

# POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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AS PRESENTED AT THE July 27, 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

## ***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**

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***PART I-MYSA/CLUB Relationship - Revisions***

Action

Date

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New format Published

July 24, 2013

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# PART I-MYSA/CLUB Relationship

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## **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.

- 1) 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*

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## **Policy 1-100 - CLUB AUTHORITY**

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. Clubs must submit their rules and regulations for review and approval by the Board of Directors of this Association.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## **Policy 1-200 - FORMATION OF AN AFFILIATED CLUB**

### **Sec-1. PURPOSE**

This policy explains the procedures for forming clubs to be affiliated with MYSA.

### **Sec-2. PROCEDURE**

- A. Write a letter to MYSA requesting the Director of Competition or Director of Development to accept the application for membership as an Affiliated Club with MYSA.
- B. If the applicant intends to sponsor any competitive teams, the letter requesting affiliation should go to the Director of Competition. If the applicant intends to sponsor only recreational teams, the letter should go to the Director of Development.
- C. The letter must list all Board Members of the Club.
  - 1) Must have a functioning Board of Directors of at least five members.
  - 2) In clubs that field only competitive teams, club coaches, including the Head Coach, cannot make up more than one-third of the Board of Directors of the club.
- D. Provide a copy of the club's bylaws and policies for review. The bylaws must contain:
  - 1) Name of club
  - 2) Purpose of club
  - 3) Who are the initial members in the club
  - 4) Geographical boundaries of the club
  - 5) Officers and duties
  - 6) Board of directors
  - 7) Terms of office
  - 8) When the annual meeting takes place
  - 9) Who can vote at the annual meeting
  - 10) Fiscal year
  - 11) Grievance, protest, and appeal language
  - 12) Dissolution of the club
  - 13) Copy of the club policies. The policies should cover:
    - a) Formation of teams or leagues
    - b) Hearing procedures
    - c) Field policies
    - d) Registration policies
    - e) Other policies as necessary
- E. Have at least one (1) team with players registered or to be registered with MYSA.

- F. Applicant shall state the number of qualified referees available to officiate games contemplated by the new club and/or describe methods by which the appropriate number of qualified officials will be recruited. MYSA policy requires each competitive club must have at least two grade 8's or better referees for each team registered to play in the competitive season. The club will be expected to meet this policy by the second year of its admittance.
- G. The applicant must identify fields for its team in practice and competition. Fields must be suitable for play for the age level of the teams in the club:
  - 1-3 teams=1 field
  - 4-6 teams= 2 fields
  - 2-9 teams=3 fields
  - 10-13 teams=4 fields
  - 14-18 teams=5 fields.
- H. Be prepared to apply for tax-exempt status (501c3)

Sec-3. APPROVAL

- A. The Director of Competition or Development will:
  - 1) Review the application for completeness. 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) Upon completion, approve or disapprove the application.
  - 4) Notify all interested parties of the decision.
- B. Applicant or any existing club in the same geographic area may appeal the Director of Competition's or Development's decision to the Board of Directors. The Board may approve the affiliation upon finding that the new club will further the interests and purposes of MYSA. Factors to be considered, but are not necessarily limited to the following:
  - 1) Affiliation will provide access to MYSA programs to a new population of players.
  - 2) Affiliation will further the development and growth of players, coaches, administrators and referees.
  - 3) Affiliation will further the development or availability of fields and facilities for youth players.
  - 4) Affiliation will not significantly affect the ability of existing clubs in the same area to form and sponsor teams.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 07/17/2005***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## Policy 1-300 - CLUB RESPONSIBILITY

- A. All clubs shall be responsible for governing those persons associated with their operation.
  - 1) 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 insure 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 U.S.S.F. and US Youth Soccer Association 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 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.
- E. 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.
- F. Each competitive club shall have at least two (2) grade 8 or better referees for each team registered to play in each competitive league. A 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.
- G. 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 Director of Competition for competitive soccer, and Montana Youth Soccer Association Director of Developmental or Recreational soccer. 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.

- H. 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.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## **Policy 1-400 - 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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## **Policy 1-500 - PLEA OF IGNORANCE**

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

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***



## Policy 1-600 - 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 "home town" 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.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/26/2008***

***Revised on: 10/30/2009***

***Revised on: 03/04/2010***

## **Policy 1-700 - 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.

- A. **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.
- B. **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.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## Policy 1-800 - REGISTRATION

- A. All coaches, players, and administrators are required to provide properly completed US Youth Soccer Association registration information to his/her club. The submission of a signed player registration form 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 completing registration form and delivery of that form 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 U.S.S.F. and/or US Youth Soccer Association.
- 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 "Coach's Pass, and be listed on the "Official Team Roster". 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 “Coach’s Pass” for each person so listed and having met the following requirements.

No “Coach’s Pass” shall be issued to anyone who is either not a currently certified referee or has not instead completed a yearly coaches or referee’s rules clinic administered by a currently certified referee approved 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) (A) 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 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. Photocopies only. Proof of age documents are to be retained by the club registrar.
  - 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.

- 5) The designated club or state registrar is the only person authorized to maintain copies of these documents. It is recommended the club registrar make every reasonable effort to protect the confidentiality of these documents.

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

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 01/22/2006***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

# POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## **PART II**

### **CODE of CONDUCT**

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***PART II-CODE of CONDUCT - Revisions***

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New format Published	July 24, 2013

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# PART II-CODE of CONDUCT

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

*See Policy 1-000*

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

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

Use of tobacco or mood altering products in the team area is prohibited.

### Sec-1. Commitment

It is the policy of US and Montana Youth Soccer to provide an environment for its youth soccer players that is free of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs. Therefore, alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs are not to be at activities of events of Montana Youth Soccer 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) "Adult" means an individual at least 21 years of age or an organization.
- 3) "Board of Directors" means the Board of Directors of Montana Youth Soccer.
- 4) "Event" means any event or meeting of US Youth Soccer, including but not limited to, the National Championships, Regional Championships, ODP regional and sub-regional camps, and interregional events, ODP National Championships, regional and National League competitions, the Workshops, annual general meetings, Board of Directors meetings, and committee meetings.
- 5) "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.
- 6) "Tobacco" means processed dried leaves typically, but not limited, for smoking.

### Sec-3. Prohibitions

- 1) Alcohol and tobacco may not be displayed, used, or provided at any activity of a Montana Youth Soccer Event that is primarily for youth soccer players.
- 2) Illegal drugs may not be displayed, used, or provided at any activity of a Montana Youth Soccer Event.

### Sec-4. Enforcement

- 1) Any person violating section 3 of this policy shall be immediately removed from the Event by the Montana Youth Soccer 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 an Event if the activity is an activity that is not an activity 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.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## **Policy 2-200 - 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.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## Policy 2-300 - 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 the laws of the game;
  - b) teaching, condoning, or allowing players to knowingly and continually break 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 U.S.S.F.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

## Policy 2-400 – 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 and bench personnel 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 may expel them from the field of play and its immediate surroundings. This authority is granted to the referee under Law 5 of FIFA’s Laws of the Game. FIFA’s Law 12 expressly provides that only players, substitutes, and substituted players may be shown a red or yellow card. What this means in practice is that coaches and team personnel cannot commit misconduct within the meaning of Law 12. All actions by coaches and team personnel, which result in dismissal from the field, will be identified as “irresponsible behavior” in the game report. In accordance with FIFA NO CARD WILL BE SHOWN to the coach/bench personnel as has been done in the past. The game report must provide a specific description of the behavior. The following are some examples of behavior that might be considered irresponsible:
  - 1) leaving the technical area (including entering the field) to dispute/dissent a call-even if the call isn’t what the coach/bench personnel thinks it is.
  - 2) throwing/kicking anything
  - 3) directed abusive, insulting or offensive language and/or gestures
  - 4) inflammatory and/or aggressive behavior (verbal and/or physical) with the opposition
  - 5) interfering with the restart of play and field players
  - 6) making unwanted and/or aggressive contact with opposing players
  - 7) interfering with the AR or fourth official in the performance of their duties.
  - 8) persistently and flagrantly protesting decisions by an official
- D. See Policy 3-900(C) for Disciplinary Sanctions to be served by coaches.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***



## **Policy 2-500 - 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 a coach or bench personnel knowingly participates in this deception and/or fails to notify the referee, this action will be considered USPORTING BEHAVIOR (see Policy 2-300, (A)(1)(c)) and shall be guilty of IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR.

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

### ***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

## Policy 2-600 - 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 U.S.S.F. Referee Administrative Handbook for ALL MYSA events, competitions and leagues.

U.S.S.F. 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 Federation referees, assistant referees, the manner and means of hearings, appeals, and rehearings 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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## Policy 2-700 - 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 1-300(B)  
Policy 1-700(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 its member clubs embarrassment.

Montana Youth Soccer Association affiliated clubs are expected to hold on a yearly basis:

- 1) Team meeting – coaches, bench personnel, players and parents in attendance.
  - a) Meeting to be led by a USSF referee, preferably one independent of the team.
  - 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 FIFA’s IFAB that will pertain to teams competing in the upcoming season.
  - d) Meeting to be informational, not confrontational.
  - e) Behavior/Attendance form to be dated and signed by attendee and referee.
  - f) Form to be forwarded to and maintained by local club designee. The names of the attending coaches and bench personnel will be submitted to MYSA in compliance with the issuance of sideline passes.
- 2) Rules meeting for bench personnel – Montana Youth Soccer Association Policy 1-800(H)
  - a) All who require a coach’s pass (coach, assistant coach, trainer, or any other person other than a player) are required to attend a rules meeting (or be a certified USSF referee) prior to receiving a coach’s pass.
  - b) Meeting to be led by a USSF referee approved by SYRA
  - c) Topics – as noted above and any rule clarifications as needed.
  - d) Behavior/Attendance form to be dated and signed by attendee and referee.  
Forms to be forwarded to the local club registrar who shall be responsible for forwarding the forms to the state.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

## **Policy 2-800 - 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 USYSA, MYSA, or a program of a member of a State Association shall be recognized by all member State Associations with USYSA.
- 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 USYSA.
- 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.

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rule 107*

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 01/22/2006***

# POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## **PART III**

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS and SANCTIONS**

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***PART III - Disciplinary Actions and Sanctions - Revisions***

Action	Date
New format Published	July 24, 2013

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# PART III - DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS and SANCTIONS

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

*See Policy 1-000.*

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## **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.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

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

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

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## **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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## **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 Associations 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.

### ***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## **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, U.S.S.F., or US Youth Soccer Association. 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.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## 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 half time 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 be violated;
  - 3) a check in the amount of \$100 payable to this association;
  - 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 U.S.S.F.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## **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.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 01/22/2006***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## 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 2-600 – 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 2-600 – 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 schedule 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 2-600 – 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 2-600 – 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 a 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

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

# POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## **PART IV**

### **PLAYERS and TEAMS**

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### *PART III - Players and Teams - Revisions*

Action	Date
New format Published	July 24, 2013

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# PART IV - PLAYERS and TEAMS

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

*See Policy 1-000.*

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## **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 insure that its actions on and off the field do not bring disrespect upon this Association. [Please review CODE OF CONDUCT – Policy Section 2].

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

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

Montana Youth Soccer incorporates the following:

The Federation and FIFA have international clearance requirements and procedures for players coming to United States to play soccer. Consult the 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 USYSA program or activity, or any program or activity of a member of USYSA, unless the Federation provides otherwise.

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rule 207*

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 01/22/2006***

***Revised on: 03/04/2010***

## Policy 4-300 - AGE & GENDER CLASSIFICATIONS

### A. AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

- 1) The term “youth” as applied to the Constitution, By-Laws, 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:
  - a) Under 19 years – Has not reached 19th birthday before August 1 of the prior year.
  - b) Under 18 years – Has not reached 18th birthday before August 1 of the prior year.
  - c) Under 17 years – Has not reached 17th birthday before August 1 of the prior year.
  - d) Under 16 years – Has not reached 16th birthday before August 1 of the prior year.
  - e) Under 15 years – Has not reached 15th birthday before August 1 of the prior year.
  - f) Under 14 years – Has not reached 14th birthday before August 1 of the prior year.
  - g) Under 13 years – Has not reached 13th birthday before August 1 of the prior year.
  - h) Under 12 years – Has not reached 12th birthday before August 1 of the prior year.
  - i) Under 11 years – Has not reached 11th birthday before August 1 of the prior year.
  - j) Under 10 years – Has not reached 10th birthday before August 1 of the prior year.
  - k) Under 8 years – Has not reached 8th birthday before August 1 of the prior year.
- 3) For any age group not specifically listed, the Player must NOT have reached the age listed for that competition prior to August 1 of the prior year.

### B. GENDER CLASSIFICATION

- 1) USYSA 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 – Rule 103 & 104*

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## 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 days of receipt.
  - 4) For the purpose of 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 particular 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 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 the MYSA on current interpretation of this rule)

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 02/21/2007***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***



## 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: 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: 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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## **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) For U-10 teams the team roster may not have more than 12 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year and the team roster shall have a minimum of 6 players on the roster at all times
  - 2) For U-12/11 teams, the team roster may not have more than 16 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year and the team roster shall have a minimum of 6 players on the roster at all times
  - 3) For U-13 and older teams, the roster may have up to 22 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year and the team roster shall have a minimum of 7 players on the roster at all times.
  
- 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.
  - 1) For U-10 teams the game roster shall have a maximum of 10 players designated to play and a minimum of 6 players
  - 2) For U-12/11 teams the game roster shall have a maximum of 14 players designated to play and a minimum of 6 players
  - 3) For U-13 and older teams the game roster shall have a maximum of 18 players designated to play and a minimum of 7 players.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 01/22/2006***

***Revised on: 01/27/2008***

***Revised on: 07/20/2008***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

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

Because the following is allowed by both U.S.S.F. and US Youth Soccer Association, 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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## 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*

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 01/22/2006***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## Policy 4-900 - ODP

- A. Except as provided by Section B of this Rule, a player wishing to try out for the Olympic Development Program 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 under this policy is from a State Association other than where the player is registered, may request written permission to try out for the 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 try out.
- C. A player may only try out for the Olympic Development Program in one State Association. A player is responsible for all Olympic Development Program fees of the State Association in which the player tries out.

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rule 203*

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 01/22/2006***

## **Policy 4-1000 - 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 U.S.S.F. or US Youth Soccer Association. But, this association, its insurers, U.S.S.F., and US Youth Soccer Association 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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 01/22/2006***

## **Policy 4-1100 - 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 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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***



## **Policy 4-1200 - 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*

### ***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## **Policy 4-1300 - USE OF NON-SPECIFIED EQUIPMENT**

A player may not use in any competition any equipment not authorized by the rules of play per FIFA.

Illegal Equipment – Illegal equipment shall not be worn by any player. This applies to any equipment which, in the opinion of the referee, is dangerous or confusing.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## **Policy 4-1400 - PERMISSION TO TRAVEL AND HOST TOURNAMENTS AND GAMES**

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

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rule 401*

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 01/22/2006***

# POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## **PART V**

### **APPLICATION of PLAYING RULES**

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***PART V - Application of Playing Rules - Revisions***

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New format Published	July 24, 2013

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# PART V - APPLICATION of PLAYING RULES

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

*See Policy 1-000.*

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***



## Policy 5-100 – SMALL-SIDED GAMES

### U-12/11 8V8

- 1) No Club or League shall provide for an under 12 competition with more than eight players on the field at a time.
- 2) The end of the season state-sponsored tournament for U-11 and U-12 teams shall be called the “Showcase.” The U-12 division only will play to a Championship within each flight division.
- 3) U-11 and U-12 teams may not schedule spring leagues games earlier than the third week-end of the competitive League.
- 4) Any reference in this manual to U-11 and U-12 teams shall be “Traveling Soccer.”

### U-10 6V6

- 1) No Club or League shall provide for an under 10 competition with more than six players on the field at a time.
- 2) The end of the season state-sponsored tournament for U-10 teams shall be called the “Showcase.”
- 3) U-10 teams may not schedule spring leagues games earlier than the third week-end of the competitive League.
- 4) Any reference in this manual to U-10 shall be “Traveling Soccer.”
- 5) Teams will be scheduled in the same manner as the Competitive League. However they will only play four (4) weekends maximum during league season.

#### ***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## **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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## **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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## **Policy 5-400 - USYSA RULES**

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

USYSA mandates State Associations may not approve games involving teams Under 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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 01/22/2006***

## **Policy 5-500 - PLAYING AGE DIVISION SELECTION**

No player the actual age of 15 or less is allowed to play on a team in an age division of more than one (1) year beyond his/her league age, EXCEPT with the approval of MYSA Director of Competition or other MYSA designated official. For the Classic League high school teams, the play-up rule does not apply to players who are in high school, even though there is an age disparity among the oldest and the youngest player. For Classic middle school teams, a waiver is not required unless the player is not in middle school and is under the actual age of 13.

No player is allowed to play on a team in an age division of one (1) year under his/her league age, EXCEPT with the approval of MYSA Director of Competition or other MYSA designated official.

### ***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 07/14/2007***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

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

- A. The USYSA and MYSA Board of Directors or its designee may grant temporary permission to a regional or USYSA team to participate with a team of an organization that is not a member of the Federation or FIFA. In granting that permission, the Board or its designee shall ensure that all USYSA 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 the Federation or FIFA. In granting that permission, the State Association shall ensure that all USYSA 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.

(See also Policy 4-1000)

*Reference: US Youth Soccer Policy – Rule 106*

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 1/22/2006***

# POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## **PART VI**

## **LEAGUES**

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***PART VI-MYSA Leagues - Revisions***

Action

Date

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New format Published

July 24, 2013



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# PART VI-MYSA LEAGUES

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## **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 Premier, Select and Classic 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

In addition ***See Policy 1-000.***

### ***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## 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.S.F. with those modifications (approved by US Youth Soccer Association) or stated herein. All Contests sanctioned by this Association shall abide by the “FIFA Laws of the Game” and modifications as published 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)
- B. Where colors of uniforms are similar, the home team must effect a change to colors that are distinct from those of the opponent.
- C. Uniforms - In this rule, “team member” means a player, coach, assistant coach, or other official of a team – A team member is not prohibited by USYSA from having a mark or name, or both, on any part of the team member’s uniform being worn at a game, if the mark or name is related to an item or service that is appropriate for youth. MYSA shall determine the appropriateness. MYSA may be more restrictive on uniform marks or names than allowed by USYSA. Any inappropriate mark or name on the team member’s uniform must be removed, replaced, or covered before the team member may continue to participate in 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 UPDATED Laws 201/2002. **This is to be coaching by ONE PERSON stepping to the edge of the coaching area and giving TACTICAL directions and STEPPING BACK TO HIS/HER POSITION.** 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.
- 1) Technical Area: Coaches, players, and bench personnel are restricted to their team side “Technical Area” and may not EXCEED at any time including club coaching authority or Club President. The technical area is defined as that area being three (3) yards behind the touch line and 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 must remain a minimum of three (3) yards behind the touch line unless there is a clearly defined spectator or restraining line, which is three (3) or more yards from the touch line. 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.
- G. Field Marshals: The home club shall supply designated field marshal(s) for all 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 behave in a proper and respectful manner.
- 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 numbers
  - 3) documentation for team suspensions
  - 4) any such other information as deemed necessary by MYSA

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.**

- L. Players may be substituted only during a stoppage of the game (FIFA Law 3, International Board Decision #6, and Law 9, paragraphs (a) and (b)). The number of substitutions shall be unlimited unless a competition superseding the jurisdiction of this Association or section specifically determines otherwise. Both teams are allowed unlimited 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 Policy 6-300(5)
  
- M. Whenever the referee authorizes a coach/bench 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), the player MUST leave the field and MAY be substituted. If not substituted, the injured player may only re-enter the field 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.

In any case, neither a substitute nor anyone else may enter the field of play until the referee signals permission for the substitute(s) and or team personnel to enter. It is strongly recommended that the referee follow the mechanics for substitution as outlined in FIFA's The Laws of the Game, Law 3 and USSF's Advice to the Referee, Assistance Referee and Fourth Official, 3.A.

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

Division	Game Length	Overtime Periods	Ball Size
U19-U17	Two 45-min. halves	Two 15-min. halves	#5
U16-U15	Two 40-min. halves	Two 15-min. halves	#5
U14-U13	Two 35-min. halves	Two 10-min. halves	#5
U12-U11	Two 30-min. halves	Two 10-min. halves	#4
U10	Two 25-min. halves	none	#4

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

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

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

O. 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.

P. Player Not in Possession of documentation: NO player 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 on the field of play. 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 State 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.
- 3) In case of forfeiture, the score shall stand 1-0 against the forfeiting team.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 01/22/2006***

***Revised on: 01/20/2008***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## 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-Premiere 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 USYSA 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 subpart 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.
  - 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 club shall have available to the league referee pool a minimum of two working/experienced referees per team entered into the league. This requirement shall be calculated and determined to be satisfied by the SYRA prior to the start of the league.

Those clubs who do not meet the minimum referee requirement prior to the start of league and their referees are needed to hold the games, they will either withdraw teams from the league or pay a \$200 fine for each referee the club is short. If, at the end of the league play, it is determined that referees from specific locations willingly chose NOT to referee and/or accept referee assignments, the club may be assessed the \$200 fine for each referee the club is short. This fine must be satisfied before the club will be allowed to participate with teams at the next MYSAs event, or before the start of the next playing season, whichever comes first.

- E. 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.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 1/21/2007***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## Policy 6-300 – ADDITIONAL PREMIERE LEAGUE RULES

### Additional Rules for the Premiere League.

- 1) **All qualifying Premier teams are required to adhere to the National Championship Series rostering rules.**
- 1) 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 Regional NCS Tournament or the Far West Regional Events.
- 2) Each team participating in the NCS will deliver prior to the date set by MYSA on a form prescribed by MYSA, their agreement that if successful at the NCS Tournament they shall participate at the Regional NCS competition. Each club president in addition to the coach shall sign this form.
- 3) No team under U-13 will participate in National Championship events.
- 4) Seeding for State NCS Tournament
  - a) Seeding point system utilizing the following point system:
    - i) 3 points for a win
    - ii) 1 points for a tie
    - iii) 0 points for a loss
    - iv) no additional points for goals scored or for shutouts;
  - b) Tie Breakers
    - 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 tie breaker system then the SYRA will schedule play-off matches for teams and the winners will be seeded.
- 5) The uniforms and players' apparel shall conform to the FIFA rules.
- 6) All other rules, except as stated in this section, shall conform to FIFA 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 in section 7-100. Substitutions will be in accord with section 7-100 including eth exceptions below:
  - a) For U-13/14 teams, the roster may have up to 18 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year and the team roster shall have a minimum of 7 players on the roster at all times.
  - b) for the U-13/14 age group, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed; and

- c) 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 overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during that same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.
- 7) NUMBER OF TEAMS, PARTICIPATION
- a) If there is only one eligible team in a division MYSA at its discretion may declare that team eligible for State NCS Cup.
  - b) Seeding at State NCS Cup will be determined by standings in Premiere League play.
  - c) Only those teams requesting entry, completing Premiere League play and complying with all USYSA National Championship rules will be considered for seeding and a qualifying team at the State NCS Cup.
  - d) U-19 teams may compete for the opportunity to attend the Region NCS tournament as they are formed from year to year. U-19 teams will play in the State NCS Tournament as needed.
- 8) Premier teams which participate in the state sponsored leagues are expected to play in all scheduled games. Teams must play three (3) weekends in state competition with the weekends to be set by the Board of Directors, except for the U19 age group for men and women.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/21/2007***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

***Revised on: 05/12/2010***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

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

Select and Classic 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, only:

- 1) U-10
- 2) U-11
- 3) U-12
- 4) U-13
- 5) U-14
- 6) U-16
- 7) U-18 (Premiere League only)
- 8) U-19

B. At U-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.

C. At U-12 and below (Policy 4-600).

- 1) 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 full team of players, then the opposing team **MUST** reduce to equate and play with the same number of players.

### ***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/21/2007***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## Policy 6-500 – COACHES LICENSES

Coaches in each of the following divisions must obtain and hold the following licenses or their equivalencies:

### A. PREMIER

Head Coach 1st year – ‘E’ Certificate

Head Coach 2nd year – ‘D’ License

Assistant Coach 1st year – ‘E’ Certificate

Assistant Coach 2nd year – ‘E’ Certificate

### B. SELECT/CLASSIC

Head Coach 1st year – N/A

Head Coach 2nd year – ‘E’ Certificate

Assistant Coach 1st year – N/A

Assistant Coach 2nd year – ‘E’ Certificate

### C. U10-U12

Head Coach 1st year – N/A

Head Coach 2nd year – ‘E’ Certificate

Assistant Coach 1st year – N/A

Assistant Coach 2nd year – ‘E’ Certificate

Each coach shall submit satisfactory proof of the attainment of his/her license as a condition of receiving a player pass. The State Director of Coaching shall keep a listing of all coaches and their licenses and may approve exceptions at his/her discretion.

#### ***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/21/2007***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

***Revised on: 05/12/2010***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## 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. Non-payment 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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 01/21/2007***

***Revised on: 12/1/2009***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## Policy 6-700 – U-12 and Under

At its 2004 Annual General Meeting the Council of Presidents and Montana Youth Soccer Board of Directors significantly changed its U-11 and U-12 programs. Moving to a Small Sided game program at the youngest age levels, MYSA discontinued the 11v11 games and moved to 8v8 sided games for its U-11 and U-12 players. The underlying concern which served as the impetus for this change was the belief that we were asking kids to win before they are taught how to play. In a Small Sided game program, the number of touches each player has on the ball is exponentially increased and the smaller fields allow the players to be successful moving the ball within the limits of their size and physical abilities. The players then have more opportunity to experience the problems of being in possession. Increasing the chance to be exposed to these tasks over and over again is how players become good “problem solvers” which translates into an ability to make good decisions.

55 state youth association directors of coaching and U.S. Soccer staff coaches unanimously endorsed 8v8 at U-12 and below. Not only does the small sided game improve player development, but substantially improves player retention. One reason players quit is because of negative experiences, often because they rarely touch the ball in game situations. These changes are designed to retain players, not turn them off.

Going hand in hand with the focus on player development is getting away from the obsession with having winners and losers at this younger age. Obviously, winning is a major factor in sports participation, but success is more important. An athlete can win without performing well or can lose even though the performance has been outstanding. Ultimately, success is a measure of how well players are participating, how well they are achieving both personal and team goals. Winning is where you compare yourself to others. Success is self-measured, based on performance and contribution. The kids can still travel, have fun, interact with other players and do what most youngsters love to do, run around. By eliminating the pressure and stress of striving to be the “State Champ”, the players can concentrate on learning the game and having fun doing so. Instead of having an end of the season “elimination” type tournament, the MYSA sponsors a “Festival-type” sporting event where the pain and stress of losing is minimized and the playing of soccer “for the fun of it” is emphasized.

Successful implementation of our changes will happen only if everyone works to help everyone else understand the methodology behind these changes. This policy statement is drafted to help everyone else understand our changes.

Commencing with the 2009 competitive season, a U-10 competitive division shall be created. MYSA will schedule U-10 into the league each properly registered team for a maximum of four weekends (8 games) of play.

## *Montana Youth Soccer 8v8 Official Laws for U11 and U12 teams:*

Laws conform to FIFA, 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 U11 and U12 competitive 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 and shall report this process to the Director of Competition.

### D. Number of Players:

- 1) Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is eight (8), including the Goalkeeper
- 2) Minimum number of players on the field is five (5)
- 3) Maximum number of players on the roster shall not exceed sixteen (16) with only 14 in uniform at any game – see Policy 4-600

E. Players Equipment: – See Policy 4-1200

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

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

H. Duration of the Games – See 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.

### ***Montana Youth Soccer 6v6 Official Laws for U10 teams:***

Laws conform to FIFA, 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 both U10 competitive 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 and shall report this process to the Director of Competition.

#### **D. Number of Players:**

- 1) Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is six (6), including the Goalkeeper
- 2) Minimum number of players on the field is five (5)

- 3) Maximum number of players on the roster shall not exceed fourteen (14) with only 10 in uniform at any game – see Policy 4-600
- E. Players Equipment: – See Policy 4-1200
  - F. Substitutions: – See Policy 6-100(L)
  - G. The Referee and Assistant Referees – See Policy 6-900
  - H. Duration of the Games – See 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.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/21/2007***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## Policy 6-800 – RECREATIONAL LEAGUE RULES

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.

B. 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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## 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 U.S.S.F. 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 prerogative granted to the referee by the "Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA, 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 sweat pants 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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## **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, MYSAs 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 teams 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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/21/2007***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

***Revised on: 05/12/2010***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## Policy 6-1100 – MANDATORY SANCTIONS

### A. YELLOW CARDS AND 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 sitting out in a Select league game or club sponsored or non-premiere 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)

- 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-premiere 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 Premiere League or State NCS Tournament**. In Premiere two additional games will be assessed.

### C. **All suspensions received in Premiere leagues or Tournaments must be served in Premiere Events.**

### 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 fall 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 half time 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.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/21/2007***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

***Revised on: 05/12/2010***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***



## **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.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

# POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## **PART VII**

## **TOURNAMENTS**

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***PART VII-MYSA Tournaments - Revisions***

Action	Date
New format Published	July 24, 2013

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# PART VII-MYSA Tournaments

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## **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 Premier, Select and Classic 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

In addition ***See Policy 1-000.***

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## **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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## 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 and 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 USYSA 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;
  - 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. Each club shall have available to the tournament referee pool a minimum of two working/experienced referees per team entered into the tournament. This requirement shall be calculated and determined to be satisfied by the SYRA prior to the start of the tournament.

Those clubs who do not meet the minimum referee requirement prior to the tournament and their referees are needed to hold the games, they will either withdraw teams from the tournament or pay a \$200 fine for each referee the club is short. If, at the end of the tournament, it is determined that referees from specific locations willingly chose NOT to referee and/or accept referee assignments, the club may be assessed the \$200 fine for each referee the club is short. This fine must be satisfied before the club will be allowed to participate with teams at the next MYSA event, or before the start of the next playing season, whichever comes first.

E. 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 not be allowed to participate.

F. A competition to determine the U-13 State Champion shall be conducted during the summer Showcase Tournament.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 1/21/2007***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## Policy 7-300 – NCS TOURNAMENT RULES

### Rules for the National Championship 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 week-end.
  - 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 for shutouts;
  - b) Tie Breakers
    - 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 tie breaker 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 FIFA rules.
- 9) All other rules, except as stated in this section, shall conform to FIFA 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 Under 14 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 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 player may not re-enter the game.

- 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, semi-finals, and quarter-finals will be played to a winner using two complete overtime periods to be played after the end of regulation play. For under 14 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, FIFA “kicks for 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) Tie breaking system - more than two teams. In the case of a tie among more than two teams, the tie breakers 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 tie breakers 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) Tie Breaking 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, FIFA “kicks for 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 Premiere League play.

- d) Only those teams requesting entry and completing League play will be considered for seeding.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/21/2007***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

***Revised on: 05/12/2010***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## Policy 7-400 – STATE CUP TOURNAMENT RULES

### Rules for the Montana State Cup Tournament:

- 1) The uniforms and players' apparel shall conform to the FIFA rules.
- 2) All other rules, except as stated in this section, shall conform to FIFA 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, semi-finals, and quarter-finals will be played to a winner using two complete overtime periods to be played after the end of regulation play. For U-14 teams the overtime periods shall be 10 minutes, each. For U-15 and up, the overtime periods are 15 minutes, each. If the game is still tied after the end of two overtime periods, FIFA "kicks for the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner. MYSA at its discretion may shorten the overtime periods
- 5) Points awarded for games prior to the semi-finals will be: 3 for a win; 2 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) Tie breaking system- more than two teams. In the case of a tie among more than two teams, the tie breakers 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 tie breakers 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) Tie Breaking 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, FIFA “kicks for 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 State 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 State Cup Tournament.
  - d) Seeding for play-off games and the State Cup Tournament shall be determined by a seeding based on results from seasonal play.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/21/2007***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

***Revised on: 05/12/2010***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## 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 FIFA rules.
- 2) All other rules except as stated in this section shall conform to FIFA 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 U-11 and below.**

- 1) U-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 U-12 teams.**

- 1) U-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, FIFA “kicks for 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; 2 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) Tie breaking system - more than two teams. In the case of a tie among more than two teams, the tie breakers 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 tie breakers 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) Tie Breaking 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, FIFA “kicks for 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 U-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.

**C. Specific Tournament Rules for U-13 teams.**

- 1) All other rules, except as stated in this section, shall conform to FIFA 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.
- 2) 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, FIFA “kicks for the Penalty Mark” rules will apply in order to determine the winner.
- 3) 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.
- 4) A team forfeiting any game may not advance from pool play or to the next level, whichever is appropriate.
- 5) Tie breaking system - more than two teams. In the case of a tie among more than two teams, the tie breakers 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 tie breakers 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) Tie Breaking 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, FIFA “kicks for the Penalty Mark” rules will apply in order to determine the winner.
- 6) NUMBER OF TEAMS, PARTICIPATION
- a) No division or bracket played at the U-13 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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/21/2007***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

***Revised on: 05/12/2010***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

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

The SYRA shall assign all officials to all matches in 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.

### ***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/21/2007***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

***Revised on: 05/12/2010***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## **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, MYSAs 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 teams 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 History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/21/2007***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

***Revised on: 05/12/2010***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## Policy 7-800 – MANDATORY SANCTIONS

### A. YELLOW CARDS AND 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 sitting out in a Select league game or club sponsored or non-premiere 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)

- 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-premiere 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 Premiere League or State NCS Tournament**. In Premiere two additional games will be assessed.

### C. Appeals Committee shall be named by the president of MYSA prior to the event and must include the SYRA and the State Tournament 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 fall 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 half time 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 Tournament ruling.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 01/21/2007***

***Revised on: 08/09/2009***

***Revised on: 01/24/2010***

***Revised on: 05/12/2010***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## **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.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

# POLICIES OF THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## **PART VIII**

## **REFEREES**

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***PART VII-MYSA Referees - Revisions***

Action	Date
New format Published	July 24, 2013

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# PART VIII-MYSA REFEREES

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

*See Policy 1-000*

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

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

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

- A. be certified by U.S.S.F. 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.

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.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 07/24/2013***

## **Policy 8-200 - RECREATIONAL REFEREE**

Recreational small-sided games and recreational games at the age of U-14 or under shall be officiated by at least a certified and currently registered U.S.S.F. recreational referee (Grade 9) - one who has completed the U.S.S.F. Recreational Youth Referee Course. All matches above U-14 shall be officiated by at least a certified and currently registered U.S.S.F. Grade 8.

- A. **Certified Centers:** Clubs shall endeavor to have three certified referees for every match sanctioned by member organizations of U.S.S.F. If a club is unable to provide at least a certified center referee, the club shall submit a plan of Referee development to the Director in charge of the competitions, who shall forward a copy to the State Youth Referee Administrator and State Referee Administrator
- B. In emergency situations or situations where certified officials are unavailable, subject to the approval of the Center official, club assistant referees may be used in recreational competition unless the rules of the competition otherwise specifies.

***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 07/17/2005***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

## Policy 8-300 – REFEREE PAY

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

U17/18/19	Center \$45.00, each Assistant Referees \$25.00
U15/16	Center \$40.00, each Assistant Referees \$25.00
U13/14	Center \$35.00, each Assistant Referees \$20.00
U10/11/12	Center \$30.00, each Assistant Referees \$15.00

Fourth officials, while not mandatory, if provided will be paid \$10 per game.

Any grade 7 referee will be paid a bonus of \$5 per game regardless of the capacity in which they serve.

Any State Referee (grade 5 or 6) or Emeritus Referee (grade 13-16) will be paid a bonus of \$10 per game regardless of the capacity in which they serve.

The above fee schedule may be increased at the prerogative of specific referee pools and/or clubs.

Recreational referees who work as AR's on competitive games would be paid as follows:

U13/14 Assistant Referees \$15.00

U11/12 Assistant Referees \$10.00

### ***Policy History:***

***Adopted on: 12/03/2000***

***Revised on: 04/16/2005***

***Revised on: 07/20/2008***