

**2016-17 USA Bylaws, Rules & Regulations**  
**UNITED SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS & RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**Constitution**

This organization shall be known as the UNITED SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC., a non-profit public educational organization incorporated in the State of Florida, hereinafter referred to as "USA" or "the Association."

**02 PURPOSE**

The purpose of the association shall be to provide a scheduling body for those clubs wishing to affiliate, to promote the welfare of the youth and adults involved in youth soccer; to promote good sportsmanship for and from all involved in youth soccer; to encourage educational courses, clinics and instruction for the purpose of increasing the knowledge and efficiency of those involved in youth soccer, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion or sex; and, to engage in all other acts it may be legally permitted to do.

**03 COLORS**

The representative colors of USA shall be red, white and blue.

**04 AFFILIATION**

This Association shall be affiliated with the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), through the Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA). The area represented by USA is located in Region C of FYSA. This Association may also affiliate with other soccer associations upon vote of the Board of Directors.

**05 CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS**

The Association shall be governed by its Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations except when these provisions are superseded by the governing authority of the USYSA, or the FYSA.

a) **AUTHORITY:** The governing authority of USA shall be vested with the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee of the Association whose power shall be defined in this Constitution and the By-laws.

b) **DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS:** The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT SENIOR BOYS, VICE PRESIDENT JUNIOR BOYS, VICE PRESIDENT GIRLS, SECRETARY, TREASURER, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, and CLUB PRESIDENTS of member clubs in good standing.

**c) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall be comprised of the **PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENTS, SECRETARY, TREASURER,** and the immediate Past President. In addition, the President may, but is not required to, appoint up to two (2) representatives from member Clubs to serve as full voting **AT LARGE** members of the Executive Committee, subject to ratification by the full Board of Directors.

**d) DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** All decisions of the Executive Committee shall be binding unless over-ridden by the full Board of Directors at the next meeting of the full Board of Directors following the decision of the Executive Committee. At each Board of Directors' meeting, the President shall announce all Executive Committee decisions made since the last Board of Directors' meeting.

**e) FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:** No elected officer, appointed official, committee chairman, special agent, or any other USA representative may obligate funds of the Association for any reason or cause without the approval of the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors. The executive committee will establish per diem reimbursement amounts for all meals, hotel rooms, mileage reimbursements (for use of personal vehicle) and any other travel reimbursement that may be required by a Board member before each seasonal year.

## **06 MEMBERSHIP**

**a) MEMBERSHIP BY CLUBS:** Membership in USA may be by either affiliated clubs or associated clubs membership. All clubs wishing to compete in the USA league must elect to be either affiliated or associated members on or before the date of registration of teams in league play.

**b) MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES:** The Executive Committee will establish the procedures, rules, and fees required for USA affiliation, to be ratified at any regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors.

**c) ADHERENCE TO THE RULES:** All members and affiliated clubs shall abide by the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations and amendments thereto, as well as those of the USYSA, FYSA, AND ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION with which this Association is affiliated.

**d) MANDATORY REGISTRATION:**

**1. All member clubs and clubs that affiliate with USA must register all their players, playing in the USA league, with FYSA.**

**2. All TEAMS must register with USA through their respective clubs.**

## **07 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting shall be in the month of May for the purpose of electing officers and to transact any other business which shall come before the meeting, including, but not limited to, the amendment of the Constitution, Bylaws and/or the Rules and Regulations of this Association. The FYSA Region C Vice President shall be notified of the time and place of the Annual General Meeting.

## **08 VOTING**

### **a) CLUB VOTING:**

1. Each affiliated club in good standing shall receive one (1) vote for each team affiliated with this Association when voting on changes in the Constitution and Bylaws. Only clubs that have affiliated with USA prior to the start of the season shall be eligible to vote at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

2. On all matters not specifically described in 08-a-1 above, each affiliated club in good standing shall receive one (1) vote. Each affiliated club may exercise their vote on matters affecting only the Girls program, only if the club has at least one girls team entered in USA. Only clubs that have affiliated with USA prior to the start of the season shall be eligible to vote at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

b) **INDIVIDUAL VOTING:** Each member of the Executive Committee shall be entitled to one (1) vote. The President may vote only in the case of a tie.

c) **PROXY:** A Club President may assign his vote by written PROXY, which must be submitted to the Secretary before voting. Such proxy may be good for the year.

d) **ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE:** The newly elected officers will assume office immediately following their election at the Annual General Meeting at which they were elected.

e) **GOOD STANDING:** For purposes of eligibility to vote, good standing shall mean that the Club has i) paid all fees, fines and assessments owed to the Association; ii) maintained the requirements of Section 101(a) of the Bylaws; and iii) has otherwise complied with the Constitution, Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations of the Association.

## **09 AMENDMENTS**

a) **TIMING:** Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of USA will be made at the Annual General Meeting in May, unless otherwise specified below or in the Bylaws of this Association.

b) **ADOPTION:** An amendment shall be deemed adopted by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting membership as defined in the Bylaws that are present and voting.

c) **PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS:** Proposals made by the Executive Committee shall be posted on the USA website at least 20 days in advance of

the May meeting. Proposals may be submitted by any other member club representative and shall be submitted to the Executive Committee no later than the April Executive Committee meeting for posting on the USA website. When the President determines that an emergency situation exists, he may entertain motions to amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association at any time. After ten (10) calendar days, these motions may be voted on at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors.

d) **RULES AND REGULATIONS:** Rules and Regulations may be amended at any regular meeting provided written notice of the proposed amendments have been distributed at the immediately preceding regular meeting or mailed to all members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which the vote will take place.

## **BYLAWS**

### **101 AFFILIATION PROCEDURES**

a) **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR AFFILIATION:** A club may be either affiliated or associated one seasonal year upon request, and upon application by and acceptance of any of its teams for scheduling by USA, and compliance with the following;

1. Payment of all fees;
2. Documentation of Affiliation with FYSA;
3. Sufficient number of qualified referees to adequately officiate club games;
4. Any additional conditions or fees contained in these Bylaws or which the Board of Directors may impose for individual teams and/or clubs as a result of prior violations of the letter or the spirit of the USA Constitution, Bylaws or Rules and Regulations.
5. Associated membership shall be defined as non-voting members of USA. Clubs electing the Associated Club membership will not be required to attend monthly meetings other than the annual coaches meeting and will have no voting rights.

b) **FEES:** All USA team fees shall be payable at a time determined by the Executive Committee. Teams/ Clubs will not be eligible for any scheduled competition sanctioned by the Association unless all fees are paid.

c) **CLUBS HAVING THREE (3) OR FEWER TEAMS:** Clubs having three (3) or fewer teams affiliated with FYSA (regardless of the number registered with USA) shall post a performance bond in an amount to be determined by the Executive Committee, to insure full compliance with all Rules and Regulations and to insure said teams complete all required matches.

d) **FIELDS:** Clubs must have home fields and goals which comply with the sizes required by FYSA, or, if more restrictive, as set forth by the Executive Committee. USA reserves the right to inspect the home fields of any affiliate and, should a majority of the Executive Committee determine that said field(s) are unplayable or unsafe, require that affiliate to

play all of its games as "away" games. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final on this issue. Home fields for all affiliates must be located within FYSA Districts C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, or C-6, except as follows: The Executive Committee may establish central sites at any location in Region C for league play for any Age Group or Division and may allow home games in C-5 on a case by case basis for ages U13 and above.

#### **102 METHOD OF PAYMENT TO USA**

All bank checks, drafts and money orders submitted to the Association shall be made payable to UNITED SOCCER ASSOCIATION or USA. No cash transactions will be accepted. Checks should be "Club" checks from FYSA affiliated clubs. The Executive Committee may establish procedures for payment over the internet.

#### **103 SEASONAL YEAR**

For the purpose of administration, the seasonal year for USA operations and activities is defined as commencing July 1 and ending June 30th annually.

#### **104 DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTEES**

a) **PRESIDENT:** The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall preside at all USA meetings and may vote only in the case of a tie; appoint standing committees and their chair annually; and perform all other responsibilities as directed by the Board of Directors.

b) **VICE PRESIDENT SENIOR BOYS:** The Vice President Senior Boys shall, in the absence of the President, perform all duties of the President; shall act as the Senior Boys director (U-15 thru U-19) and preside at all Senior Boys meetings; and, shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the President, the Executive Committee, or the Board of Directors.

c) **VICE PRESIDENT JUNIOR BOYS:** The Vice President Junior Boys shall, in the absence of the President and the Vice President Senior Boys, perform all duties of the President, shall act as the Junior Boys Director (U-9 thru U-14) and preside at all Junior Boys meetings; and, shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the President, the Executive Committee, or the Board of Directors.

d) **VICE PRESIDENT GIRLS:** The Vice President Girls shall, in the absence of the President, the Vice President Senior Boys and the Vice President Junior Boys, perform all duties of the President; shall act as the Girls Director and preside at all girls meeting and, shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the President, the Executive Committee, or the Board of Directors.

e) **VICE PRESIDENT ADMINISTRATION:** the Vice President of Administration is a paid position, they report directly to the executive committee and are appointed by the executive committee on a yearly basis. Remuneration will be set yearly by the executive committee.

The Vice President of Administration will be responsible for all administrative activities USA undertakes. The particular duties include but are not limited to; maintaining accurate electronic records of all meetings, handle business correspondence, provide notice of all meetings as required, maintain files of the Association and post the meeting minutes on USA the website. They shall maintain records and receipts of all monies received by the Association and deposit same in a recognized bank or other financial institution in the name of the Association; they shall assure that all accounts are paid in a timely manner (The President and Treasurer of USA at all times, will have unfettered access to all banking relationships, bank information and all accounting reports). The Vice President of Administration shall oversee and coordinate all Association meetings and special events, programs and projects. They are expected to attend all U.S.A. Board and Executive Committee meetings as a nonvoting member. VP of administration is also responsible for overseeing and coordinating all scheduling of league play, maintaining game results and standings, maintaining records of sanctions and keeping track of all yellow and red cards issued in league play. They will be the principle coordinating person between the Board and the Referee Assignors. They are in charge of the efficient and high quality audio and visual transmission of all meetings to all U.S.A. members. In addition, the vice president of administration shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to them by the President, the Executive Committee, or the Board of Directors.

f) **SECRETARY:** The Secretary shall supervise and verify the accuracy of all Associations records, correspondence and legal notifications between Association and any outside entities the Executive Committee deemed necessary.

g) **TREASURER:** The Treasurer shall maintain records and receipts of all monies received by the Association and deposit same in a recognized bank or other financial institution in the name of the Association; shall obtain the specific approval of the Executive Committee for any non-budget expenditure in excess of \$500.00 -, shall produce all financial records when required by the Executive Committee to be properly balanced and to reflect the financial status of the Association; shall submit a financial report summary at each scheduled meeting and a written financial report at the Annual General Meeting of the Association; shall be responsible for preparing any and all financial documents required by the State of Florida or related to the tax exempt status of the Association.

h) **Administrative Coordinator:** is a paid position, appointed by the executive committee on a yearly basis. The administrative assistant will work directly with the Vice President of Administration to support all the administrative duties carried out by the Vice President of Administration. The Administrative Coordinator will work directly under, and be supervised by, the Vice President of Administration. Administrative Coordinator works for the Executive Committee and as such, all duties assigned to them by the Administrative Vice President will be subsumed under the auspices of and approval of the executive board.

i) **RESIGNATION, DEMISE OR REMOVAL:** In the event of the resignation, demise, removal or permanent incapacitation of any officer or appointee, the Executive Committee or President, as applicable, shall appoint a replacement to fill the un-expired term.

**j) ADVERSE CONDUCT:** Conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the objectives of the Association, excessive absences from monthly meetings and USA board related activities ( Coaches organizational meetings, planning meetings etc)”or nonfeasance, misfeasance, or malfeasance with regards to official USA duties will be cause for removal of a member of the Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee, provided that such allegations are brought to the Board of Directors and that the member so charged is notified of the allegations in writing, hand delivered or postmarked at least fourteen (14) days in advance of any meeting where such allegations are to be discussed or acted upon. Any member of the Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee who is arrested by law enforcement officials or indicted for commission of any felony, as defined by the laws of Florida, shall be automatically suspended until said charges are resolved or until his term expires and the President shall appoint a temporary replacement for the suspended member.

**k) VOTING:** No member of the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee may vote on any disciplinary matter or protest involving any player, coach, team or affiliate involving his home club.

**l) TERM OF OFFICE:** Each elected officer shall hold the office for a term of two years. The President, Vice President Senior Boys and Secretary elected in odd numbered years and the Vice President Junior Boys, Vice President Girls and Treasurer elected in even numbered years. Members appointed to elected Executive Committee Board positions shall serve until the position they were appointed to is scheduled for reelection. All Executive Committee appointments to nonelected positions will serve for one year.

#### **105 REGULAR MEETINGS**

**a) REGULAR MEETINGS:** Regular meetings of USA shall be held at least monthly at a time and place determined by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may cancel the December meeting upon notice to the Board of directors at the November meeting. Each Club President, or his or her proxy, shall attend all regular meetings, either in person or via electronic means provided by USA. Each proxy shall be delivered to the Association on a form approved by the Association.

**b) ANNUAL MEETING:** Annual Meetings shall be as set forth in the Constitution.

**c). EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** The Executive Committee shall meet on a regular basis, whenever the President deems it necessary, or whenever the President is instructed in writing to do so by at least two (2) members of the Executive Committee.

**d) QUORUM:** At all meetings of the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee a Quorum shall be a majority of those entitled to appear and vote.

**e) RULES OF ORDER:** Robert’s Rules of Order shall be the Parliamentary authority for all meetings of the Association unless otherwise agreed to by the membership or required by the USA Constitution, Bylaws or Rules and Regulations.

**f) MEETING LOCATIONS:** Except for the Annual AGM and occasional special events, all league meetings shall be held online, with meeting login details posted on the USA website.



## **106 COMMITTEES, CHAIRMANSHIPS AND COORDINATORS**

**a) STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS AND COORDINATORS:** The President shall annually appoint the following, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee;

- 1. Chairman of the Rules and Regulations Committee**
- 2. Chairman of the Protests and Appeals Committee**
- 3. Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee**

**b) COMMITTEES:** Whenever the President deems it necessary, or when instructed to do so by the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors, he shall appoint **AT LARGE** members to a committee and instruct the Chairman to convene the committee as soon as possible to deal with the assigned issue. When the committee has reached a decision on the assigned issue, it will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee and the **AT LARGE** members will be excused.

**c) DISCHARGE:** Each Standing Committee Chairperson and Coordinator shall be discharged annually at the end of the Annual General Meeting in May. Standing Committee Chairpersons and Coordinators may be re-appointed.

## **107 PROTESTS AND APPEALS**

**a) PROCEDURE:** All protest and appeals shall be filed with the person duly appointed by the Association to receive such appeals and protests, together with a filing fee in the form of a check or money order payable to the Association in the amount of \$100. In the event the protest or appeal involves another member, the person filing the appeal shall also serve a copy of the protest to the Club President of the member. In the event the protest or appeal is granted in all or part, the filing fee shall be refunded to the person or member who filed the appeal or protest.

**b) MATTERS SUBJECT TO APPEAL OR PROTEST:** Only matters which relate to the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of the Association; disciplinary actions imposed in league play, results of competitions sanctioned by the Association, specifically published rules for a competition, the misapplication of the **LAWS OF THE GAME** or matters relating to the Bylaws and Rules of FYSA shall be subject to Appeal and/or Protest. Judgment calls of the referee are not subject to appeal or protest.

**c) HEARING AND NOTICE:** The Executive Committee of the Association shall hear all protest and appeals. The Association shall provide notice of the time, date and place of the hearing to the person or member that filed the appeal or protest and any other affected member at least five (5) days prior to the hearing. Service on a member shall be made upon the Club President. Any notice may be made by e-mail, facsimile or mail. All hearings shall be conducted informally, unless otherwise required by the Bylaws or Rules of FYSA. All interested parties shall have the right to present evidence prior to any decision by the Executive Committee.

**d) APPEALS FROM DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** Any decisions of the Executive Committee are subject to review by the Board of Directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting, but only if an interested party notifies the President of the Association and all other interested parties at least five (5) days prior to such regularly scheduled meeting. Such notice may be made by e-mail, facsimile, or mail.

Any interested party may appeal a decision of the Board of Directors for a decision by the Affiliates at the Annual General Meeting of the Association, but only if an interested party notifies the President of the Association and all other interested parties, at least ten (10) days prior to such annual meeting. Such notice may be made by e-mail, facsimile, or mail.

**e) APPEALS FROM THE DECISIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION:** Only those matters subject to the jurisdiction of the FYSA may be appealed to the FYSA and only to the Bylaws and Rules of the FYSA.

**f) LIMITATIONS OF CIVIL ACTIONS, COSTS AND ATTORNEY FEES:** No member, member or either the Affiliate or Associate, player, parent, official, team, club, referee or other person or entity shall invoke the aid of any court or tribunal without first exhausting all of the available remedies provided herein and by the Bylaws and Rules of the FYSA.

If any such member, member or either the Affiliate or Associate, player, parent, official, team, club, referee or other person or entity (hereinafter referred to as the "Offending Party") fails to exhaust such available remedies before seeking the aid of any court or tribunal, the Offending Party shall pay the Association its reasonable expenses including attorney fees and compensate any officer or the Association at the rate of \$40/hour for the time spent that is reasonably related to such court or tribunal proceeding including travel expenses. The Offending Party may be subject to suspension from the Association and any other discipline as permitted by the Bylaws and Rules of the Association.

#### **108 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES and AUTHORITY:**

The Executive Committee shall have the vested responsibility, right and authority to:

1. Reprimand, suspend, bar completely or otherwise discipline any player, coach, team manager, or assistant coach and/or any affiliated team or club for violations of the USA or FYSA Constitutions, Bylaws, or Rules and Regulations unless the full Board of Directors acts to modify or rescind the disciplinary measures within 45 days of the Executive Committee decision.

2. The Executive Committee shall have the right to completely bar, suspend or otherwise reprimand or sanction any member club for cause. This could include but not limited to missing excessive league games without credible excuses, excessive or repeated incidents of offensive, unsportsmanlike or violent conduct by coaches, players or spectators associated with that club. Any conduct that the Executive Committee deems to be not in the best interests of the league or youth soccer in general.

3. Interpret and Enforce the USA Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations.

4. Budget for and administer the FUNDS of the Association.
5. Adopt TEMPORARY RULES and REGULATIONS for situations not provided for by the Constitution, By-Laws or existing Rules and Regulations; or deemed necessary and desirable in order to serve the best interests and objectives of the Association.

#### **109 DISSOLUTION**

Should the UNITED SOCCER ASSOCIATION be dissolved, all assets remaining after payment of all debts shall be transferred to an appropriate 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization for the express purpose of developing and promoting amateur youth soccer.

#### **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

##### **201 GENERAL RULES and REGULATIONS/PROCEDURES**

- a) The Rules and Regulations and operating procedures contained herein shall govern all affiliated or associated members of the United Soccer Association (USA). The United Soccer Association adopts the FYSA Rules of Competition and should any of these rules conflict with the FYSA Rules, and be less restrictive than the FYSA Rules, the FYSA rules shall prevail.
- b) VIOLATORS: Any player, coach, team manager, club, league official, or official of this Association determined to have violated the Constitution, By-Laws, or Rules and Regulation of the USA shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee pursuant to Section 1.08 of the Bylaws, subject to review of the USA Board of Directors.
- c) RESPONSIBILITY: Each team is responsible for the action and personal conduct of its team members, team manager, coach, parents and spectators; and is additionally responsible to ensure that its actions ON and OFF the field do not bring discredit upon the team or this Association.
- d) FURTHER RESPONSIBILITY: All USA affiliated club officials are responsible for governing the conduct and actions of those individuals associated with their organizations.
- e) BOARD MEETINGS: Three absences from Regular Meetings of the board of Directors by an affiliated club during the year proceeding the Annual General Meeting that are unexcused by the Executive Committee shall result in that club being in bad standing and ineligible to vote at the AGM. The club may regain good standing and eligibility to vote by paying the fine for missed absences as set by the Executive Committee.

##### **202 "YOUTH" AND AGE GROUPS**

- a) DEFINITION: For purpose of definition, the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations of this Association apply to FYSA and USA affiliated amateur youth players on teams within age groups up to NINETEEN (19) years. "YOUTH" shall refer to any

player who has not attained his/her NINETEENTH (19) birthday before the LAST DAY OF JULY (7/31) of the seasonal year in which he/she applies for registration.

b) **AGE GROUPS:** Age groups shall be as determined by FYSA and/or USYSA rules and regulations.

c) **FORMAT:** Under 9 7v7 Competitive format

Under 10 7v7 Competitive format

Under 11 9v9 competitive format

Under 12 9v9 competitive format

Under 13 thru Under 19 11v11 competitive format

### **203 REGISTRATION/INSURANCE**

a) **REGISTRATION REQUIRED:** All players on teams affiliated with USA are required to be properly registered with FYSA.

b) **DOCUMENTATION:** Each team shall complete and submit to USA:

USA will only accept teams from properly USA and FYSA affiliated member clubs in good standing.

A bond, if required by action of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and/or the Bylaws.

All teams must have pictures in their team account for all players, coaches and staff members.

c) **TEAMS WITH SAME NAMES:** All teams that have the same club name must be separately identified by either a numerical suffix or a different team name. The same club name/team name combination may not be used for more than one team in the same age group.

d) **RESPONSIBILITY:** Each team/club shall be responsible for assuring the accurate and proper registration of players, affiliation of teams and the proper account of fiscal transactions.

e) **DOCUMENT FALSIFICATION:** Falsification of player registration form, team roster forms, or other records of the FYSA or the USA shall be subject to **DISCIPLINARY ACTION**, up to and including permanent suspension of the individual(s) involved.

f) **IGNORANCE OF THE LAW:** A plea of ignorance to the Constitution, By -Laws, or Rules and Regulations of this Association is not deemed a sufficient defense, and violators will be required to account for their actions to the Executive Committee and/or Board of Directors.

**g) PLAYER PASSES/COACHING PASSES: ALL players and coaches must have a valid laminated FYSA player pass available for inspection at the time of team check-in along with proper team Got Soccer game card to participate in a USA Game. Should a player or coach participate in a game and not be properly registered, or possess a pass as required herein, his/her team shall automatically forfeit the contest 3-0 to the opposing team, and may be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee of the Association, depending on the circumstances of the violation.**

**h) Any U-8 Boys Team (majority of players are under 8) playing in the U-9 Division shall post a \$250.00 bond to assure completion of all league games without any forfeits. Any U-9 Girls team (majority of players under 9) playing in the U-10 Division shall post a \$250.00 bond to assure completion of all league games without any forfeits.**

**i) A club will be subject to a \$250.00 fine per game for any team which fails to complete all league games without forfeits, up to \$1000.00.**

#### **204 PLAYER AND TEAM ADMINISTRATION:**

##### **a) TEAM ROSTER:**

**1. No team shall have more than eighteen (18) players in U-13 age group; no more than twenty (22) players in the U-14 thru U19 age groups; no more than 16 players in U-11 and U-12 age groups. The U-9 & U10 age groups will have no more than twelve (12) players per each team. U-14 thru U-19 age groups must submit a game day Got Soccer game card listing only eighteen (18) players for participation to the referee prior to the starting of the match. ALL players must be pre-printed on the game card. Once a team checks in for a game, there will be no changes to the game card. Any challenges to any player eligibility must be made before the game starts, and will not require a protest fee. Referee will notate challenge on the game card and submit to USA, as well as notate challenge in the online game report.**

**2. A team requesting USA scheduling shall have a minimum 11 registered players for age groups U-13 thru U-19; 8 registered players for age group U-11 – U 12. For the U-9 & U-10 age groups must have a minimum of 6 players for each team.**

**3. An official State Roster, reflecting the team's then current players shall be the one designated by FYSA.**

**4. During regular league play, a player may only play with his/her primary team, with the exception of a player who is a club pass player as defined by subsection below. NO Guest Players or secondary registered players are allowed to play.**

**5. During regular season play and for all age groups, and U-11 through U-19 team may have up to (3) "club pass players" from within the team's Club, in conformance with the specific rules adopted by the Board of Directors from time to time and posted on the website and subject to the following:**

**a. Club pass Players will be listed as club pass players on the Got Soccer Game Card.**

**b. Club pass players may only participate with one (1) team per day. (Player may play more than one (1) game per day in the competition with the same team, but not with two different teams in the same day.)**

c. A club pass player may only club pass play from one team in a Club, in which the player is either a recreational (such as GYSA or TARSA) or USA League team player, to another team in a Club as set forth in specific criteria adopted by the Board of Directors and posted on the website.

d. The Under 9 & Under 10 age groups will play with unlimited club pass players from the same club, and at game time may have no more than 12 players. These players may be handwritten in at game time, and the referee will forward the game card to USA.

**CLUB PASS PLAYER SPECIFIC SITUATIONS: U11's through U 19. Teams in higher division are the A team, and team(s) in lower division are the B team.**

1. Clubs with teams in the same division, Player from A team may guest on the other A team and player from B team may guest on the other B team.

2. Player from Club recreational team may guest play on either team.

3. Player from B team may guest on the A team.

4. Player from B team may guest play on Club's team in an older age group, whether that team is an A or B team.

5. Player from A team may guest play on Club's team in an older age group, whether that team is an A or B team.

6. Player from A team may not guest on the B team.

7. Player from B team that is "playing up" may guest play on age appropriate team (play down), whether

8. Player from A team that is "playing up" may guest play on age appropriate team (play down), but only on an A team.

Any unusual circumstances will be adjudicated by Executive Committee if necessary.

#### **205 COMPETITION RULES:**

a) **APPLICABILITY:** These rules apply to general competition among USA teams and clubs.

b) **PURPOSE:** The intent and purpose is to insure that player registration, team/club affiliation, age grouping, as defined previously; as well as general rules of play, player

equipment, disciplinary and other actions are applied **UNIFORMLY** and consistently among all affiliates, thus attaining standardization throughout this Association.

**206 RULES of PLAY:**

a) **GENERAL:** Except where modified herein, Rules of Play shall be FIFA "Laws of the Game." Competition sanctioned by this Association shall abide by the "Laws of the Game " along with any modifications or regulations of the FYSA or USA.

b) **BEHAVIOR:** Officials, directors, and coaches of both teams are **RESPONSIBLE** to ensure that teams, coaches, fans, and spectators conduct themselves in a proper and respectful manner.

1. There shall be no **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** allowed on or near the playing field during any game under this Association's jurisdiction.

c) **THE FIELD:**

1. The home team will be responsible for the **CONDITIONS** of the grounds, field markings, and equipment.

2. Nets and corner flags are **REQUIRED. GOALS MUST BE ANCHORED!**

3. The referee assigned for that particular game shall determine the **PLAYABLE CONDITION** of the field. If the game cannot be played due to **UNPLAYABLE CONDITIONS**, the **HOME TEAM** is responsible for notifying their Club Commissioner or scheduler so that the game may be rescheduled.

4. It is the responsibility of the **VISITING TEAM'S COACH** to determine the directions to the playing field and to confirm times each week.

5. **PLAYERS** and **COACHES** of **BOTH** teams shall be on the same side of the field prior to and during the entire match. A **COACH** must be present from each team during the entire match. **SPECTATORS** shall be on the **OPPOSITE** side. Spectators are not allowed on the playing field until **BOTH TEAMS LEAVE THE FIELD**.

d) **LENGTH OF GAME, OVERTIME, AND BALL SIZE:**

1. Shall be as determined by FYSA and USYSA.

2. It shall be the responsibility of **BOTH TEAMS** to have an appropriate game ball.

3. The referee shall be responsible for the selection of the game ball(s).

**e) PLAYER PASSES:**

- 15 1. ALL players and coaches affiliated with the USA shall have a Valid VERIFIED, laminated, FYSA PLAYER PASS, or a FYSA COACHING PASS in order to participate in USA scheduled competition.**
- 2. Individual Presentation: All players and team staff shall individually present their player pass to the referee prior to the start of the game. Referee will hold passes during the course of the game.**
- 3. Pass Disposition: Player and coaches passes are to be RETURNED to the team manager or coach at the conclusion of the game.**
- 4. Failure to Produce a Pass: If a player/coach does not present a player pass to the referee prior to the game, he/she shall not participate in the game, and coaches may be asked to LEAVE the TEAM BENCH area by the referee. Minor players must stay with the team, unless the player's parents or guardians are present.**
- 5. Red Cards: The Player or Coaching Pass of a player or coach who was ejected shall no longer be retained by the Referee, but the Referee will report the information from the Player or Coaching Pass with the game report and supplemental report. Both teams will notify USA of the players or coach who was ejected via the Send off Form in order to expedite processing of suspensions. The league shall either assign the number of games of suspension if the minimum is assigned, or convene the Disciplinary Committee for any other proposed suspension.**

**f). PLAYER'S UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT:**

- 1. Contrasting Colors: Where colors of competing teams are IDENTICAL or SIMILAR, the designated visiting team must effect a CHANGE of COLORS distinct from their opponents.**
- 2. Goalkeeper's Uniform: ALL goalkeepers must wear a RECOGNIZABLE jersey, which shall not be the same color as either team's uniform shirts.**
- 3. Uniform Numbers: Player's uniform numbers are to be affixed to the back of the uniform shirt. No TWO PLAYERS from ONE TEAM may have an IDENTICAL UNIFORM NUMBER while both are playing on the field at the same time. Numbers must be a minimum of six (6) inches in height.**
- 4. Illegal Equipment: In accordance with the "Laws of the Game," the referee shall be responsible to insure that no player wears anything which may cause INJURY to himself or to another player.**
- 5. Casts and Braces: Players wearing an ORTHOPEDIC CAST (plaster or fiberglass) shall not be ELIGIBLE to participate in ANY GAME. Orthopedic Braces may be allowed if:
  - a. The player has a written statement from a physician stating that he/she feels the brace is necessary and that no further injury is likely to occur to the joint which is supported by the brace, AND;****



b. The parent has signed a waiver to free FYSA of any claim against FYSA and its insurance company in case of further injury to the joint protected with the brace.  
c. A player may be removed from the game if at any time the referee determines a player is using or attempting to use the brace to injure another player.

**6. Protective Equipment: ALL PLAYERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR PROTECTIVE SHIN GUARDS (to be worn beneath their game socks) at all times while actively participating in PRACTICE or a GAME. Such shin guards shall be of the type and style of protective athletic equipment specifically designed to protect the player's lower leg (SHIN BONE).**

**7. FOOTWEAR: Footwear will meet all of the requirements of LAW IV of FIFA "LAWS of the GAME" including matching socks for all field players, excluding goalkeepers. The referee is charged with the responsibility to inspect footwear prior to the kickoff and later if necessary. The referee shall determine whether or not footwear meets the required standards of safety.**

**g). REFEREES:**

**USA will contract with certified assignors to assign the center referees for games for U 11- U 19. These assignors will be paid \$7.00 per game, based upon the number of completed game reports and game cards submitted. Affiliated clubs will provide assistant referees for U 11- U 19, and will assign center referees for U9-U10. Got Soccer will be used for all referee assigning to assure that certified and FYSA background checked referees are assigned. Clubs are responsible per FYSA rules for having a certified assignor.**

**1. Report Forms and Roster Card: The referee shall require that both teams enter ALL the appropriate information on the league game report form prior to the start of the game and both coaches shall sign the Game Report at the end of the game, verifying the accuracy of the information entered on the form. The coaches from both teams shall supply the Got Soccer game card.**

**2. Verification of Documents: The referee shall verify the identity of each player by his/her PLAYER PASS and shall collect the passes of those players who intend to participate.**

**3. Player Eligibility: The referee will allow participation of only those players whose names appear on the Got Soccer Game Card, and for whom he/she has collected player passes.**

**4. Equipment Check: The referee shall check and make certain that each player's equipment is in proper order.**

**5. Post-Game Actions: Upon completion of the game, the referee shall RETURN the player and coaching passes to the respective coaches or team managers. The referee will retain the Got Soccer game card, presented at check-in along with the referee copy of the game report and forward these documents to USA per instructions on game report. The referee will file the Got Soccer game report ONLINE within 48 hours of the game.**

**6. Cautioned and Ejected Players/infracton Report:** In games where the referee was USA assigned and a player or coach was CAUTIONED (Yellow Carded) or EJECTED (Red Carded), the referee will complete the Got Soccer game report, and include the supplemental report information in the incidents section.

**7. Other Incidents:** It is the referee's responsibility via his game report, to report any unusual incident created by PLAYERS, COACHES, or SPECTATORS. Referees will report any injury where the player is attended on the field by the coach.

**8. Referee Absence:** In the event the assigned referee fails to appear, the coaches of the respective teams may find and must agree on an alternate and the GAME shall be PLAYED OFFICIALLY as SCHEDULED. If the coaches cannot agree then the game shall be rescheduled. Once the coaches agree and the game is started, the game must be completed.

**9. Number of Referees:** 7v7 games shall have one referee. 9v9 and 11v11 games shall have a center referee and two assistant referees.

**10. Referee Failure:** Failure of a Referee to abide by procedures set forth above shall not invalidate any game or the effect of any cards issued during the game.

**h) GIRLS SOCCER-USE OF ARMS:** Girls may use their arms, in a defensive manner for the protection of their UPPER THORAX.

**i) SUBSTITUTIONS:**

**1. Procedure:** Players may be substituted only during a stoppage of the game, and then, only with the consent of the referee. The number of substitutions shall be unlimited and may be made at the following times:

a. Prior to a throw-in in your favor.

b. Prior to a goal kick by either team.

c. After a goal has been scored by either team.

d. After an injury by either team, when the referee has stopped play.

e. Between periods.

f. Following a game stoppage for a CAUTION, the player cautioned may be substituted with the consent of the referee.

**2. Substituted Player:** A player who has been removed by substitution may re-enter the game.

**3. Red Card:** No substitute is allowed for any player EJECTED (Red Carded) by the referee.

**G) COACHING:** Coaching from the sideline, the purpose of which is to provide direction to one's own team on positioning and points of strategy, is conditionally permitted as followed:

**1. Bench Area:** Coaches and player substitutes must remain on the bench or in the immediate vicinity of the team's bench while the game is in progress. The Bench Area may only contain up to three (3) FYSA registered non-player personnel for the team. This includes all coaches, trainers and medical personnel. In the event an injured player requires medical treatment, a medical person may come over to treat the injured player in the Bench Area. Once treatment is completed the medical person must leave the Bench Area.

**2. Mechanical Devices:** Coaches may not utilize mechanical devices, such as voice amplifiers.

**3. Limitations:** Coaches may provide limited direction to their players in a manner that is intended to be instructional, or informative as to player positioning or team strategy. **COACHES SHALL NOT ATTEMPT TO DIRECT A PLAYER'S EVERY MOVE ON THE FIELD DURING THE GAME.**

**4. Ungentlemanly Conduct:** Coaches, players or player substitutes shall not use profanity or make insulting or otherwise derogatory remarks or gestures to their own team, the opposing team, the referees, or to the spectators. Cases of UNRULY and/or DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR will be reported, by the referee, to the applicable USA Vice President for action and may result in suspension or expulsion as determined by the Executive Committee and/or the Board of Directors.

**5. Enticing III Behavior:** Coaches, players, or player substitutes shall not, by their remarks or gestures, in any manner ENTICE DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR.

**6. Punitive Measures:** Coaches, players, or player substitutes violating the above rules will be subject to ejection, as well as to further disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee and/or the Board of Directors.

**7. Coaches Only:** Only registered personnel may coach from the within the Bench Area. No parents, spectators or other individuals may coach players at any time during the game.

**8. Red Card (Send off) Suspensions:** It shall be the duty of the Coach to assure that any player or coach under suspension for a red card or send off shall not participate for the required number of games, whether or not the player pass has been returned. The Coach shall assure that the game report reflects that any player/coach serving a suspension is noted thereon. Coach is required to submit game report to USA for player suspension list to be updated.

**k) POST GAME PROCEDURES:** Both coaches are required to retain a copy of all their game reports until the end of the season of play.

**I) CLUB OFFICIAL:** Each home team shall have a designated Field Marshall for all league games, readily identifiable by special clothing. The Field Marshall shall assist the referee in fixing any equipment problems and shall assist in spectator control. The Field Marshall shall report to the Club, which shall report to the USA League, any altercations or incidents and the action taken to resolve. The Field Marshall should not attempt to become physically involved in any altercation, but in the event of such altercation, shall call the appropriate Law Enforcement Agency.

**207 INTENTIONALLY DELETED**

**208 PUNITIVE MEASURES:**

Disciplinary actions shall follow the rules adopted by FYSA.

**209 SCHEDULED GAMES:**

Preliminary schedules will be sent to the teams/clubs at the start of the season for review. Teams/Clubs will have two weeks to review the proposed schedule. In the event a match day/time is unacceptable, then an immediate request must be made to the opposing team/club. The Home club can change the date if both teams agree. If teams cannot reach an agreement, they shall notify the VP Admin who will assist. Home clubs will schedule games in Got Soccer.

a) **FAILURE TO APPEAR:** All games are to be played at date and time and at the field locations indicated on the published schedules. No games will be moved, unless the procedure for game reschedules is followed. NO team may make arrangements to move a game other than by using the Got Soccer game change process.

b) Game change requests, where both coaches agree, made more than 3 weeks in advance of the game date and entered in Got Soccer, will be approved. Any game within 21 days that has both teams approval will be approved only if there is no referee assigned. No game will be moved within 21 days of game date if referees have been assigned.

Where there is a disagreement of the requested change of scheduling of the game, or a failure to respond, the game will stay as scheduled. It is the responsibility of the coach who wants to change the date of the game to get the home team to make the request, and get the away team to log in and agree.

No game will be left unscheduled, teams cannot decide to indefinitely postpone a game.

c) **Rescheduled Games:** All rescheduled games, due to unplayable fields, lightning, or other events out of the team's/club control must be rescheduled within 15 days of the original game date at a time mutually agreed to by the Coaches. USA will require the teams to use the normal Got Soccer process of entering a game change request to get the game rescheduled. The schedule will be updated by USA reflecting the revised date

and time. In the event the coaches cannot agree on the date and time of the game, it will remain un-played, unless one team is willing to forfeit (without any financial penalty since the game is not scheduled).

**d) UNPLAYABLE CONDITIONS:** In the event a game is canceled by the referee due to unplayable conditions, the referee will complete the game report indicating the issues. Should a game be started and then abandoned due to weather or other conditions out of the direct control of either of the teams playing, then it will be deemed complete if the first half has been completed. Clubs who have to close their complexes due to rain, unplayable fields, malfunctioning lights or other conditions out of their control, shall notify USA 24 hours in advance, and USA will cancel the games. **IN NO CASE WILL TEAMS NOTIFY THE OTHER TEAM OR THE REFEREES.** Should a club not notify USA in a timely manner, and the schedule is not updated, then the teams are expected to show up at the field and the referee will cancel the game. Home team will pay the referees. Conditions out of the club's control shall include but not be limited to standing water, field maintenance, non- functioning lights, and closure due to events organized by outside entities who have been granted permission to use the fields by field owners that are not a part of the USA member club. In no case will a club close its complex to USA scheduled games for an event that the club has organized.

**e) DELAY OF START:**

Any team delaying the start of a scheduled game by more than **FIFTEEN (15 ) MINUTES**, unless a postponement has been effected by USA, shall **FORFEIT** the game to the **OPPONENT** by the score of **THREE (3) to ZERO (0)**, unless the delay was due to circumstances beyond the control of the team.

**By Referee:** Referees who are responsible for the late start of a game, without proper cause or having failed to notify or gain permission for absence from the proper authority, will be subject to disciplinary actions, and may be called upon to explain their actions.

**f) FORFEITS:** If a forfeit occurs for failure to appear on game day then a fine of \$250.00 will be imposed upon the team and/or club. The forfeiting team will be charged \$250.00 plus the referee fees for \$350.00 total. Fines due prior to next scheduled game. Teams with outstanding debts are ineligible to play. USA will post the names of any team who has an unpaid forfeit fine within 3 days of the game, and will notify all future opponents that they have a forfeit win for games within 7 days of being played. Any game that is forfeited will not be eligible to be rescheduled. Teams that wish to forfeit, will contact USA, pay the fine and then USA will notify the referee assignor and opposing team. Teams may forfeit games 21 days or more before game date with no penalty. Games forfeited on the USA website with the forfeiting team paying \$100.00 referee fees may be done between 6-21 days of game date. Any team who forfeits less than 5 days before game date will pay a \$250.00 fee.

**g) TRAVEL TIMES:** Home teams will not schedule any games before 10:00 AM involving opponents traveling more than 50 miles or 2 hours

### **210 AMENDMENTS:**

These RULES and REGULATIONS may be AMENDED in accordance with the USA Constitution.

### **211 MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR:**

Any matters not provided for in these RULES and REGULATIONS, or those of the USSF, USYSA, FYSA, or FIFA, shall be determined by the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors of this Association.

### **301 SAFETY RULES:**

The following safety rules are incorporated into the Rules and Regulations to help establish standard safety practices for players and coaches and as a reminder to referees. Coaches are urged to review these safety standards with their players.

**GLASSES:** Glasses should only be worn if mandatory for proper vision, shall have SAFETY LENSES and shall have a safety strap.

**SHIN GUARDS:** SHIN GUARDS MUST BE WORN BY ALL PLAYERS PLAYING IN THE USA league.

**PROJECTIONS:** Sharp projections of any type are forbidden, including ornaments, or items carried in pockets, or attached to clothing or to the person. These include, but are not limited to RINGS, BRACELETS, MEDALLIONS. NECK CHAINS, EAR RINGS, WRIST WATCHES, PENS, and PENCILS.

**CASTS:** Players wearing a CAST may DRESS OUT but, shall not PLAY.

**DANGEROUS CONDITIONS:** Dangerous conditions of play, such as substandard playing conditions, structural or electrical hazards, lightning, etc., are grounds for match postponement by the referee. These conditions must be reported to the applicable USA Vice President at the earliest opportunity.

**INJURY:** Any injury must be reported directly to the player's parent(s) at the earliest opportunity. Where it is the judgment of the coach that medical attention is required, the player's parent(s) and family physician should be notified. If this cannot be done in a reasonable amount of time, the County EMS system should be activated so that trained personnel can attend to the player's injury.

**PLAYING FIELDS:** Playing fields should be policed for sharp stones, broken glass or other sharp projections. This activity should be performed by the home team.

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS:** Coaches should always have in their possession telephone numbers for:

1. Player's parent(s), both HOME and WORK.

2. Player's family physician.
3. Local Police.
4. County EMS.
5. Ambulance Service.

#### **401 STANDINGS:**

The following system has been established for standings:

- a) **Game Points:** 5 points for a win, 2 points for a tie, no points for a loss; and if no clear winner;
- b) **SECOND:** Head to head competition; and if no clear winner;
- c) **THIRD:** Adjusted goal differential, goals scored minus goals allowed with a maximum of plus or minus three (3) goals per game; and if no clear winner;
- d) **FOURTH:** Total goals allowed, if no clear winner;
- e) **FIFTH:** The tied teams will be decided by a coin toss, unless the teams involved are subject to promotion/relegation, then the tied teams will be required to play a match of regulation time for their age group; and if at the end of regulation time a winner has not been decided;
- f) **SIXTH:** Two overtime periods will be played to completion; and if at the end of the overtime periods a winner has not been decided;
- g) **SEVENTH:** Penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA "Taking of kicks from the penalty spot" to obtain a result.
- h) **U-9 & U-10 Age Groups:** No standings will be kept for any U-9 & U-10 age groups.

#### **501 AGE GROUP DIVISION ASSIGNMENT:**

USA will publish a date for team applications and payment to be due. Any team which has not applied and paid by the deadline is not guaranteed a spot. USA will have a late fee of an additional \$100 for any team who applies or pays after the deadline, and placement is not guaranteed. Fees will be returned for teams not accepted. Teams who drop out will not receive refunds. Placement of teams within the various Divisions of each age group shall be guided by the principals of fairness, competitiveness and balance. Balance means that to the greatest extent possible, each team in a Division will play each of the other teams within that Division the same number of games during the league schedule. This may not be entirely possible for the lowest Division within an age group due to uneven numbers of teams within the age group. In that case only the last

number of games in which all teams play each other an equal number of games, shall count toward standing for Divisional Placement.

The Administrative Coordinator will provide the Executive Committee with the standings, and the VPs will recommend group placement before the annual coaches meeting. These proposed divisions will be published prior to the annual coaches meeting, and will be finalized at the coaches meeting for all age groups. **ANY AFFILIATE THAT FAILS TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL COACHES MEETING SHALL FORFEIT THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE DIVISIONAL PLACEMENT. THIS INCLUDES THOSE THAT HAVE EARNED A SPOT DUE TO PROMOTION/RELEGATION. ALL MATTERS OF ROSTER COMPLIANCE WILL BE DECIDED AT THIS MEETING.**

a) U 9 – U 10 age group, Prior to the annual coaches meeting, there will be a director of coaches meeting to determine division and placement of the teams. Attempts will be made to have the teams play a home and away, balanced, schedule. Groups of 6 will have 10 games, groups of 7 will have 12 games, and groups of 8 will have 14 games over a 14 week season. Where this is not possible, the Executive committee will determine how to schedule additional games in the best interest of all teams.

b) U-11 & U-12: Each Under 11 and 12 Age Group (Boys and Girls) shall be divided into two or three Divisions, with the number set by the Executive Committee after determining the number of teams registered. Each Division shall be divided into groups of an equal number of teams, to the extent practicable, with emphasis of 8 teams in each Division. Prior to the annual coaches meeting, there will be a director of coaches meeting to determine division and placement of the teams.

*No Round Robin Seeding tournaments shall be held for Under 11's.*

For the Under 12 Divisions, to the extent practical, the top 6 teams from Division I shall remain in Division I. The bottom two teams from Division II shall be promoted to Division I. To the extent practical, while maintaining geographic regions, Division II shall consist of the following: i) the bottom two teams from last year's Division I; ii) the two teams qualifying from the Division II/III playoff set forth below; and iii) that number of teams from last year's Division II needed to bring the number of teams in Division II to the number in the Division as set by the Executive Committee, with the spaces going to the teams with the highest standings from the immediate preceding year. The top two teams from each group in Division III and the bottom two teams from Division II shall have a playoff to determine which two teams shall be promoted to Division II, at a time and under a format as set forth by the Executive Committee.

The grouping of the teams in Division III shall be made at the Annual Seeding Meeting.

c) U13: Each Age Group (Boys and Girls) shall be divided into three Divisions – I, II and III. Division I shall consist of 8 teams each. Division II shall be determined based upon the number of teams registered by the Executive Committee. Division III shall be divided into groups of an equal number of teams based upon seeding and geographic placement.



Prior to the annual coaches meeting, all teams in prior year Division I and Division II along with Division III teams with a winning record and any New Team which desires placement in Division I will be eligible to participate in a Round Robin Tournament. The tournament will be seeded based upon prior year standings. The Tournament will be held before the annual coaches meeting. Prior to the annual coaches meeting, there will be a director of coaches meeting to determine division and placement of the teams.

Under 14 –Under 19 Divisions, the teams shall be placed based upon principals of Promotion/Relegation. *No Round Robin Seeding Tournaments shall be held for under 14's through under 19's.* Each Age Group (Boys and Girls) shall be divided into three Divisions – I, II and III. Division I and II shall consist of 8 teams each. Division III shall be divided into groups of an equal number of teams based upon seeding and geographic placement. Each Age the top 6 teams from Division I shall remain in Division I. The bottom two teams from Division I shall be relegated to Division II. The top two teams from Division II shall be promoted to Division I. Division II shall consist of the following: 1) the bottom two teams from last year's Division I; the two teams qualifying from the Division II/III playoff set forth below; and that number of teams from last year's Division II needed to bring the number of teams in Division II to 8 with the spaces going to the teams with the highest standings from the immediate preceding year. The top two teams from each group in Division III and the bottom two teams from Division II shall have a playoff to determine which two teams shall be promoted to Division II, at a time and under a format as set forth by the Executive Committee. The grouping of the teams in Division III shall be made at the Annual Seeding Meeting.

Teams will be placed in divisions based upon the record of the team as registered by the club from the previous year, it will NOT be determined by a % of players from the previous year.

**Annual Seeding Meeting:** Shall mean a meeting to be set by the Executive Committee prior to the season for determining groupings in Division III and other Division placement issues. Each team that is not placed within a Division and group, if in Division III, by the rules, must be represented by a coach or a team representative at the Annual Seeding Meeting. It shall be the obligation of each team to check the USA Website to determine the time and location of the Annual Seeding Meeting. Failure of a coach or representative for a team to attend the Annual Seeding Meeting shall result in the loss of that team's right to appeal such placement. USA Admin Coordinator shall post the past season standings and team records prior to the Annual Seeding Meeting. The meeting for each age group shall be presided over by the Vice President. The Coaches shall attempt to agree on the placement of the various teams into Divisions or groups, as applicable under the placement rules, for their respective age groups.

**Eligible Record:** Means a regular season record with more wins and ties than losses.

**Promotion/Relegation:** This principal of Promotion/Relegation means that each team may be either moved up a Division, moved down a Division or remain in the

same Division as that in which the team played in the immediately prior season, based upon that team's standing at the end of the immediately prior season.

**Round Robin Seeding Tournament:** Shall mean a tournament for each applicable Age Group for placement in a Division, each to be held during the same weekend prior to the season, on a date set by the Executive Committee. Any games that cannot be completed during the scheduled Seeding Tournament weekend due to weather conditions shall be held on the weekend immediately following (unless that is Labor Day weekend, in which event it shall be held on the weekend after Labor Day). Each Seeding Tournament for each applicable age group shall be played at a site selected by The USA Executive board. The identification of brackets and schedules in each Seeding Tournament shall be by blind draw. The number of teams within each bracket shall be established for each age group by the VP and will generally be three, four or five, depending on total number of teams competing. The VP shall recommend the brackets to the Executive Committee and post same on the Website. Any team that wishes to challenge the recommendation of the VP shall notify the Executive Committee in writing or by e-mail within 5 days after the posting. In the event no challenges are received by the Executive Committee the recommendation shall stand. In the event of a challenge, the Executive Committee shall make a decision at its next regular or special meeting. Any team that fails to attend the Annual Seeding Meeting shall forfeit the right to challenge the recommendations. The rules for assignment of points and for tie breakers shall be the same as those for the regular season play.

**Standing:** All standings shall be made as of the end of the league season, based on League play only. Tournament and post season records shall not affect standing.

**Petition to the Executive Committee:** A petition to the Executive Committee for inclusion in a Round Robin Seeding tournament shall be made in writing or by e-mail no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> prior to the season for the Senior Age Groups and July 31<sup>st</sup> prior to the season for the Junior Age Groups. The petition shall include the name of the team, the name of the club, the name of the coach, the rule under which the team is applying and the qualifications, if required.

**Teams per Affiliate in Division I:** In no event shall any Division I have more than two teams from the same Affiliate.

**Playing Up:** Any team that may qualify to play up an age group will be treated as a New Team in the Age Group to which they are playing up. If such team wishes to play in Division I, the team may petition the Executive Committee for permission to challenge the lowest ranked team that has qualified for Division I (generally, the second place team from the previous year's Division II) in a head to head challenge game. The winner will be placed in Division I. If the loser is the team playing up, that team shall be relegated to Division III. If the loser is a challenged team, that team shall be relegated to Division II, with the lowest ranked team in Division II being relegated to Division III.

**Failure to Return:** If a team that was in a particular Division during the immediately preceding season fails to return for the current season, or become a New Team by definition, and is therefore not a returning team, no changes to the prior season's league standings will be made for purposes of Promotion/Relegation. Such failure to return will merely result in an additional open spot where such team would have placed. For example; if a team in the top six fails to return, the 7<sup>th</sup> place team does not automatically take its place. The VP shall determine which team shall fill a spot vacated by the team failing to return at the Annual Seeding Meeting and shall recommend such assignment to the coaches at the annual meeting. Any team that fails to attend the Annual Seeding Meeting shall forfeit the right to challenge the recommendations.

**Agreement at Annual Meeting:** In order for a team to be placed in a Division or Grouping at the Annual Seeding Meeting in which agreement is necessary by these rules, all teams present must agree on the placement. Any team not present may not object to placement for any reason, including promotion/relegation.

**Team Registration:** Any team electing to play in the USA league must be registered with USA at least one week prior to the date scheduled for the Round Robin Seeding Tournament. Once a team registers for a particular age group (e.g. playing up) the team may not elect to play back down after the Round Robin Tournament because the team was relegated to Division III.

**Executive Committee Adjustments:** The Executive Committee may adjust the number of teams in any Division II upon a determination that insufficient numbers of teams are available for a Division III. In the U-17 and U-19 Age Groups, the Executive Committee may adjust the number of teams in Division I, up or down, to assure proper competition among the teams. The Executive Committee may utilize in any Division the provision that will allow the reshuffle of the teams to achieve a better balance. The Executive Committee maintains the right to modify these rules for the particular season to provide for extraordinary circumstances. Such modifications shall terminate at the end of the season unless adopted by the Board at the Annual General Meeting.

**Division Sizes:** As some Division or Division groups have an unequal number of teams, only the last number of games in which all teams play each other an equal number of games shall count toward standing for Divisional Placement.