizing the following point system:
    - i) 3 points for a win
    - ii) 1 point for a draw
    - iii) 0 points for a loss
    - iv) no additional points for goals scored or for shutouts
  - b) Tiebreakers

If more than two teams are tied, the below sequence will be followed until a team is eliminated/advanced. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at Point ii immediately below until the tie is broken.

    - i) Head-to-head winner (not used if there are more than two teams tied)
    - ii) Winner of most games
    - iii) Goal differential (max 4 per game)
    - iv) Fewest goals allowed
    - v) Lowest card accumulation (yellow card = 1 point, red card = 2 points)
    - vi) Most away goals
    - vii) Kicks from the penalty mark

Divisions of Two. If teams in a two-team division are tied for points after the second game, the following tiebreakers will be utilized to determine league winner:

- i) Goal differential (max 4 per game)
- ii) Kicks from the penalty mark at site of second game

- 6) The uniforms and players' apparel shall conform to the IFAB rules.
- 7) All other rules, except as stated in this section, shall conform to IFAB irrespective of the different provisions for seasonal play. The time limits for periods shall be in accord with the limits set for each age divisions in section 7-100.

***Revised 02/8/2019***

## Policy 6-400 – IN-STATE GAME REQUIREMENTS

Select, Classic and Academy teams which participate in the state sponsored leagues are expected to play in all scheduled games. Teams should play in at least four (4) weekends or eight (8) games in state competition with the weekends to be set by the Board of Directors. Teams may rearrange games if it is mutually agreeable and have notified MYSA. Select or Classic teams, which are formed late may be granted exemption from this rule. In addition, the Board of Directors or a committee approved by the Board, may reduce the number of games required in a particular division if, in their discretion, they determine it is for the good of the game. This action must be taken at or before the March meeting of the Board of Directors.

A. Clubs may form teams in the following age groups:

- 1) 11U
- 2) 12U
- 3) 13U
- 4) 14U
- 5) 15U
- 6) 16U
- 7) 17U
- 8) 18U
- 9) 19U

B. At 13 and above no more than eighteen (18) players may dress out for any tournament or game (Policy 4-600).

- 1) In the Select division, to promote fair play and allow for games when less than full teams are present, if one team is unable to field a team of 11 players, then the opposing team **MAY** play with the same number of players.
- 2) In the Classic division, to promote fair play and allow for games when less than full teams are present, if one team is unable to field a team of 11 players, then the opposing team **MUST** reduce to equate and play with the same number of players

## Policy 6-500 – COACHING LICENSES

Coaches in each of the following divisions must obtain at minimum and hold the following USSF licenses, or hold their United Soccer Coaches, UEFA or other equivalencies:

### A) PREMIER

- 1) Head Coach 1st year – USSF E License or
  - a) 1 online Grassroots Module (USSF F License counts as 1 online Grassroots Module)
  - b) 2 in-person Grassroots Modules, one of which must be the 11v11 Grassroots Module
- 2) Head Coach 2nd year – USSF D License
- 3) Assistant Coach 1st year – USSF E License
  - a) 1 online Grassroots Module (USSF F License counts as 1 online Grassroots Module)
  - b) 2 in-person Grassroots Modules, one of which must be the 11v11 Grassroots Module
- 4) Assistant Coach 2nd year – USSF D License

### B) SELECT/CLASSIC

- 1) Head Coach 1st year – Online 11v11 Grassroots Module
- 2) Head Coach 2nd year – USSF E License or
  - a) 1 online Grassroots Module (USSF F License counts as 1 online Grassroots Module)
  - b) 2 in-person Grassroots Modules, one of which must be the 11v11 Grassroots Module
- 3) Assistant Coach 1st year – Online 11v11 Grassroots Module
- 4) Assistant Coach 2nd year – USSF E License
  - a) 1 online Grassroots Module (USSF F License counts as 1 online Grassroots Module)
  - b) 2 in-person Grassroots Modules, one of which must be the 11v11 Grassroots Module

### C) 10U-12U (Academy)

- 1) Head Coach 1st year – Age-appropriate online Grassroots Module
- 2) Head Coach 2nd year
  - a) 1 online Grassroots Module (USSF F License counts as 1 online Grassroots Module)
  - b) 2 in-person Grassroots Modules, one of which must be the 11v11 Grassroots Module
- 3) Assistant Coach 1st year – Age-appropriate online Grassroots Module
- 4) Assistant Coach 2nd year
  - a) 1 online Grassroots Module (USSF F License counts as 1 online Grassroots Module)
  - b) 2 in-person Grassroots Modules, one of which must be the 11v11 Grassroots Module

Each coach shall submit satisfactory proof of the attainment of his/her license as a condition of receiving a coach pass. The MYSA Technical Director shall keep a listing of all coaches and their licenses.

**Revised 02/8/2019**



## Policy 6-600 – LEAGUE FEES

The League Fees as set by the Board of Directors is to be paid to the State Treasurer prior to play in the Leagues.

- A. League Teams that have registered, paid the league fees and have been scheduled will not be eligible for a refund of their league fees.
  
- B. If a team does not show for a game, that game will be recorded as a 1-0 win for the other team and the following fines will be assessed:
  - 1) For the first offense (i.e., no show for one (1) or more of a set of games), a fine in the amount of the league fee will be assessed to that team. Non-payment of the fine will prevent the team from participating in future MYSA sanctioned events or matches until payment has been received. If the fine remains unpaid prior to the subsequent season, the club shall not be permitted to register players for that season until the fine is paid.
  - 2) For the second offense, a fine in the amount of the league fee will be assessed. In addition, a team is not permitted to participate in any MYSA tournament for this season. Nonpayment of the fine will prevent the sponsoring club from participating in future MYSA sanctioned events or matches until the fine has been paid. If the fine remains unpaid prior to the subsequent season, the club shall not be permitted to register players for that season until the fine is paid.
  - 3) The exception to this rule is if weather prohibits travel and/or play. It is the responsibility of the traveling team to contact the hosting team prior to the day's games to determine if weather will prohibit safe travel and make other necessary arrangements. If for some reason due to weather, a match cannot be played, the home team must make every effort to notify the traveling team(s) of such condition before the time for them to normally start travel.
  - 4) A committee made up of the SYRA, President and Director of Competition shall review each fine assessment and may waive the fines for good cause shown.
  
- C. Delaying the Start of a Schedule Game: Any team delaying the start of a schedule game more than fifteen (15) minutes without the sanction of the proper authority shall forfeit the game to the opponent by a score of 1-0. In the event both teams do not show up for a scheduled game and the referee rules the match playable, both teams shall be assessed with a loss.

## Policy 6-700 – 12 and Under

### *Montana Youth Soccer 9v9 Official Laws for 11 and 12 teams:*

Laws conform IFAB, US Youth Soccer, and Montana Youth Soccer Association except as provided below:

A. The Field:

- 1) Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 90 yards nor less than 70 yards and its width not more than 55 or less than 45 yards. The length in all cases shall not exceed the width.
- 2) Markings:
  - a) Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide
  - b) A halfway line shall be marked across the field
  - c) A center circle with an eight (8) yard radius
  - d) Four (4) corner arcs each with a three (3) foot radius
  - e) Goal area: Six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
- 3) Goals: Seven (7) feet high and twenty-one (21) feet wide.

B. The Ball: Size Four (4)

C. Team Structure: For both 11U and 12U Competitive teams, when a club can form multiple teams in an age group, there must be openly publicized registration information and procedures. Clubs may use any reasonable process to assure compliance with the rule.

D. Number of Players:

- 1) The maximum number of players on the field at any one time is nine (9), including the Goalkeeper;
- 2) the minimum number of players on the field is six (6); and
- 3) the maximum number of players on the Team and Game Rosters shall not exceed 18 – See MYSA Policy 4-600.

E. Players Equipment: – See MYSA Policy 4-1400

F. Substitutions: – See MYSA Policy 6-100(M)

- G. The Referee and Assistant Referees – See MYSA Policy 6-900
- H. Duration of the Games – See MYSA Policy 6-100(N)
- I. Start of Play: Opponent must be eight (8) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.
- J. Fouls and Misconducts: No cautions or ejections shall be issued to players except by an independent neutral referee.
- K. Free Kicks: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before the kick is allowed.
- L. Penalty Kicks: Opponents by be ten (10) yards away before kick is allowed.
- M. Corner Kicks: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.

***Revised 07/12/2018***

## Policy 6-800 – RECREATIONAL LEAGUE RULES

### *Montana Youth Soccer 7v7 Official Laws for 10 and under teams:*

Laws conform IFAB, US Youth Soccer, and Montana Youth Soccer Association except as provided below:

#### A. The Field:

- 1) Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 70 yards nor less than 50 yards and its width not more than 45 or less than 35 yards. The length in all cases shall not exceed the width.
- 2) Markings:
  - a) Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide
  - b) A halfway line shall be marked across the field
  - c) A center circle with an eight (8) yard radius
  - d) Four (4) corner arcs each with a three (3) foot radius
  - e) Goal area: Six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
- 3) Goals: Six (6) feet high and eighteen (18) feet wide.

#### B. The Ball: Size Four (4)

C. Team Structure: For 10 and under recreational teams, when a club can form multiple teams in an age group, there must be an open publicized registration; and the clubs will divide the players into equal strength teams. Clubs may use any reasonable process to assure compliance with the rule.

#### D. Number of Players:

- 1) Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is seven (7), including the Goalkeeper
- 2) Minimum number of players on the field is six (6)
- 3) Maximum number of players on the roster shall not exceed fourteen (14) with only ten (10) in uniform at any game – See MYSA Policy 4-600.

E. Players Equipment: – See MYSA Policy 4-1400

F. Substitutions: – See MYSA Policy 6-100(M)

G. The Referee and Assistant Referees – See MYSA Policy 6-900

- H. Duration of the Games – See MYSA Policy 6-100(N)
- I. Start of Play: Opponent must be eight (8) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.
- J. Fouls and Misconducts: No cautions or ejections shall be issued to players except by an independent neutral referee.
- K. Free Kicks: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before the kick is allowed.
- L. Penalty Kicks: Opponents by be ten (10) yards away before kick is allowed.
- M. Corner Kicks: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.

Rules as They Apply to Recreational Clubs and their Competitions General Provision - The rules herein are applicable to all recreational programs. To allow experimentation and development, recreational programs may establish separate rules for small-sided games, handicapped, or other developmental programs. In addition, clubs may have more stringent rules. All club rules must be submitted to approval the Director of Developmental or Recreational Soccer prior to being effective. A. Roster, Team Selection:

- 1) Each club shall establish a certified roster form so as to guarantee that only registered players who are assigned to a particular team play for that team. The use of player pass cards is optional.
  - 2) Teams shall be established without try-outs and players shall be assigned in a manner related to geography or school.
  - 3) Any selection process which is based on skill or talent must be approved by the Director of Developmental Soccer. Such a process must further the goals of recreational soccer to foster skill, play, and enjoyment of the game in lieu of “winning”.
  - 4) A player not appearing on the roster shall not play.
  - 5) The Board of Directors, Montana Youth Soccer Association, Director for Developmental Soccer, or the appropriate officials of a club (as to only its own members) may require proof of age from any player.
- N. Playing One Half of Each Match: Except for disciplinary actions or medical constraints, each recreational player shall play at least ½ of each match. In recreational soccer, neither scores nor shall standings be kept except in tournament competitions.

## Policy 6-900 – RULES AS THEY APPLY TO THE REFEREE

The SYRA shall oversee all assignments of officials to all matches at his or her discretion.

Grievances against officials shall be delivered in writing to the SYRA and the State MYSA President, but such grievances shall not change the outcome of a game unless such decision is one that is subject to review by the Protest and Appeals committee. If the grievance is such that could result in a change of the game's outcome, in addition to the actions called for herein compliance with the protest and appeals procedure must be followed.

- A. All competitions shall be officiated by three currently certified USSF Referees. The referee team shall use The Diagonal System of Control (DSC) for Montana Youth Soccer Association sanctioned games. If three (3) currently US Soccer Federation certified referees are not available for a match, the center certified referee shall appoint club assistant referee(s). Games shall not be played if the center referee is not currently certified.
- B. The referee shall verify the identity of the player with the player pass. The referee shall review the passes of those players who are to participate in the game. The referee must ALLOW NO PLAYER INTO THE GAME FOR whom the player has no pass, or whose name does not appear on the referee report form, unless the player has received a signed letter from the State Director of Competitive Soccer, State Registrar, or Executive Administrator excusing the need for a pass.
- C. All referees will file a report for every scheduled game of the season. The report must be submitted to the proper authorities within 48 hours (holidays excluded) of the game according to MYSA's reporting system. In cases when a player has been cautioned or ejected from the game, or injured and does not return to the game, the referee will provide a thorough and specific description of the event on their report. Referees must also submit written reports of all coach/ bench personnel dismissals, within 48 hours (holidays excluded) of the game according to MYSA's reporting system.
- D. In the event of a forfeited game, the game report must be properly completed and submitted to the proper authorities within 48 hours (holidays excluded) of the game time according to MYSA's reporting system.
- E. Referees responsible for a late start of a game, or who fail to submit their game reports on all games within 48 hours of the game, may be disciplined by the proper authority. Referees may, at any time, be called upon by the proper authority to explain their reports.
- F. 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 conduct of the game and to those prerogatives granted to the referee by the "Laws of the Game" as published by IFAB, shall not be challenged. The State Youth Referee Administrator may, after reviewing a game report, remove misconduct, if in his/her opinion, the facts as stated in the report DO NOT warrant the misconduct.

G. Referees shall not cause a player to change equipment or uniform or disqualify the player solely because the player:

- 1) wears sweatpants or running tights which in the opinion of the referee pose no threat of injury to the player or other players;
- 2) wears bicycle pants, sliding pants or tights (full length) that do not match the predominant color of the shorts or match other such pants on the player's team;
- 3) wears tights, bicycle pants or other "under garments" that extend below the bottom of the soccer shorts.
- 4) Referees shall not require that undershirts, including those with long sleeves, be the same for all member of a team unless in the referee's opinion an undershirt which is clearly visible will cause confusion as to which team the player belongs

## **Policy 6-1000 – PROTEST AND DISCIPLINE**

- 1) This Association shall honor the disciplinary rulings against players from out of State Associations attempting to register with this Association.
- 2) No State Association official, club, team, referee, or player may invoke the aid of any lawyer or the courts of any state or the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within this organization.
- 3) The Discipline Committee Association shall be composed of the Board of Directors of this Association and the League Administrator and is referred to herein as the Discipline Committee. This committee will also resolve all questions involving League play.
- 4) For misconduct cards, MYSA shall follow the policy set forth below as it exists of this date or is later amended. For the minimum penalties applied under these rules, there shall be no appeal.
- 5) If the Discipline Committee invokes any of the minimum penalties provided herein, there shall be no notice given. However, should the Committee determine that an additional penalty is necessary, notification will be made to the team representative by direct contact or leaving a message at the phone number left if the team's disclosure at registration. That penalty may be appealed no later than one (1) hour before the next game or by 12:00 noon the day after the notification is given, whichever occurs first.



## Policy 6-1100 – MANDATORY SANCTIONS

A. YELLOW CARDS AND CAUTIONS All misconduct shall conform to IFAB Laws of the Game. Yellow Cards (Cautions):

- 1) Yellow cards shall not be carried into the tournament, but fines (if applied) shall be paid before a player is eligible to compete.
- 2) A player accumulating three (3) yellow cards during play will be required to sit out one game of the League or Tournament the player received the cards in. Thereafter each two (2) yellow cards will require an additional sit-out. A player earning a sit out in a Premier match cannot serve that suspension by sitting out in a Select or Classic league League game or club sponsored or a non-premier Premier League friendly or tournament or State tournament.
- 3) These cards are to be kept by the League/Tournament Administrator and there is no appeal of the sanction. The SYRA shall when reviewing the misconducts have the authority to lift a misconduct that has not been properly reported or for which the improper sanction has been awarded. This ruling cannot be sought, nor can a review of this ruling be sought.

B. Ejections: (Send Offs) Red Cards (Send-Offs):

- 1) FOUL OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE or gestures, Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct or committing a second cautionable offence after receiving a caution. If the ejection send-off is for committing the second cautionable offense, receiving a second cautionable offense in the same match, only the first yellow card gets counted in the accumulation of yellow cards.
- 2) APPLICABLE SANCTION: Suspension for the remainder of the game without substitution in play plus the next following game. Sit Sit-outs for a send-off in a Premier League match must be sat out served in the next scheduled Premier League match or applicable tournament. A player earning a sit out in a Premier League match cannot serve that suspension sitting out in a Select or Classic league League game or club sponsored or non-premier state tournament. Suspended players do not need to be present at a match to server a sit-out suspension. MYSA reserves the right to levy additional game suspensions.
- 3) Misconduct of Coaches or Team Officials:  
Coaches or team officials who have been treated for misconduct shall have a penalty equal to that provided for the player for the same offense plus one additional game, **except the Premier League or State NCS Tournament**. In Premier, two additional games will be assessed.

4) The SYRA shall, when reviewing red cards, have the authority to lift a red card that has not been properly reported, or for which the improper sanction has been awarded. This ruling cannot be sought, nor can a review of this ruling be sought. In Lieu of a Red Card and for the good of the game, the SYRA may recommend to MYSA that two yellow cards be placed on record instead of the red card. Should the player or bench personnel accumulate 3 or more yellow cards as a result of this conversion, the applicable suspension still listed above shall apply.

**C. All suspensions received in Premier leagues Leagues or Tournaments must be served in Premier Events.**

● Offensive or Racial Comment Accusation Reports:

- 1) There is no place in the game, youth or otherwise, for offensive or racial comments and they will not be tolerated.
- 2) In the event that a Referee receives a report or accusation of offensive or racial comments made by a player, substitute or bench personnel to any other player or bench personnel, and the comment was not observed by a member of the Referee crew, thus cannot be sanctioned with a Red Card, the follow protocols shall be followed:

The Referee shall meet with head coaches of both teams and the accused at mid-field and the touch-line where they will inform all parties that an accusation has been made that was not observed by any member of the Referee crew.

The Referee will inform all parties that the name/number of the accused and the exact language will be entered into the official game report and submitted to MYSA.

MYSA will keep record of any accusations. If a pattern of reported behavior is observed, MYSA reserves the right to levy suspensions, up to and including, suspension from all MYSA play.

- 1) FOUL OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE or gestures, Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct or committing a second cautionable offence after receiving a caution. If the ejection is for committing the second cautionable offense, only the first yellow card gets counted in the accumulation of yellow cards.
- 2) APPLICABLE SANCTION: Suspension for game without substitution in play plus the next following game. Sit outs for a sendoff in a Premier match must be sat out in the next scheduled Premier match or applicable tournament. A player earning a sit out in a Premier match cannot serve that suspension sitting out in a Select league game or club sponsored or non-premier state tournament.
- 3) Misconduct of Coaches or Team Officials:

Coaches or team officials who have been treated for misconduct shall have a penalty equal to that provided for the player for the same offense plus one additional game, **except the Premier League or State NCS Tournament**. In Premier two additional games will be assessed.

D.Appeals Committee shall be named by the president of MYSA prior to the event and must include the SYRA and the League Administrator.

1) Jurisdiction:

Violations of the Constitution, Charter, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of this Association, misapplication of the "Laws of the Game" or violations of club rules and regulations shall be proper subjects for the protest and appeals procedures, provided these falls within the framework of the Constitution, Charter, By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of this Association. There shall be no appeal of the minimum discipline as prescribed in these rules.

There shall be no protest on the referee's factual interpretation (See Law 5). Protest of an action in a game must be called to the referee's attention either at halftime or at the conclusion of the game. The referee shall include the existence of a protest and the team making the same in his report.

2) Procedure:

Within two (2) hours of conclusion of the game or within one (1) hour of such action as to cause the protest. A written protest shall be filed with the Appeals Committee who shall notify the chairperson of the Appeals Committee. The written protest shall contain a summary of the grounds including a description of the incident and be accompanied with a \$100 cash appeal bond.

Within one (1) hour of notification, the chairperson shall:

- a) Rule that the issue is not subject to protest (factual).
  - b) Rule that the protest is subject to review.
  - c) Recommend it is denied.
  - d) Recommend it be granted.
  - e) Not recommend either way.
  - f) Present opinion orally to the representative of each affected team.
- 3) If either team, or such other parties that rightly ought to be involved, do not indicate disagreement when advised, the decision will stand: if either team disagrees, the chairman within one hour will call and hold a hearing.

There is no further appeal from a League ruling.

Revised 8/12/23

## **Policy 6-1200 - FALSIFICATIONS OF RECORDS**

Falsifications of records shall be grounds for disbarment from future participation and/or membership in this Association. Falsifications of records includes, but is not limited to, failing to fully or honestly disclose travel papers, or forms accompanying the payment of registration fees.

POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE  
YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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**PART VII**

**TOURNAMENTS**

## **Policy 7-000 - APPLICABILITY OF POLICY**

Tournament/Cup Competitive Rules shall remain in effect unless modified in a section specific to each set of Tournament rules. These rules apply to all Premier, Select, Classic and Academy Divisions/Tournaments and the National Championships, unless a rule is specifically addressed to a particular Tournament.

Recreational tournaments shall provide a set of rules for that particular tournament approved by the Director of Recreational or Developmental Soccer.

See MYSAs Policy 1-000.

## **Policy 7-100 - TOURNAMENT AUTHORITY**

Unless otherwise designated by the Board of Directors, the State Tournament Administrator shall be the Chief Administrative Officer for all state-sponsored tournaments, subject to the governance of the Board of Directors.

## Policy 7-200 - ELIGIBILITY

- A. The eligibility rules for tournament play are determined pursuant to the state eligibility rules for coaches and players found in these rules and the national rules regarding qualification for the National Championship Series (NCS). These rules shall apply except that the Board of Directors for Montana Youth Soccer Association may, at the Annual summer meeting, waive any or all of these rules as to the Montana State Cup, Montana Cup and Montana Showcase Tournaments.
- B. Each team at each competition shall submit a roster in a manner determined by MYSA on or before the date set by MYSA. This deadline may be waived by the State President at his/her discretion as long as the waiver applies equally to all teams in the division of play and does not conflict with any US Youth Soccer policies. There shall be no changes on the roster after the deadline. Failure to submit a complete/accurate roster ***shall cause the team to forfeit the right to participate in the tournament.***
- C. Credentials: Each team participating in the tournament will submit, where designated by the deadline set by MYSA, a team book containing the following:
- 1) A copy of the roster with sufficient copies for each referee at each game to be potentially played at the cup if requested;
  - 2) The registrations for each player and coach including medical release;
  - 3) Proof of birth (age) including if appropriate, the government certified birth certificate of each player or such other proof as acceptable under the stricter of the National or Regional rules for National Cup Play or a photocopy of the same, if requested by the tournament;
  - 4) The player passes arranged in alphabetical order with the coaches passes placed before the first player on a ring;
  - 5) A disclosure of lodging location and contact phone numbers for the team's coach and club representative along with the information required in subpart 6 below.
  - 6) A designation of a team representative if other than the coach to receive notifications from the tournament committee, this shall be in writing and include lodging information and contact phone numbers where the designate can be reached. If this designation is not included the coach shall be deemed the team's representative.
  - 7) The Certification from the team's club registrar or state registrar that the players on the roster have been properly registered, that the documents discussed above have been properly placed in the team book and that the club/state registrar has reviewed the documents and certifies that they are correct.
  - 8) The book referred to above shall be retained for Regional competition for each Regional Qualifying Tournament Winner if appropriate.



- 9) Each club sending a team to a tournament will provide in writing the phone number where the club president or representative can be located. On the same sheet, list all team representatives, their lodging locations and phone number while at the cup and deliver these to the Registrar at the time of the credentials check.
  - 10) A team is not eligible to compete in a post-season MYSA Tournament unless the forgoing rules are adhered to. Should the material required to be included in the book not be present at the time the credentials are checked, or the coach not appear at the mandatory coaches meeting, the team shall be declared ineligible. The tournament committee may level a fine up to the amount of the tournament fee for late arriving books or failure of the coach to attend the mandatory meeting, but such fine need not be paid if the team withdraws and does not participate in the tournament.
- D. A team that commits to one of the tournaments herein discussed and does not appear or appears with faulty credentials will forfeit their tournament fee and will be deemed ineligible to participate. A team that commits to one of the tournaments herein discussed and does not appear or appears with faulty credentials will forfeit their tournament fee and will be deemed ineligible to participate in any post-season MYSA tournament.

***Revised 8/12/23***

## Policy 7-300 – STATE CUP TOURNAMENT RULES

### Rules for the State Cup (NCS) Tournament.

- 1) All qualifying Premier teams are required to adhere to the National Championship Series rostering rules.
- 2) All qualifying Premier teams are required to attend the MYSA NCS Tournament and all NCS Tournament winners are required to attend the Regional NCS Tournament. A fine of **Seven Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$7,500.00)** will be assessed to the qualifying club/team for not attending the State NCS Tournament or the Far West Regional Events.
- 3) Each team participating in the State NCS Tournament will deliver prior to the date set by MYSA on a form prescribed by MYSA, their agreement that if successful at the State NCS Tournament they shall participate at the Regional NCS competition. Each club president in addition to the coach shall sign this form.
- 4) If a facility is reserved for teams, all State NCS Tournament team winners will stay at the MYSA reserved motels / hotels rooms for the Regional NCS. No club, team, coach, player will make their own room reservations. There will be a **required** \$2,500.00 deposit per team from each club who has teams attending the State NCS Tournament (NCS Cup) to assure that this rule is followed. If all teams for the club(s) comply, the deposit will be returned. (When the Regional NCS Tournament is in Hawaii, MYSA will be applying different rules for attending teams.)
- 5) Any team qualifying for the Regional NCS Cup who does not attend and notifies the Montana Youth Soccer Association President of such decision prior to fifteen (15) days before the Regional NCS Cup will be subject to the following fine which shall be levied against the team's club:
  - a) All fines levied by the region or national against the state.
  - b) All costs as determined by the tournament committee for their participation in the State NCS tournament.
  - c) A 10% surcharge on the above.
  - d) \$7,500
- 6) In the event the State NCS Tournament is cancelled for any reason, and it is necessary to determine Regional NCS Qualifying teams, the following rules for team eligibility will apply:
  - a) If the tournament is cancelled at any time during the first day of the tournament, the tournament will be rescheduled at a central location or locations to be determined by the MYSA Board. However, only the top four teams as determined by seeding will participate in the tournament. The Board will take into consideration the locale of each of these teams in selecting the tournament site. The tournament will be rescheduled at

a time and date to be determined by the Board but will be conducted no later than the following week-end.

- b) If the tournament is cancelled at any time after noon on the second day, the results of the games played shall be used to seed the rescheduled tournament. The Board shall determine the location of the rescheduled event after considering the locale of the remaining participating teams. The tournament will be rescheduled at a time and date to be determined by the Board but will be conducted no later than the following weekend.
- c) In the event of a cancellation of a State NCS Tournament when it is unnecessary to determine a Regional NCS qualifying team in any age bracket, the Board may choose not to reschedule a cancelled tournament for that age bracket or brackets.

#### 7) Seeding for State NCS Tournament

a) Seeding point system utilizing the following point system:

- i) 3 points for a win
- ii) 1 point for a tie
- iii) 0 points for a loss
- iv) no additional points for goals scored or shutouts;

b) Tiebreakers

- i) Head to head
- ii) Most wins
- iii) Goals against (max 3 per game)
- iv) Goal differential (max 3)
- v) Goals for (max 3)

c) If still tied after application of the foregoing point and tiebreaker system, then the SYRA schedule play-off matches to determine which teams are given seeding preferences.

8) The uniforms and players' apparel shall conform to the IFAB rules.

9) All other rules, except as stated in this section, shall conform to IFAB irrespective of the different provisions for seasonal play. The time limits for periods shall be in accord with the limits set for each age divisions in league play. Substitutions will be in accord with US Youth Soccer rule 302, Section 2, which provides that substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.

10) For the 14U age group and below, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed. For all other age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game during each half of play and during the entirety of overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during that same half of play. After being substituted during overtime play, the substituted play may not re-enter the game. Exception: A

player may temporarily be substituted to allow a medical professional or team trainer to assess for a suspected concussion. If cleared by the medical professional the player may be allowed to re-enter the match without using one of the team subs. If the player does not return after evaluation the team shall forfeit one of their substitutes. For any other injuries a player may temporarily leave the field for treatment with approval of the referee and the team may play down a player. The player temporarily off the field may re-enter with the approval of the referee.

- 11) The time limits for periods shall be in accord with the limits set for each age division in league play.
- 12) All games except for the quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals may end in a tie. Finals, semifinals, and quarter-finals will be played to a winner using two complete overtime periods to be played after the end of regulation play. For 14 and under matches, the overtime periods shall be 10 minutes, each. For all other games, the overtime periods are 15 minutes, each. If the game is still tied after the end of two overtime periods, IFAB "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner.
- 13) Points awarded for games prior to the semi-finals will be: 3 for a win; 1 for a tie; and 0 for a loss. A team will be awarded 3 points if there is a forfeit. These points will determine which teams advance to semi-finals or quarter finals.
- 14) A team forfeiting any game may not advance from pool play or to the next level, whichever is appropriate.
- 15) Tiebreaking system - more than two teams. In the case of a tie among more than two teams, the tiebreakers will be followed until a team advances rather than until a team is eliminated. Once one team advances, the tie-breaker will begin from the top again until the next team advances. The tiebreakers are to be used in this order:
  - a) Head-to-head competition;
  - b) Most wins;
  - c) Goals against (up to a maximum of 3 per games);
  - d) Goal differential (no more than three (3) goals for or against can be counted for any game and the number of goals against shall be subtracted from the number of goals for);
  - e) Goals for (up to a maximum of 3);
  - f) If still tied after application of the foregoing point and tie-breaker system, then the SRA will draw names to determine which teams will advance.
  - g) Tiebreaking System-two teams. In the event of a tie between two teams, the provisions of 8(A) through (E) shall be used to determine which team advances. If the teams are still tied

after applying the tie-breaker system, IFAB “Kicks from the Penalty Mark” rules will apply in order to determine the winner.

16) NUMBER OF TEAMS, PARTICIPATION

- a) No division played at the State NCS Cup will have more than four (4) teams. All divisions will have an even number of teams.
- b) If there is only one eligible team in a division MYSA at its discretion declare that team a State NCS Cup Champion.
- c) Seeding at State NCS Cup will be determined by standings in Premier League play.
- d) Only those teams requesting entry and completing League play will be considered for seeding.

***Revised 8/8/2021***

## Policy 7-400 – MONTANA CUP TOURNAMENT RULES

### Rules for the Montana Cup Tournament:

- 1) The uniforms and players' apparel shall conform to the IFAB rules.
- 2) All other rules, except as stated in this section, shall conform to IFAB irrespective of the different provisions for seasonal play. The time limits for periods shall be in accord with the limits set for each age divisions in league play. Substitutions will be in accord with US Youth Soccer rule 302, Section 2, which provides that substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.
- 3) The time limits for periods shall be in accord with the limits set for each age division in league play unless otherwise determined by MYSA.
- 4) All games except for the quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals may end in a tie. Finals, semifinals, and quarter-finals will be played to a winner using two complete overtime periods to be played after the end of regulation play. For 14U and under teams the overtime periods shall be 10 minutes each. For 15U and up teams, the overtime periods are 15 minutes each. If the game is still tied after the end of two overtime periods, IFAB Law 10.3 "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner. MYSA at its discretion may shorten or remove the overtime periods and go straight to KFTPM.
- 5) Points awarded for games prior to the semi-finals will be: 3 for a win; 1 for a tie; and 0 for a loss. A team will be awarded 3 points if there is a forfeit. These points will determine which teams advance to semi-finals or quarter finals.
- 6) A team forfeiting any game may not advance from pool play or to the next level, whichever is appropriate.
- 7) Tiebreaking system- more than two teams. In the case of a tie among more than two teams, the tiebreakers will be followed until a team advances rather than until a team is eliminated. Once one team advances, the tie-breaker will begin from the top again until the next team advances. The tiebreakers are to be used in this order:
  - a) Head-to-head competition;
  - b) Most wins;
  - c) Goals against (up to a maximum of 3 per games);
  - d) Goal differential (no more than three (3) goals for or against can be counted for any game and the number of goals against shall be subtracted from the number of goals for);
  - e) Goals for (up to a maximum of 3);

- f) If still tied after application of the foregoing point and tie-breaker system, then the SYRA will draw names to determine which teams will advance.
  - g) Tiebreaking System-two teams. In the event of a tie between two teams, the provisions of 7 (A) through (E) shall be used to determine which team advances. If the teams are still tied after applying the tie-breaker system, IFAB “Kicks from the Penalty Mark” rules will apply in order to determine the winner.
- 8) NUMBER OF TEAMS, PARTICIPATION
- a) No division or bracket played at the Montana Cup Tournament shall have more than eight teams.
  - b) MYSA at its discretion may create multiple brackets. If a multiple bracket system is used only the top bracket may be designated as State Champion
  - c) Pre-tournament playoffs may also be necessary to determine which teams may be permitted to advance to the Montana Cup Tournament.
  - d) Seeding for play-off games and the Montana Cup Tournament shall be determined by a seeding based on results from seasonal play.
  - e) The Classic division of the Montana Cup tournament shall be divided into three age divisions: u13 - u14, u15 - u16, and u17 - u19. Teams must participate within their age division (exception: a u14 or u16 team may elect to play up to the next age division with permission from MYSA).

***Revised 8/12/2023***

## Policy 7-500 – SHOWCASE TOURNAMENT RULES

### Rules for the Montana Showcase Tournament

- 1) The uniforms and player's apparel shall conform to the Laws of IFAB rules.
- 2) All other rules except as stated in this section shall conform to IFAB irrespective of the different provisions for seasonal play.
- 3) The time limits for periods shall be in accord with the limits set for each age division in league play. Substitutions will be in accord with league play unless designated otherwise by MYSA.

#### **A. Specific Tournament rules for 11 and under**

- 1) 11 and below teams shall be divided into brackets for Tournament play by a seeding committee based on seasonal play.
- 2) The teams shall play a round-robin format in each group following the rules utilized during seasonal play.

#### **B. Specific Tournament rules for 12 teams.**

- 1) 12 teams shall play to a winner in each bracket for the age division.
- 2) Substitutions will be in accord with US Youth Soccer rule 302, Section 2, which provides that substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.
- 3) All games except for the quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals may end in a tie. Finals, semi-finals, and quarter-finals will be played to a winner using two complete ten-minute overtime periods to be played after the end of regulation play. If the game is still tied after the end of two overtime periods, IFAB "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner.
- 4) Points awarded for games prior to the semi-finals will be: 3 for a win; 1 for a tie; and 0 for a loss. A team will be awarded 3 points if there is a forfeit. These points will determine which teams advance to semi-finals or quarter finals.
- 5) A team forfeiting any game may not advance from pool play or to the next level, whichever is appropriate.
- 6) Tiebreaking system - more than two teams. In the case of a tie among more than two teams, the tiebreakers will be followed until a team advances rather than until a team is eliminated. Once one team advances, the tie-breaker will begin from the top again until the next team advances. The tiebreakers are to be used in this order:
  - a) Head-to-head competition;
  - b) Most wins;



- c) Goals against (up to a maximum of 3 per games);
  - d) Goal differential (no more than three (3) goals for or against can be counted for any game and the number of goals against shall be subtracted from the number of goals for);
  - e) Goals for (up to a maximum of 3);
- 7) Tiebreaking System-two teams. In the event of a tie between two teams, the provisions of 6 (A) through (E) shall be used to determine which team advances. If the teams are still tied after applying the tie-breaker system, IFAB "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner.
- 8) NUMBER OF TEAMS, PARTICIPATION
- a) No division or bracket played at the 12 division shall have more than eight teams.
  - b) MYSA at its discretion may create multiple brackets.
  - c) Pre-tournament playoffs may be necessary to determine which teams may be permitted to advance to the Championship Tournament.
  - d) Seeding for brackets in the Tournament shall be determined by a seeding based on results from seasonal play.

## **Policy 7-600 – ASSIGNMENT of OFFICIALS**

The SYRA shall assign all officials to all matches in his or her discretion or may appoint an assignor or network of assignors.

Grievances against officials shall be delivered in writing to the SYRA and the State MYSA President, but such grievances shall not change the outcome of a game unless such decision is one that is subject to review by the Protest and Appeals committee. If the grievance is such that could result in a change of the game's outcome, in addition to the actions called for herein compliance with the protest and appeals procedure must be followed.

***Revised 8/8/2021***

## **Policy 7-700 – PROTEST AND DISCIPLINE**

- 1) This Association shall honor the disciplinary rulings against players from out of State Associations attempting to register with this Association.
- 2) No State Association official, club, team, referee or player may invoke the aid of any lawyer or the courts of any state or the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within this organization.
- 3) The Discipline Committee Association Sponsored Cups shall be composed of the Board of Directors of this Association and the Association's Cup Administrator present at the cup and is referred to herein as the Cup Committee. This committee will also resolve all questions involving the State Cup, but the local Cup Chairman as designated by the host club shall be allowed to participate but not vote in all matters other than discipline or credentials. Should less than three (3) of the above-named committee members attend the Cup, the member of the Board of Directors responsible for the Cup shall appoint at least three (3) Club Presidents as the Committee.
- 4) For misconduct cards, MYSA shall follow the policy set forth below as it exists of this date or is later amended. For the minimum penalties applied under these rules, there shall be no appeal.
- 5) If the Discipline Committee invokes any of the minimum penalties provided herein, there shall be no notice given. However, should the Committee determine that an additional penalty is necessary, notification will be made to the team representative by direct contact or by leaving a message at the phone number left on the team's disclosure at registration. That penalty may be appealed no later than one (1) hour before the next game or by 12:00 noon the day after the notification is given, whichever occurs first.

## Policy 7-800 – MANDATORY SANCTIONS

### A. YELLOW CARDS AND CAUTIONS All misconduct shall conform to IFAB Laws of the Game. Yellow Cards (Cautions):

- 1) Yellow cards shall not be carried into the tournament, but fines (if applied) shall be paid before a player is eligible to compete.
- 2) A player accumulating three (3) yellow cards during play will be required to sit out one game of the League or Tournament the player received the cards in. Thereafter each two (2) yellow cards will require an additional sit-out. A player earning a sit out in a Premier match cannot serve that suspension by sitting out in a Select or Classic league League game or club sponsored or a non-premier Premier League friendly or tournament or State tournament.
- 3) These cards are to be kept by the League/Tournament Administrator and there is no appeal of the sanction. The SYRA shall when reviewing the misconducts have the authority to lift a misconduct that has not been properly reported or for which the improper sanction has been awarded. This ruling cannot be sought, nor can a review of this ruling be sought.

### B. Ejections: (Send Offs) Red Cards (Send-Offs):

- 1) FOUL OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE or gestures, Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct or committing a second cautionable offence after receiving a caution. If the ejection send-off is for committing the second cautionable offense, receiving a second cautionable offense in the same match, only the first yellow card gets counted in the accumulation of yellow cards.
- 2) APPLICABLE SANCTION: Suspension for the remainder of the game without substitution in play plus the next following game. Sit Sit-outs for a send-off in a Premier League match must be sat out served in the next scheduled Premier League match or applicable tournament. A player earning a sit out in a Premier League match cannot serve that suspension sitting out in a Select or Classic league League game or club sponsored or non-premier state tournament. Suspended players do not need to be present at a match to server a sit-out suspension. MYSA reserves the right to levy additional game suspensions.
- 3) Misconduct of Coaches or Team Officials:  
Coaches or team officials who have been treated for misconduct shall have a penalty equal to that provided for the player for the same offense plus one additional game, **except the Premier League or State NCS Tournament**. In Premier, two additional games will be assessed.
- 4) The SYRA shall, when reviewing red cards, have the authority to lift a red card that has not been properly reported, or for which the improper sanction has been awarded. This ruling cannot be sought, nor can a review of this ruling be sought. In Lieu of a Red Card and for the good of the game, the SYRA may

recommend to MYSA that two yellow cards be placed on record instead of the red card. Should the player or bench personnel accumulate 3 or more yellow cards as a result of this conversion, the applicable suspension still listed above shall apply.

C. **All suspensions received in Premier leagues Leagues or Tournaments must be served in Premier Events.**

● Offensive or Racial Comment Accusation Reports:

1) There is no place in the game, youth or otherwise, for offensive or racial comments and they will not be tolerated.

2) In the event that a Referee receives a report or accusation of offensive or racial comments made by a player, substitute or bench personnel to any other player or bench personnel, and the comment was not observed by a member of the Referee crew, thus cannot be sanctioned with a Red Card, the follow protocols shall be followed:

The Referee shall meet with head coaches of both teams and the accused at mid-field and the touch-line where they will inform all parties that an accusation has been made that was not observed by any member of the Referee crew.

The Referee will inform all parties that the name/number of the accused and the exact language will be entered into the official game report and submitted to MYSA.

MYSA will keep record of any accusations. If a pattern of reported behavior is observed, MYSA reserves the right to levy suspensions, up to and including, suspension from all MYSA play.

- i. FOUL OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE or gestures, Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct or committing a second cautionable offence after receiving a caution. If the ejection is for committing the second cautionable offense, only the first yellow card gets counted in the accumulation of yellow cards.
- ii. APPLICABLE SANCTION: Suspension for game without substitution in play plus the next following game. Sit outs for a sendoff in a Premier match must be sat out in the next scheduled Premier match or applicable tournament. A player earning a sit out in a Premier match cannot serve that suspension sitting out in a Select league game or club sponsored or non-premier state tournament.
- iii. Misconduct of Coaches or Team Officials:
  - b. Coaches or team officials who have been treated for misconduct shall have a penalty equal to that provided for the player for the same offense plus one additional game, **except the Premier League or State NCS Tournament**. In Premier two additional games will be assessed.
  - c. D.Appeals Committee shall be named by the president of MYSA prior to the event and must include the SYRA and the League Administrator.
  - d. Jurisdiction:

Violations of the Constitution, Charter, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of this Association, misapplication of the "Laws of the Game" or violations of club rules and regulations shall be proper subjects for the protest and appeals procedures, provided these falls within the framework of the Constitution, Charter, By-Laws and

Rules and Regulations of this Association. There shall be no appeal of the minimum discipline as prescribed in these rules.

- D. There shall be no protest on the referee's factual interpretation (See Law 5). Protest of an action in a game must be called to the referee's attention either at halftime or at the conclusion of the game. The referee shall include the existence of a protest and the team making the same in his report.
  - a. Procedure:

Within two (2) hours of conclusion of the game or within one (1) hour of such action as to cause the protest. A written protest shall be filed with the Appeals Committee who shall notify the chairperson of the Appeals Committee. The written protest shall contain a summary of the grounds including a description of the incident and be accompanied with a \$100 cash appeal bond.

Within one (1) hour of notification, the chairperson shall:

- b. Rule that the issue is not subject to protest (factual).
  - c. Rule that the protest is subject to review.
  - d. Recommend it is denied.
  - e. Recommend it be granted.
  - f. Not recommend either way.
  - g. Present opinion orally to the representative of each affected team.
- 3) If either team, or such other parties that rightly ought to be involved, do not indicate disagreement when advised, the decision will stand: if either team disagrees, the chairman within one hour will call and hold a hearing.

There is no further appeal from a League ruling.

There is no further appeal from a Tournament ruling.

***Revised 08/12/23***

## **Policy 7-900 - FALSIFICATIONS OF RECORDS**

Falsifications of records shall be grounds for disbarment from future participation and/or membership in this Association. Falsifications of records includes, but is not limited to, failing to fully or honestly disclose travel papers, or forms accompanying the payment of registration fees.

# POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## **PART VIII**

### **REFEREES**



## **Policy 8-000 - APPLICABILITY OF POLICY**

See MYSA Policy 1-000.

***Revised 01/23/2016***

## **Policy 8-100 - REFEREES**

The referee and assistant referees in any MYSA sanctioned competition shall:

- A. be certified by US Soccer Federation for the appropriate competition and age-level;
- B. not be an employee for the purpose of officiating of any club;
- C. be an independent contractor free to contract services provided that the referee meets his/her contract obligations;
- D. abide by the Laws of the Game and modifications made by this association;
- E. be assigned to a match by a certified referee assignor;
- F. provide timely reports detailing the events of any given assignment.
- G. Abide by Part II of this Policy Manual.
- H. Those 18 and over must be current with their background check and SafeSport certifications.

Any person serving as a referee not completing the above listed criteria may be sanctioned by MYSA. These sanctions may include fines and suspension from participation.

Revised 8/12/23

## Policy 8-200 – REFEREE PAY

The following is the mandatory minimum referee fee to be paid for all Montana Youth Soccer Association sanctioned competitive games.

9U-10U*	Center \$30.00, each Assistant Referee \$15.00
11U-12U	Center \$35.00, each Assistant Referee \$20.00
13U-14U	Center \$40.00, each Assistant Referee \$25.00
15U-16U	Center \$45.00, each Assistant Referee \$30.00
17U-19U	Center \$50.00, each Assistant Referee \$30.00

\*9U-10U games do not require Assistant Referees.

Any Regional Referee or Emeritus Regional Referee will be paid a bonus of \$10 per game, regardless of the capacity in which they serve, paid for by MYSA.

Referees who work twelve (12) games or more in the MYSA fall league will receive a bonus of \$150.00 at the end of the league season.

Referees who work twelve (12) games or more in the MYSA spring league will receive a bonus of \$150.00 at the end of the league season.

If a 13U or older match is missing one or both certified AR's and Club Lines are utilized to fill the missing positions, the center referee will receive one additional AR fee at the end of the league season. Referees are not allowed to dismiss assigned AR's or turn away certified AR's present on site of the game to take advantage of this offer. A referee may be disciplined if found to be doing so.

***Revised 8/8/2021***

## **Policy 8-300 – REFEREE EQUIPMENT**

Electronic communication devices (comms) may be used for all MYSA sanctioned games. If comm devices are used, one must be available for all referees on the crew. If a referee requests on the crew requests not to use a comm, none of the referees on the crew may use them.

It is recommended that referees new to comms contact their SYRA to receive training on their use before using them.

**8/8/2021**