

WSYSA
ADMINISTRATIVE
HANDBOOK
2008 - 2009



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**BYLAWS and RULES
of the
Washington State Youth Soccer Association
(WSYSA)**

Bylaws

Administrative Procedures

Operating Procedures

Rules of Competition

Governing Documents

Appendix

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Washington State Youth Soccer Association
Member of US Youth Soccer and the United States Soccer Federation

President
Doug Andreassen

Washington State Youth Soccer Association
500 S. 336th Street, Suite 100
Federal Way, Washington 98003-6389

Website: wsysa.com

Phone: (877) 424-4318
(253) 4-SOCCER
(253) 476-2237
Fax: (253) 925-1830

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PREFACE

Washington State Youth Soccer Association (WSYSA) comprises 42 Member Associations and 1 Associate Member which include more than 250 clubs or leagues throughout the State. In turn, WSYSA is affiliated with US Youth Soccer, US Soccer, and ultimately with FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association).

Our principal purpose, as expressed in our Bylaws, is to develop and promote the game of soccer for boys and girls. Secondary goals are to promote physical and mental fitness, sportsmanship, skill development, citizenship, and the player's commitment to the team.

In answer to "Who Is Washington State Youth Soccer Association?", all of us involved in its programs -- players, coaches, referees, administrators, parents, and families -- belong to and have the opportunity to be involved in the programs and the decision-making process that guides the Association.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of WSYSA to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of the state of Washington's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

This Association shall be established as a non-profit and educational organization.

CHANGES

Changes to the contents of this Administrative Handbook may occur at any time as the result of decisions by the National or the State governing Boards of Directors. The WSYSA website (www.wsysa.com) will always have the most current information posted. Please check with the WSYSA office or WSYSA website for details.

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**BYLAWS and RULES
of the
Washington State Youth Soccer Association**



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WSYSA BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME AND DURATION

SECTION 1: The Washington State Youth Soccer Association, hereafter referred to as the “WSYSA”, is a non-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Washington.

SECTION 2: The duration of this corporation shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

SECTION 1: The objectives of the WSYSA are to:

- (a) Promote and further develop the game of soccer.
 - (b) Organize and govern the game of soccer for youth within the state of Washington.
 - (c) Assign administrative responsibilities to member organizations.
1. Establish uniform procedures and rules applicable to youth soccer competition in this state consistent with the principles and laws of the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA, the world-governing body for soccer), and those of US Youth Soccer, and those of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF, the national governing body for soccer, affiliated with FIFA).
 2. Develop the game in non-affiliated areas within the state of Washington.
 3. Provide programs for the membership as required.
 4. Administer and conduct state-wide competitions as required.
 5. Represent this state in all matters of organized youth soccer with regard to US Youth Soccer, USSF, and interested parties.
 6. Where conditions and circumstances prevent full compliance, the WSYSA shall effect deviations best suited to its own particular needs.

SECTION 2: The purposes of the WSYSA are educational and include the following:

- (a) Teach and train players, coaches, and referees.
- (b) Teach through the game of soccer, sportsmanship, physical health and mental alertness.

ARTICLE III – ASSOCIATION COLORS

SECTION 1: The representative colors of the WSYSA shall be GREEN and GOLD.

ARTICLE IV – JURISDICTION

SECTION 1: The WSYSA shall have jurisdiction over all its member organizations, including districts, associations, clubs, teams, as well as associated individuals, such as players, coaches and administrators.

ARTICLE V – AFFILIATION

SECTION 1: The WSYSA shall be a member of the United States Soccer Federation (“the Federation”) and US Youth Soccer. The WSYSA will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with the Federation’s articles, bylaws, policies and requirements.

SECTION 2: The WSYSA shall register all of its players, coaches, teams, referees and administrators with the Federation at least once each year and timely pay all dues and fees of the Federation.

SECTION 3: Individuals registered by the WSYSA with the Federation shall be members of the WSYSA and the Federation with the rights accorded them under the WSYSA and Federation bylaws.

ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: GENERAL

- (a) The membership of the WSYSA shall consist of incorporated organizations engaged in youth soccer within the state of Washington which agree to be bound by the bylaws, procedures and rules of the WSYSA and which shall be admitted to membership in accordance with the bylaws of the WSYSA.
- (b) Individual players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators and officials are members of the WSYSA through their association with said member organizations or with WSYSA committees, or as elected officers of the WSYSA.
- (c) The membership of the WSYSA and the members of the WSYSA shall be open to any soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators and officials not subject to suspension under the bylaws of the WSYSA or under the bylaws of the Federation, and to any amateur soccer organization in its territory.
- (d) The WSYSA will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin.

- (e) No members of WSYSA shall engage themselves in a WSYSA position or function in an effort to secure an advantage for another organization or for their personal or business gain. Any potential conflict of interest shall be declared in a disclosure statement to the Executive Board, either voluntarily or upon the request of the Executive Board. If a conflict of interest is evident, the Executive Board shall request the withdrawal of the person or recommend an investigation by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2: CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

There shall be the following classes of membership within the WSYSA:

- (a) Member Association - an administrative and coordinating body for WSYSA programs that contains clubs and/or teams in which individuals under nineteen (19) years of age learn and play soccer. A Member Association must have at least fifty (50) teams or demonstrate the capability of conducting balanced league play in all age groups up to U-13 without help from neighboring Member Associations.
- (b) Provisional Member - an organization that has applied as a Member Association but does not qualify by virtue of not having fifty (50) teams or not capable of conducting balanced league play in all age groups up to U-13 or not meeting other qualifications of this section. Provisional membership shall be granted for a term not to exceed three years.
- (d) Associate Member - an organization formed to advance a particular aspect of soccer such as coaching or refereeing, but is not responsible for recruiting, training, fielding, and funding of soccer players. This type of membership is a non-chartered, non-voting affiliation to allow limited benefits. Recognition by WSYSA as an Associate Member shall be extended to the organization and not to its membership or programs.

SECTION 3: STANDARD OF MEMBERSHIP

- (a) The bylaws and policies of an organization seeking to join the WSYSA as a Member Association or Provisional Member shall include the following:
 - (1) The membership of said organizations shall be open to any soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials not subject to suspension under section 4 of Bylaw 241 of US Soccer (“the Federation”), and to any amateur soccer organization in its territory; and
 - (2) The Federation articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and requirements take precedence over and supersede the governing documents and decisions of said organizations to the extent applicable under state law, and shall provide that said organizations will abide by the Federation articles, bylaws, policies, and requirements, including those on interplay; and
 - (3) Said organizations will provide equitable and prompt hearing and appeal procedures to guarantee the rights of individuals to participate and compete. Those procedures shall include that all grievances involving the right to participate and compete in activities organized or sponsored by said organizations may be appealed first to the WSYSA Appeals Committee and then to the Federation’s Appeals Committee that shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify or reverse a decision.

- (4) An organization having membership in the WSYSA as a Member Association or Provisional Member on May 1, 2005, must amend their bylaws and policies to include the above requirements of this part.
- (b) The bylaws and policies of an organization seeking membership with the WSYSA as a Member Association or Provisional Member shall:
 - (1) Provide for membership with the WSYSA, which affiliation may be voluntarily modified or discontinued only by action of the members of said organization at the annual meeting; and
 - (2) Provide it shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the WSYSA in the administration and conduct of youth soccer programs within its territory, and by the rules and regulations of US Youth Soccer as may be applicable pursuant to the membership of the WSYSA in US Youth Soccer.
 - (3) An organization having membership in the WSYSA as a Member Association or Provisional Member on May 1, 2005, must amend its bylaws and policies to include the above requirements of this part.
- (c) An organization having or seeking membership in the WSYSA as a Member Association shall maintain recognition of federal tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1954.

SECTION 4: ADMISSION

- (a) Application for membership as a Member Association, Provisional Member or Associate Member shall be submitted to WSYSA on forms provided by WSYSA, accompanied by two copies of the applicant's articles of incorporation (if applicable), bylaws, and other governing documents together with:
 - (1) For application as Member Association and Provisional Member, provide:
 - (A) A description of the applicant's geographical boundaries (map included);
 - (B) Current team registration records;
 - (C) A statement of the reason for forming a new Member Association or establishing provisional membership;
 - (D) A statement of anticipated impact on existing Member Association(s);
 - (E) A written statement of concurrence from a majority of Member Associations within the affected District. Notification for the proposal must be submitted to the District Commissioner sixty (60) days prior to a vote of the Member Associations;
 - (F) A fee as set by the Board of Directors;
 - (G) A demonstration that the applicant's articles of incorporation (if applicable), bylaws, and other governing documents conform to the requirements of the bylaws of WSYSA and the Federation to the extent applicable under state law.
 - (2) For application as an Associate Member, provide:
 - (A) A statement of the reasons for seeking membership as an Associate Member;
 - (B) A fee as set by the Board of Directors
- (b) Acceptance for membership shall be by majority vote of the Board of Directors and shall specify voting rights, registration requirements and requirements for the payment of fees as applicable. Acceptance or denial for membership may be with, or without, stated reasons.

- (c) Member Associations joining WSYSA before or during their playing season must submit player registration fees and insurance fees no later than thirty (30) days after their acceptance. They will be entitled to full voting rights upon such payment per Bylaw Article VOTING AND QUORUM.
- (d) Member Associations joining WSYSA after their playing seasons may elect not to pay registration fees and insurance fees for the remainder of the seasonal year. If this option is exercised, teams are not eligible to participate in WSYSA events; however, WSYSA Executive Board waiver to this requirement may be granted for individual teams for which the Member Association submits player and registration fees to WSYSA, but such payments would not grant voting rights to the Association.

SECTION 5: CONVERSION

A Provisional Member must apply as a Member Association once the organization has at least fifty (50) teams or can demonstrate that the organization is capable of conducting balanced league play in all age groups up to U-13 without help from neighboring Member Associations.

SECTION 6: CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Any Member Association, Provisional Member or Associate Member paying dues or applicable fees is entitled to vote or participate in the business of WSYSA as provided for in the WSYSA Bylaws and Operating Procedures except that no Member in arrears to WSYSA or suspended shall have this right.
- (b) Member Associations and Provisional Members shall:
 - (1) Provide annually to WSYSA copies of the Member Association's articles of incorporation (if applicable), bylaws and other governing documents, and
 - (2) Submit changes to those documents to WSYSA for review no later than ninety (90) days after adoption, and
 - (3) Make copies of those documents available to its members.

SECTION 7: DISCONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Any violation of the membership requirements of these bylaws by a Member Association or Provisional Member as certified by the Executive Director shall require a probationary hearing by the Board of Directors within thirty (30) days, to determine what actions are necessary by the Association to come into compliance with these bylaws and to establish a probationary period of up to ninety (90) days for the Association to take such actions and shall provide for suspension of all membership privileges if not satisfied.
- (b) Member Associations or Provisional Members failing or refusing to follow the WSYSA Bylaws, procedures, or rules or attempting to circumvent a decision rendered by the WSYSA, or seriously damaging the interest of the WSYSA, face suspension or expulsion.
- (c) Member Associations that do not maintain fifty (50) teams or provide balanced league play for U-13 and below without assistance for neighboring associations face suspension or expulsion.

(d) Notification of suspension or expulsion shall be made in writing, with a thirty (30) day notice.

(e) Suspension or expulsion shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the WSYSA Board of Directors.

SECTION 8: JURISDICTION OF MEMBERSHIP

Member Associations and Provisional Members shall have jurisdiction, control and responsibility to supervise all games of youth soccer involving properly registered teams, as well as associated activities, within their specific area of administrative government as approved by the WSYSA Board of Directors.

SECTION 9: RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

Member Associations and Provisional Members shall be responsible for the conduct of players, parents, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators and officials under their jurisdiction, and shall insure that their actions on or off the field do not bring disfavor upon WSYSA.

SECTION 10: MEMBERSHIP CONFLICT

The articles of incorporation (if applicable), bylaws and governing documents of any Member Association or Provisional Member shall not conflict with those of the WSYSA.

SECTION 11: HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Honorary Life Membership may be granted to persons who, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, have contributed their services in such a manner as to warrant such recognition. The decision to award an Honorary Life Membership shall be by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Such awards shall be presented at the WSYSA Annual General Meeting. A maximum of two candidates may be honored annually. Honorary Life Members shall receive due consideration in recognition of their service, including notice of all WSYSA Council meetings and copies of the annual report.

ARTICLE VII – ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

SECTION 1: The WSYSA Board of Directors and Council shall be governed by the WSYSA Bylaws, procedures and rules. The Federation articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and requirements take precedence over and supersede the governing documents and decisions of the WSYSA and its members to the extent applicable under Washington state law, and the WSYSA and its members will abide by the Federation's articles, bylaws, policies and requirements, including those on interplay.

SECTION 2: The WSYSA Board of Directors and Council shall have the authority from time to time to issue policies or instructions necessary to interpret, clarify or further define the bylaws, procedures and rules.

SECTION 3: WSYSA will allow the Federation to review the documents and procedures of the WSYSA on the request of the Federation not less than once every four (4) years, to determine compliance with USSF Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII – ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1: The governing authority of the WSYSA shall be vested with the Council.

SECTION 2: The Council consists of the Executive Board, the District Commissioners, Member Association Representatives (MARs) and the representative of each Affiliate Member, Other Affiliate Member and Associate Member approved for membership in the WSYSA.

SECTION 3: The Board of Directors shall be composed of the Executive Board and one District Commissioner from each WSYSA District.

SECTION 4: The Executive Board consists of the Officers of the WSYSA.

SECTION 5: The WSYSA shall be governed by its bylaws, procedures and rules.

ARTICLE IX – COUNCIL

SECTION 1: The responsibilities and authority of the WSYSA Council shall include, but not be limited to, action on the following matters:

- (a) WSYSA player registration fee, based on a preliminary budget approved by the Board of Directors;
- (b) Proposed changes or amendments to the WSYSA Bylaws;
- (c) Election of the Executive Board (Officers) at the Annual General Meeting.

SECTION 2: The Council shall meet as set forth in Bylaw Article MEETINGS, herein.

ARTICLE X – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1: The Board of Directors consists of the Executive Board and the District Commissioners. Responsibilities and authority shall include, but not be limited to, the actions shown in Section 2 below.

SECTION 2: The Board of Directors shall vote on the following matters:

- (a) Applications for membership;
- (b) The establishment of areas of administrative jurisdiction of its Districts;
- (c) Proposed changes or amendments to the WSYSA Operating Procedures;
- (d) Approval of state league play;

- (e) Filling vacancies on the Executive Board;
- (f) Removal of Officers based on detrimental actions or neglect of accepted responsibilities;
- (g) Suspension or expulsion of Member Associations;
- (h) Approval of District bylaws;
- (i) Approval of hiring, dismissal, salaries and salary changes for the Director of Coaching;
- (j) Awards of Honorary Life Membership.

SECTION 3: The Board of Directors shall meet as set forth in Bylaw Article MEETINGS, herein.

ARTICLE XI – EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 1: The Executive Board (Officers) of the WSYSA shall consist of the President, the First Vice-President of Administration, the Second Vice-President of Administration, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Vice-President of Recreation, the Vice-President of Development and the Vice-President of Competition.

SECTION 2: The Executive Board shall be responsible for conducting the business and administering the affairs of the WSYSA to include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Enforcing the bylaws, procedures and rules of the WSYSA;
- (b) Approval of formation and operation of all tournaments, except such tournaments conducted by Member Associations and Districts for their membership;
- (c) Approval of interstate and international play;
- (d) Approval of formation of WSYSA Select Teams for participation in Olympic Development (ODP) competitions;
- (e) Approval or removal of WSYSA Committee Directors;
- (f) Recommendations to the WSYSA Board of Directors for suspension or removal of WSYSA Officers;
- (g) Review and make recommendations on matters to be submitted to the Board of Directors;
- (h) Sign orders on the treasury;
- (i) Strategic planning.

SECTION 3: The Executive Board shall meet as set forth in Bylaw Article MEETINGS, herein.

SECTION 4: OFFICER ELECTION PROCEDURES

The Officers of the WSYSA (Executive Board) shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting by the voting membership of the WSYSA Council, as follows:

- (1) Officers to be elected in ODD numbered years are:
 - President
 - Second Vice-President of Administration
 - Secretary
 - Vice-President of Competition
- (2) Officers to be elected in EVEN numbered years are:
 - First Vice-President of Administration
 - Treasurer
 - Vice-President of Development
 - Vice-President of Recreation

SECTION 5: TERM OF OFFICE

- (a) The term of office for WSYSA Officers shall commence immediately upon election, and shall continue until the Annual General Meeting two years hence. Outgoing officers shall assist their successors for a period not to exceed the remainder of the fiscal year, in order to assure a smooth transition.
- (b) In the event the office of the President, the First Vice-President of Administration and the Second Vice-President of Administration are all vacated, the Board of Directors shall elect replacements for the remainder of their respective terms. In the interim, the Board of Directors shall designate a member of the Board of Directors as Acting President.
- (c) Any officer being absent from three (3) consecutive meetings of the Executive Board or Board of Directors, or being negligent in responsibilities to the WSYSA or being in violation of the WSYSA Board Member Code of Ethics or combination thereof, shall be subject to suspension or removal by the Board of Directors.
- (d) Members of the WSYSA Executive Board may not simultaneously be a member of the Board of Directors of any Member Association or District.
- (e) Members of the WSYSA Executive Board may not be a paid employee or compensated agent of any member of the USSF, US Youth Soccer, or WSYSA. A compensated agent refers to a person receiving fees for services rendered, not a person who is compensated for expenses incurred in order to fulfill official duties in connection with the business of WSYSA.

SECTION 6: RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS

(a) PRESIDENT

The President shall supervise all activities of the WSYSA; the work of the Executive Board, the Board of Directors, and the Council, and shall chair all meetings of same. The responsibilities of the President shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Be the representative of the WSYSA to those organizations with which the WSYSA is an affiliated member, the United States Soccer Federation and US Youth Soccer, as provided by the bylaws and policies of those organizations, which responsibility may be delegated subject to the approval of the Executive Board;
- (2) Be the general representative of WSYSA in all matters, particularly in regards public relations, which responsibility may be delegated;
- (3) Appoint directors of committees as the needs of WSYSA may require, subject to the approval of the Executive Board;
- (4) Sign orders on the Treasury;
- (5) Be responsible for oversight of office procedures and personnel, which responsibility may be delegated;
- (6) Special awards such as Coach of the Year, Administrator of the Year, and President's award;
- (7) Risk management;
- (8) Provide to the Secretary General of the Federation an annual report on the activities of the Association and the most current annual financial statements within ninety (90) days after the start of the Federation's seasonal year.

(b) FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION

The First Vice-President of Administration shall assist the President in all business of the WSYSA, become the Acting President during any temporary absence of the President, and succeed to the Presidency if that office becomes vacant mid-term for any reason. The responsibilities of the First Vice-President of Administration shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Registration;
- (2) Administrative hearings and dispute resolution;
- (3) Sign orders on the Treasury.

(c) SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION

The Second Vice-President of Administration shall assist the President in all business of the WSYSA, become Acting President during any temporary absence of both the President and the First Vice-President of Administration, and succeed to the Presidency if both offices become vacant mid-term for any reason. The responsibilities of the Second Vice-President of Administration shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Communications;
- (2) Marketing;
- (3) Fundraising/Grant writing;
- (4) Sign orders on the Treasury.

(d) **SECRETARY**

The responsibilities of the Secretary shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Custodian of corporation records;
- (2) Compile and publish the WSYSA Annual Report;
- (3) Prepare and publish minutes in a timely fashion for all meetings of the Board of Directors and Council of the WSYSA; and compile Executive Board minutes for presentation at Board of Director meetings;
- (4) Provide proper notice of all WSYSA Board and Council meetings to required attendees;
- (5) The Rules Committee;
- (6) Sign orders on the Treasury (as necessary).

(e) **TREASURER**

The responsibilities of the Treasurer shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Provide oversight of the financial affairs of the WSYSA;
- (2) Prepare financial reports for Executive Board meetings and Board of Directors meetings, as necessary, and for all Council Meetings as necessary;
- (3) Prepare a proposed budget for each fiscal year with the inputs from the other officers. The proposed budget will be developed for the January Council Meeting;
- (4) With the assistance of a Certified Public Accountant and/or other qualified professional help, as needed, assist the Executive Board in defining specific financial policies;
- (5) Insurance;
- (6) The Budget and Finance Committee;
- (7) Sign orders on the Treasury.

(f) **VICE-PRESIDENT OF RECREATION**

The responsibilities of the Vice-President of Recreation shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Recreational play in Washington State;
- (2) Washington State President's Cup;
- (3) Recreational player and coach training and support;
- (4) Training materials and equipment;
- (5) TOPSoccer, Soccer Start and Exchanges;
- (6) Liaison between WSYSA and Districts and Member Associations in "Recreational" matters;
- (7) Approval of formation and operation of all recreational tournaments provided they meet the Executive Board requirements, except such tournaments conducted by Member Associations and Districts exclusively for their memberships;
- (8) Sign orders on the Treasury (as necessary).

(g) **VICE-PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT**

The responsibilities of the Vice-President of Development shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) State administered youth development leagues (other than the Washington State Youth Developmental League);
- (2) Washington State Commissioners' Cup;
- (3) Developmental player and coach training and support;
- (4) Training materials and equipment;

- (5) Referee training and support;
- (6) WSYSA Olympic Development Program (ODP);
- (7) Liaison between WSYSA and Districts and Member Associations in “Developmental” matters;
- (8) Approval of formation and operation of all developmental tournaments provided they meet the Executive Board requirements, except such tournaments conducted by Member Associations and Districts exclusively for their membership;
- (9) Sign orders on the Treasury (as necessary).

(h) **VICE-PRESIDENT OF COMPETITION**

The responsibilities of the Vice-President of Competition shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Washington State Premier League;
- (2) US Youth Soccer Washington State Championships and administrative support of US Youth Soccer-administered competition;
- (3) Competitive player and coach training and support;
- (4) Training materials and equipment;
- (5) Liaison between WSYSA and Districts/Associations in “Competitive” matters;
- (6) Approval of formation and operation of all competitive tournaments provided they meet the Executive Board requirements, except such tournaments conducted by Member Associations and Districts exclusively for their memberships;
- (7) Sign orders on the Treasury (as necessary).

ARTICLE XII – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SECTION 1: There shall be an Executive Director who shall serve as the chief operating officer of the WSYSA with direct responsibility for all staff functions. The Executive Director shall be employed by the Board of Directors for whatever term the Board of Directors deems appropriate and may be removed at any time with or without cause by the Board of Directors without prejudice to his/her contract rights.

SECTION 2: All official notices intended for the WSYSA, its Board of Directors or Executive Board, or any of its officers or committees, may be addressed in care of the Executive Director, who will be responsible for proper attention thereto.

SECTION 3: The Executive Director shall not have the status of an officer of the WSYSA, but shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Board and shall be a non-voting member of the WSYSA committees.

ARTICLE XIII – COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: WSYSA Committees shall be established as required to satisfy the programs and needs of the WSYSA. The president shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

SECTION 2:

- (a) Standing Committees, which have a continuing existence, are enumerated in the WSYSA Operating Procedures. Each standing committee shall be the responsibility of a specific member of the Executive Board.

- (b) The Executive Board shall confirm committee directors annually; and shall publish a list of said committee directors not later than the beginning of the fiscal year. In the event that the responsible WSYSA officer fails to submit a name for approval, the President shall appoint the committee director with the approval of the Executive Board. In the event a committee director resigns, or is unable to fulfill the position as director, the responsible officer shall bring to the Executive Board a recommendation for replacement. The Executive Board shall vote on the replacement in a timely manner. The Executive Board may also remove committee directors.
- (c) Members of standing committees shall be appointed by the responsible member of the Executive Board after consultation with the committee director.
- (d) The budget for each committee shall be included in the WSYSA budget under the department of the Executive Board officer responsible for the committee.

SECTION 3: Special Committees may be formed as deemed appropriate by the Executive Board for the purpose of accomplishing specific tasks. The authorization for these committees shall include provisions for a budget, for the duration of the committee, and for appointing a member or members of the Executive Board to be responsible for the committee.

ARTICLE XIV – DISTRICT BOARDS

SECTION 1: The District Board (Officers) shall consist of the District Commissioner, Alternate District Commissioner (First Vice-President of Administration), Second Alternate District Commissioner (Second Vice-President of Administration), Secretary/Treasurer, District Director of Competition, and District Director of Development. The responsibilities of the District Board will be defined by the District.

SECTION 2: The District Board shall be responsible for conducting the business and administering the affairs of the District to include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Enforcing the Constitution, bylaws, and governing documents of the District;
- (b) Approval of formation and operation of District tournaments, except such tournaments conducted by Member Associations for their membership only;
- (c) Approval of inter-Association play;
- (d) Approval of formation of District Select Teams;
- (e) Approval or removal of District Committee Directors;
- (f) Recommendations to the WSYSA Board of Directors for suspension or removal of District Officers;
- (g) Recommendations to the WSYSA Board of Directors for suspension or expulsion of Member Associations in accordance with Bylaw Article MEMBERSHIP, Section 7, herein.

SECTION 3: District Boards shall meet as set forth in District Bylaws.

SECTION 4:

- (a) Officers of the District will be elected not less than one (1) month prior to the WSYSA Annual General Meeting. The term of office shall commence immediately after the WSYSA AGM, but in no case before their election is certified by mail from the District to the WSYSA Secretary.
- (b) A District Commissioner shall be elected to administer each WSYSA District; such election shall automatically confer on that individual a seat on the WSYSA Board of Directors. A District Commissioner shall be elected by a majority of the eligible voting members of the District for a period of two (2) years.
- (c) The District Commissioners shall be elected in alternate years so that there shall be, at no time, a completely newly elected Board of Directors. Even numbered Districts (e.g., 2, 4, 6) shall elect their District Commissioner in even-numbered years, and odd-numbered Districts (e.g., 1, 3, 5, 7) shall elect their District Commissioner in odd-numbered years.

ARTICLE XV – MEMBER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (MAR)

SECTION 1: The Member Association Representative shall be an elected or appointed individual from each Member Association who will represent, act for, and be the voting representative of that Member Association at all WSYSA Council Meetings. The MAR should be knowledgeable of the feelings and policy of their membership, with voting based on this knowledge.

SECTION 2: The Member Association Representative shall attend all WSYSA Council meetings for discussion and voting on all matters shown in Bylaw Article COUNCIL, Section 1, herein.

ARTICLE XVI – WSYSA DISTRICTS

SECTION 1: The area of the state of Washington is divided into WSYSA Districts, as defined in the Operating Procedures.

SECTION 2:

- (a) Revision of existing District boundaries requires submission of a proposal to the WSYSA Board of Directors. This proposal must include, but not be limited to:
 - (1) the reason for the change in boundary;
 - (2) the impact of the change;
 - (3) concurrence of a majority of the Associations involved in the change.
- (b) The vote to revise the boundaries must pass by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the WSYSA Board of Directors.

SECTION 3:

- (a) Formation of a new District requires submission of a proposal to the WSYSA Board of Directors. This proposal must include, but not be limited to:
 - (1) the reason for formation of the new District;
 - (2) the impact of the new District;
 - (3) concurrence of a majority of the Associations to be included within the boundaries of the new District. Notification for the proposal must be submitted to all WSYSA Member Associations sixty (60) days prior to a vote by the WSYSA Board of Directors.
- (b) The proposal to form a new District must pass by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the WSYSA Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XVII – FINANCES

SECTION 1: The WSYSA is and shall be a non-profit organization. The WSYSA shall maintain its tax exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code.

SECTION 2: Each Member Association desiring its own separate non-profit status (registered charitable organization) must obtain it independently from the state of Washington (Olympia) and the Internal Revenue Service.

SECTION 3: FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the WSYSA shall begin at 12:00 a.m. on September 1, and end at 11:59 p.m. on August 31, of the following year. All financial rules and regulations are in effect during the twelve (12) months of the fiscal year.

SECTION 4: BUDGET

- (a) The Treasurer, with the support of the WSYSA Executive Board, shall prepare a proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Copies of the proposed budget, by line item, shall be submitted to the WSYSA Council at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which it is adopted. Copies of the approved budget, by line item, shall be printed in the Annual Report.
- (b) The budget shall be limited for any given year to expected income plus reserve for that year. The total budget shall include no less than a 10% contingency fund each year.

SECTION 5: REGISTRATION FEES

- (a) Each player registered with WSYSA shall pay a registration fee. The registration fee shall be determined at a WSYSA Council meeting during January for each succeeding year.
- (b) All registration fees shall be payable in full upon completion of team registration with the WSYSA and will be delinquent after October 15th of the fiscal year. Any delinquent Member Association shall lose its right to vote or participate in the business of WSYSA (Reference: Bylaw Article MEMBERSHIP, Section 6, herein) and will be assessed a fee of 1% per month of the outstanding balance until full payment is received.

- (c) No additional assessments against Member Associations shall be levied during a fiscal year without a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the WSYSA Council. Any assessment levied against members must be in proportion with the recorded number of registered players as of the date of assessment approval. Assessments levied must be paid within forty-five (45) days following approval of said assessment.
- (d) New Member Associations being accepted during the fiscal year must pay the specified registration fees or reduced pro-rated registration fees as determined by the Board of Directors and defined in Bylaw Article MEMBERSHIP, Section 4, herein.

SECTION 6: AUDIT

The financial books and accounts of the WSYSA, maintained by the Treasurer, shall be audited Bi-annually immediately following the Treasurer's current term of office. A member of the WSYSA Council can act as an auditor. The auditor may not be a member of the Board of Directors or the staff of WSYSA.

SECTION 7: FINANCIAL REPORTS

A current fiscal year statement of Income and Disbursements of Funds will be included in the WSYSA Annual Report. An audited fiscal year statement of Income and Disbursements of Funds shall be prepared and distributed to the WSYSA Council and Member Associations.

SECTION 8: DISBURSEMENT OF SPECIAL FUNDS

Any disbursements of funds raised from sources other than player registration fees (e.g., grants, donations, fees under Section 9, etc.) shall first be authorized by the Board of Directors. All amounts shall be paid by check, which shall be signed by two (2) WSYSA Officers, signers to be designated by the President.

SECTION 9: FEES FOR WSYSA EVENTS

Fees for events under the direct control of WSYSA shall be determined by the Chairman of that committee and approved by the Executive Board.

SECTION 10: DISSOLUTION

Should the WSYSA be dissolved, all monetary assets remaining after payment of all debts shall be turned over to any remaining Member Associations which have qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code, and shall be divided proportionally to the number of registered teams. Physical assets shall be held in trust by remaining Member Associations.

SECTION 11: FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Washington State Youth Soccer Association (WSYSA) specifically disclaims financial responsibility for, and shall not assume nor be held liable for, the debts or the financial obligations, either expressed or implied, of any affiliated Member District, Association, club or team, or any of the coaches, managers, officers, officials, or members of any affiliated Member District, Association, club or team.

SECTION 12: NO-RISK POLICY

WSYSA shall not institute programs or services that are not covered by either a budget item or by assured funds from outside sources or by funds generated by properly implemented WSYSA programs or by funds covered in Section 13.

SECTION 13: FINANCIAL PLANNING

- (a) For the purpose of long-range financial planning, funds from outside sources, funds generated through WSYSA programs or through investment of WSYSA, moneys can be budgeted for specific future WSYSA programs or projects (“earmarked”) over a period exceeding the one (1) fiscal year. Any such plans identified by the Executive Board require Board of Directors’ approval.
- (b) The transfer of unused budgeted funds to the next fiscal year for the same program [budget to the Council for approval at the budget meeting (see Section 4) with a thirty (30) day item] is possible. Any such plans must be identified by the Executive Board and presented notice.

SECTION 14: FUNDRAISING

Any fundraising programs, including marketing, in the name of WSYSA and/or using the logo of WSYSA require Board of Directors’ approval.

SECTION 15: WSYSA LOGO USE RESTRICTIONS

- (a) The WSYSA logo shall be protected by Trademark regulations, and no outside organization, business firm, or person shall be allowed to use the logo without the expressed approval of the Executive Board.
- (b) The WSYSA logo – or any other form of expressing approval or endorsement – shall not be used for programs, projects that are unsafe, discriminatory, or not in accordance with the fundamental policies outlined in the WSYSA Bylaws.

SECTION 16: BUSINESS CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No members of WSYSA shall engage themselves in a WSYSA position or function in an effort to secure an advantage for another organization or for their personal or business gain. Any potential conflict of interest shall be declared in a disclosure statement to the Executive Board, either voluntarily or upon the request of the Executive Board. If a conflict of interest is evident, the Executive Board shall request the withdrawal of the person or recommend an investigation by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XVIII – MEETINGS

SECTION 1: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of all members of the WSYSA shall be held for the primary purpose of electing the Executive Board.

SECTION 2: Meetings of the Council, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Board are considered business meetings and shall be called as defined in the Bylaws.

SECTION 3: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

- (a) The WSYSA AGM shall take place during the second quarter of each year. Notification and agenda of this meeting shall be mailed to Member Associations and members of the WSYSA Council thirty (30) days prior to the AGM date.

- (b) All Member Associations, WSYSA Committee Directors, and members of the WSYSA Board of Directors should submit an annual report covering their respective activities no later than one month prior to the AGM date, or as requested by the Secretary, for inclusion in the WSYSA Annual Report.
- (c) Input for the Nominations Committee regarding recommended candidates for Executive Board positions should be submitted at least one month prior to the AGM. The last order of business at the AGM shall be the election of Officers. Regular Minutes of the AGM will be published.

SECTION 4: WSYSA COUNCIL MEETINGS

- (a) The WSYSA Council will meet a minimum of two (2) times per year to conduct the business outlined in Bylaw Article COUNCIL, herein. Regular Minutes will be prepared and published.
- (b) Special meetings may be requested by any member of the WSYSA Council with written concurrence of one-third (1/3) of the Council. Reasonable notice of all meetings will be provided.

SECTION 5: WSYSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The WSYSA Board of Directors will meet a minimum of six (6) times per year to conduct the business outlined in Bylaw Article BOARD OF DIRECTORS, herein. Regular Minutes will be prepared and published. Special meetings may be called as required by the President, Executive Board, or one-half (1/2) of the District Commissioners. Reasonable notice of all meetings will be provided.

SECTION 6: WSYSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

- (a) The WSYSA Executive Board (Officers) will meet a minimum of four (4) times per year to conduct the business outlined in Bylaw Article EXECUTIVE BOARD, herein. Executive Board Minutes will be compiled for reporting at the Board of Directors' meetings.
- (b) Special meetings may be called as required by the President, or by two (2) or more Officers. Reasonable notice of all meetings will be provided.

SECTION 7: ORDER OF BUSINESS – The order of business at all meetings shall be as follows:

- (a) Roll Call
- (b) Credential
- (c) Minutes
- (d) Communications
- (e) Officers' Report
- (f) Unfinished Business
- (g) Reports
- (h) Proposals
- (i) New Business
- (j) General
- (k) Election (AGM)
- (l) Adjournments

SECTION 8: All meetings of the WSYSA shall be conducted using the current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order" as a guide.

ARTICLE XIX – VOTING AND QUORUM

SECTION 1: VOTING

(a) WSYSA Executive Board Meetings:

Officers shall have one (1) vote each.

(b) WSYSA Board of Directors' Meetings:

(1) Officers shall have one (1) vote each.

(2) District Commissioners shall have votes based on the player registration of their District. This determination shall be based on registered players of record for the prior Seasonal Year, per the following schedule.

750 to 5,000 players	one (1) vote
5,001 to 7,000 players	two (2) votes
7,001 to 8,500 players	three (3) votes
Over 8,500 players	four (4) votes

(b) WSYSA Council Meetings:

(1) Officers shall have one (1) vote each.

(2) District Commissioners shall have one (1) vote each.

(3) Member Association Representatives shall have votes based on the player registration of their Member Association. This determination shall be based on registered players of record for the prior Seasonal Year, per the following schedule:

1,000 and below	players	one (1) vote
1,001 to 2,500	players	two (2) votes
2,501 to 3,500	players	three (3) votes
3,501 to 4,500	players	four (4) votes
4,501 to 5,500	players	five (5) votes
5,501 to 6,500	players	six (6) votes
Over 6,501	players	seven (7) votes

(4) Each Associate Member approved for membership in the WSYSA shall have one (1) vote.

(d) Member Associations which acquire WSYSA membership after September 1 of the calendar year shall be entitled to vote per the above formula, based on registration records submitted to WSYSA at the time of affiliation and fees submitted. (Reference: Bylaw Article MEMBERSHIP and FINANCES).

(e) At all WSYSA meetings, the President shall vote in the event of a tie.

SECTION 2: QUORUM

(a) WSYSA Executive Board Meetings – A quorum for all Executive Board Meetings shall consist of at least the President, or Acting President, and three (3) additional Officers.

- (b) WSYSA Board of Directors Meetings – A quorum for all WSYSA Board of Directors Meetings shall consist of at least the President, or Acting President, and two (2) additional Officers; and District Commissioners representing at least two-thirds (2/3) of the District Commissioners.
- (c) WSYSA Council Meetings – A quorum for all WSYSA Council Meetings shall consist of at least the President, or Acting President; one-half (1/2) of the Board of Directors; and one-half (1/2) of the Member Association Representatives or three-fifths (3/5) of the total weighted votes of the Member Association Representatives.
- (d) Loss of Quorum – The regular members present at duly called or duly held meetings at which a quorum is present may continue to transact business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum, if any action taken (other than adjournment) is approved by at least a majority of members required to constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XX – INSURANCE

SECTION 1: LIABILITY INSURANCE – The WSYSA shall provide Directors’ Liability Insurance covering Officers, all District Board Officers, Member Association Representatives and WSYSA Committee Directors for performing acts and responsibilities directly related to WSYSA.

ARTICLE XXI – HEARINGS, APPEALS AND LITIGATION

SECTION 1: The WSYSA will provide equitable and prompt hearing and appeal procedures to guarantee the rights of individuals to participate and compete. These procedures shall include that all grievances involving the right to participate and compete in activities sponsored by the Federation and the WSYSA and its members may be appealed to the Federation’s Appeals Committee that shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify or reverse a decision.

SECTION 2: No member of WSYSA, official, league, club, team, player, coach, administrator or referee may invoke the aid of the courts in the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies within the WSYSA and its member organizations, US Youth Soccer and as provided within the United States Soccer Federation.

SECTION 3: For violation of this bylaw, the offending party shall be subject to suspension and fines, and shall be liable to WSYSA for all expenses incurred by WSYSA and its officers, members of the Board of Directors in defending each court action, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) court costs;
- (b) attorney’s fees;
- (c) reasonable compensation for time spent by WSYSA officials and employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearance;
- (d) travel expenses; and
- (e) expenses for holding special board meetings necessitated by the court action.

ARTICLE XXII – WSYSA OPERATING PROCEDURES

SECTION 1: The WSYSA OPERATING PROCEDURES shall establish ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES, GENERAL PROCEDURES and RULES OF COMPETITION.

SECTION 2: Changes and amendments shall only be effected by the WSYSA Board of Directors.

SECTION 3: Changes or amendments to the WSYSA OPERATING PROCEDURES shall be made following the procedure outlined in Bylaw Article AMENDMENTS, Sections 3, 4 and 5.

SECTION 4: All approved changes or amendments to the WSYSA OPERATING PROCEDURES adopted after July 1, shall not become effective until the beginning of the following seasonal year (next year's September 1), unless determined otherwise by the Board of Directors at the time of adoption.

SECTION 5: The WSYSA opposes sexual and physical abuse. To the extent permissible under applicable law, the Board of Directors and members shall adopt procedures consistent with criteria established by USSF.

ARTICLE XXIII – YEAR

SECTION 1: The Seasonal Year of the WSYSA shall begin on September 1, and end on August 31, of the following year. Insurance coverage shall be for the same period of time.

SECTION 2: The Fiscal Year of the WSYSA is identified in Bylaw Article FINANCES, Section 3.

ARTICLE XXIV – AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: Proposed changes or amendments to these Bylaws can only be effected at the WSYSA Annual General Meeting (AGM).

SECTION 2: Such proposed changes or amendments can be made by any individual or organization member of the WSYSA in good standing, and must be submitted in writing to the WSYSA Secretary, at the WSYSA office address, no later than January 15.

SECTION 3: The Secretary shall immediately transmit to the Rules Committee all proposed amendments received.

SECTION 4: The proposed amendments and the recommendations, if any, of the Rules Committee shall be submitted in writing to each Member Association Representative and President, and to the WSYSA Board of Directors, at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

SECTION 5: A recommendation from the Rules Committee shall include a majority and a minority position (if applicable) of the Committee's action.

SECTION 6: All approved bylaw changes or amendments shall be included in the AGM minutes.

SECTION 7: All approved bylaw changes or amendments shall be sent in writing to all Member Associations and the WSYSA Board of Directors within thirty (30) days after adoption of said changes or amendments. Copies of this Association's Articles, bylaws and governing documents shall, upon reasonable request, be made available to its members.

SECTION 8: The WSYSA shall provide annually to the Federation copies of the WSYSA's Bylaws and other governing documents and will submit changes to those documents to the Federation for approval not later than ninety (90) days after adoption.

NOTES:

SECTION 1 - ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Rule 100 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Rule 101 DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

The area of the state of Washington is divided into seven (7) Districts as follows:

District I: Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, and Island Counties plus that portion of Snohomish County not included in the Northshore Youth Soccer Association, plus that portion of King County geographically comprising a WSYSA Member Association. District I WSYSA Member Associations:

North County Youth Soccer Association (NCYSA)
Seattle Youth Soccer Association (SYSA)
Skagit Valley Youth Soccer Association (SkVYSA)
Snohomish Youth Soccer Association (SnYSA)
South Snohomish County Youth Soccer Association (SSCYSA)
Whatcom County Youth Soccer Association (WCYSA)
Whidbey Island Youth Soccer Association (WIYSA)

District II: That portion of King and Snohomish Counties defined by the geographical area of the following WSYSA Member Associations. District II WSYSA Member Associations:

Eastside Youth Soccer Association (EYSA)
Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association (LWYSA)
Northshore Youth Soccer Association (NYSA)
Snoqualmie Valley Youth Soccer Association (SnVYSA)

District III: Pierce County plus that portion of King County geographically comprising WSYSA Member Associations. District III WSYSA Member Associations:

Auburn Youth Soccer Association (AYSA)
Federal Way Soccer Association (FWSA)
Greater Renton Junior Soccer Association (GRJSA)
Highline Soccer Association (HSA)
Kent Youth Soccer Association (KYSA)
Maple Valley Soccer Association (MpVSA)
Mount Rainier Soccer Association (MRSA)
Narrows Youth Soccer Association (NarYSA)
Tacoma Pierce County Junior Soccer Association (TPCJSA)

District IV: Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap Counties, plus that part of Mason County that comprises the North Mason School District. District IV WSYSA Member Associations:

Kitsap Peninsula Youth Soccer Association (KPYSA)
Northwest Sound Youth Soccer Association (NSYSA)
Olympic Youth Soccer Association (OYSA)

District V: Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Skamania and Clark counties, plus that portion of Pacific County south of the North Margin of Township 10 N, including the Long Beach Peninsula. District V WSYSA Member Associations:

Columbia Youth Soccer Federation (CYSF)
Cowlitz Youth Soccer Association (CYSA)
East County Youth Soccer Association (ECYSA)

District VI: Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Klickitat, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Orielle, Okanogan, Grant, Lincoln, Adams, Spokane, Whitman, Asotin, Columbia and Garfield Counties. District VI WSYSA Member Associations:

Columbia Basin Youth Soccer Association (CBYSA)
Kittitas Valley Junior Soccer Association (KVJSA)
Lower Yakima Valley Youth Soccer Association (LYVYSA)
North Central Youth Soccer Association (NCenYSA)
Pullman Soccer Club Association (PSCA)
Spokane Valley Junior Soccer Association (SpVJSA)
Spokane Youth Sports Association - Soccer (SYSAS)
Tri-Cities Youth Soccer Association (T-CYSA)
Walla Walla Youth Soccer Association (WWYSA)
Wenatchee Valley Youth Soccer Association (WVYSA)
Yakima Youth Soccer Association (YYSA)

District VII: Mason County, except the North Mason School District, Grays Harbor County, Thurston County, Lewis County, and that portion of Pacific County north of the North Margin of Township 10 N excluding Long Beach Peninsula. District VII Member Associations:

Deschutes Youth Soccer Association (DYSA)
Foothills Youth Soccer Association (FYSA)
Grays Harbor Youth Soccer Association (GHYSA)
Lewis County Youth Soccer Association (LCYSA)
Thurston County Youth Soccer Association (TCYSA)

Associate Member: Blackhills (BHCSC)

Rule 102 STANDING COMMITTEES

The following Committees of this Association shall be recognized as Standing Committees:

1. the Appeals Committee
2. the Olympic Development Committee
3. the Washington State Premier League Committee
4. the Rules Committee
5. the Recreation Committee
6. the Risk Management Committee
7. the Disciplinary Committee
8. the WSYSA Tournament Committee
9. the Registration Committee
10. the Ethics Committee
11. the Field Development Committee
12. the Communications Committee
13. the Budget and Finance Committee
14. the TOPSoccer Committee
15. the Mediation Committee
16. the Soccer Start Committee

SECTION 2 - OPERATING PROCEDURES

Rule 200 GENERAL PROCEDURES

Rule 201 AUTHORITIES

- (a) The Rules contained herein shall govern members of WSYSA in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws of this Association.
- (b) The membership of WSYSA is expected to follow both the written rules and policies of the organization and the intent of the rules and policies of the organization. If a situation arises that is not covered by the WSYSA rules and regulations, or if an interpretation of the rules and regulations is necessary, the WSYSA Board of Directors shall provide the administrative direction.
- (c) All competition shall be governed by the Rules stated herein unless the rules of a specific competition determine otherwise.
- (d) Districts and Member Associations may deem fit to include rules more stringent than those included herein, but in no case may rules and regulations be less stringent.
- (e) All Districts and Member Associations must have on file with the WSYSA current copies of their Constitution, bylaws and other governing documents by the beginning of each WSYSA fiscal year.
- (f) The WSYSA, each District, and each Member Association shall be accountable for the conduct of its players, coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, parents, spectators, referees, officers, and any person who by their presence could be construed to have an affiliation with WSYSA, to ensure that their actions on or off the field do not bring disrespect upon the WSYSA. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted at any field.

Rule 202 FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Washington State Youth Soccer Association (WSYSA) specifically disclaims financial responsibility for, and shall not assume nor be held liable for, the debts or the financial obligations, either expressed or implied, of any affiliated Member District, Association, club, or team, or any of the coaches, managers, officers, officials, or members of any affiliated Member District, Association, club or team.

Rule 203 SEASONAL YEAR

The seasonal year is from September 1 through August 31, with the exception of rules outlined in Washington State Premier League and Washington State Youth League qualification Tournament rules.

Rule 204 REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

204.1 Objectives

The basic objectives of the WSYSA Registration Program are:

- (1) To establish records and a data management program for players, coaches and administrators;
- (2) To provide support to development, competition and administrative programs at Member Association, club, district and state levels; and
- (3) To provide standard rules and guidelines for the formation of teams, including player movement between teams.

204.2 Administrative Responsibilities

204.2.1 WSYSA

- (a) The WSYSA First Vice-President of Administration is responsible for the overall administration of the WSYSA Registration Program, including the implementation of the rules and approved policies.
- (b) The WSYSA Registrar shall be the functional custodian of registration records, be the chair of the WSYSA Registration Committee and be responsible for training and proper dissemination of pertinent information.

204.2.2 Member Association

The Member Association Registrar shall be a member of their district's subcommittee of the WSYSA Registration Committee, be the custodian of registration records at the Member Association level, be responsible for the training of club registrars, and the proper dissemination of pertinent information. The Member Association Registrar shall validate all registration information received from club registrars to insure completeness and accuracy, maintain Member Association information, submit required information to WSYSA in a timely manner, and assist the WSYSA Registrar in resolution of inaccuracies and discrepancies.

204.2.3 Club

The Club Registrar shall be responsible for compiling and maintaining registration records at the club level, and shall submit such records to the Member Association Registrar in a timely manner.

204.3 WSYSA Registration Committee

The WSYSA Registration Committee is comprised of a Member Association registrar representative from each district and chaired by the WSYSA Registrar. The responsibilities of the WSYSA Registration Committee are:

- (1) Monitor the registration program;
- (2) Review the registration procedures, rules, and policies, and make recommendations for changes to the WSYSA First Vice-President of Administration.

204.4 Interfaces

The main responsibility for the WSYSA Registration Program and registration information rests with the Member Association Registrar. The chain of communications and data

submittal is from the Club Registrar to the Member Association Registrar to the WSYSA office.

204.5 Registrar's Handbook

The WSYSA First Vice-President of Administration, through the WSYSA Registrar, will make available a Registrar's Handbook.

204.6 Proprietary Rights

All registration data provided by the Member Association on players and/or teams within that Association must be considered proprietary, and any release of such data outside of WSYSA must be by approval of the WSYSA Executive Board, or by written approval of both the Registrar and President of the Member Association.

204.7 Registration Requirements

204.7.1 Mandatory Registration

- (a) All Member Associations and their affiliated clubs shall assure that every youth soccer player, coach, official and team that participates in any program sponsored or administered by them is registered per the requirements and rules of the WSYSA, regardless of age, gender, or participation in developmental, educational, or competition programs.
- (b) Registration with WSYSA for all Volunteers (i.e. Coach, Assistant Coach, Trainer, Team Managers, etc.) as well as all employees of WSYSA, its Districts, Member Associations and clubs, requires a current, fully completed WSYSA Application/Disclosure Statement, signed under penalty of perjury either in electronic format or in hard copy format.
- (c) It is the responsibility of the WSYSA Registrar to notify the First Vice-President of Administration of any registration irregularities.

204.7.2 Proof of Age

- (a) Each player's proof of age shall be provided at initial registration with an affiliated organization of the WSYSA. Any player may be called upon to provide said proof of age to a Member Association registrar or the WSYSA Registrar upon request.
- (b) 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. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

204.8 Player Registration and Rostering

- (a) Registration is defined as a player's written or electronic declaration of his/her intent to play soccer within WSYSA according to its rules and regulations, providing proof of age and paying required fees.

- (b) All players must register for participation in programs and competitions under the jurisdiction of the WSYSA and its Member Associations.
- (c) Rostering is the act of assigning a registered player to a team.
- (d) A player may be rostered in only one Member Association and to one team at any given time.
- (e) IMPROPER REGISTRATION - Any team playing a player who is over age, or who is not registered or who is improperly entered on the team's roster shall forfeit the games(s) in which that player takes part.
- (f) Each seasonal year, all players or teams wishing to compete in a league operating outside Washington State must receive written permission from WSYSA and the State Association where they wish to play.
- (g) A properly executed indemnity and/or medical release form signed by the parents or guardian of the player shall accompany the player to all sanctioned events.

204.9 Team Registration for League Play

- (a) A team is a recognized entity organized for participating in youth soccer programs and competitions within WSYSA.
- (b) In WSYSA, a team consisting of all female players is defined as a girls' team. All other teams will be considered as boys' teams for the purpose of competition.
- (c) A registered team may not change its rostered age group during the seasonal year by removing players.
- (d) Team roster information must be kept current in an acceptable format as designated by WSYSA.
- (e) A minimum of eleven (11) players is required to roster a team for Association, District, or Washington State Premier League play.
- (f) Only a small-sided team may have fewer than eleven (11) players.
- (g) Each team shall have a maximum of eighteen (18) registered players, unless a variance for good cause has been granted by the Association Registrar, the District Commissioner, and the WSYSA Registrar.
- (h) WSYSA categories of team registration are:
 - (1) SMALL-SIDED - Teams that participate in age-appropriate in-house programs; i.e., 5-6-7-a-side.
 - (2) ASSOCIATION - 11-a-side play including in-house, recreational, club, and association leagues.
 - (3) DISTRICT - 11-a-side play at district level.
 - (4) DEVELOPMENTAL - 11-a-side play in the WSYDL
 - (5) DIVISION I, II, III - 11-a-side play in the WSPL Divisions

204.10 Open Period Participation

- (a) The open period is defined as the period after the end of the regular playing season until a player becomes registered and rostered for the next seasonal year.
- (b) A player that is registered and rostered to a team is considered to be “actively playing” for that team.
- (c) Coaches must not recruit players that are actively playing.
- (d) Registered players may try out for new or existing teams, play with their new team, or be a guest player in any tournament permitting such players during the open period, provided the player is not rostered to a team participating in the US Youth Soccer Washington State Championships, the Challenge Cup or the Commissioners’ Cup. Such a player’s open period begins as soon as their team is eliminated from further competition.
- (e) A registered player may participate in sanctioned tournament competitions as a guest player for a team to which the player is not rostered when the competition occurs PRIOR TO the start of the open period. The competitions may be within or outside Washington state. Competition rules or other written documentation must specifically allow guest players. The team roster for that competition must identify the player as a guest player. The player must have written permission from the team coach or manager of the team to which they are rostered to allow them to participate as a guest player in the specific competition.

204.11 Player Movement: Transfer, Add and Release

204.11.1 Transfer

- (a) A player transfer is defined as the movement within WSYSA of a currently rostered player from one team onto another team during the seasonal year.
- (b) The player is eligible to play with the new team when the transfer form is approved by the receiving and releasing Member Association registrars, unless league, Member Association or tournament rules state otherwise. A Member Association may refuse to release a player if the player has not met all financial obligations within the Association.
- (c) A team shall be limited to a total of three (3) players received by transfer during league play.
- (d) Players may be transferred to a team actively participating in league or state tournament play, or to an administrative holding pool administered by the Member Association registrar.
- (e) Transfers will not be necessary during the open period.

204.11.2 Add

Add means the addition of a registered player who has not been rostered to a team within WSYSA for the current seasonal year. Adds may occur any time during the year not specifically excluded by league or tournament restrictions. The player is eligible to compete when all required add information has been reviewed and approved by the club or Association Registrar, unless League, Association or Tournament Rules state otherwise.

204.11.3 Release

- (a) Release means the withdrawal of a player from a roster during the current seasonal year, with no intent to continue participating for any team within WSYSA during the current seasonal year.
- (b) A release may be voluntary (initiated by the player/and or parent of the player) or administrative (resulting from lost eligibility). Any player released from a team will be considered unregistered for WSYSA purposes.

204.12 Member Association Registrar Responsibilities

In addition to the responsibilities and authorities defined in 204.2, Administrative Responsibilities, the Member Association registrar, on behalf of the Member Association and its affiliated clubs, shall be responsible for the following:

- (a) Provide any registration information as required to the WSYSA office;
- (b) Ensure proper registration information for all teams, players and team staff are submitted to the WSYSA office as defined in the Registrar's Handbook, to include initial team rosters and adds, releases, and transfers to team rosters;
- (c) Verify voluntary player releases with parents;
- (d) Maintain a current list of club registrars (names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses) to provide to the WSYSA office;
- (e) Be familiar with all State-sponsored application deadlines and registration/rostering cutoff dates.

204.13 WSYSA Responsibilities

In addition to the responsibilities and authorities outlined in 204.2, Administrative Responsibilities, WSYSA shall be responsible for the following:

- (a) Provide player cards and rosters to teams participating in the WSYSA Washington State Premier League, and other leagues requiring such.
- (b) Provide registration and eligibility information to other WSYSA committees requiring this information for the performance of their duties.
- (c) If a dispute occurs between associations regarding the eligibility or transfer of a player, it shall be directed to the WSYSA Registrar for resolution. If it is still unresolved, the matter shall be directed to the First Vice-President of Administration.

Rule 205 (this space intentionally left blank)

Rule 206 YOUTH AGE CLASSIFICATION

206.1 The term "youth" as applied to the Bylaws, and Operating Procedures shall mean an amateur player who was born on or after August 1 of the year he or she reaches age nineteen (19) and applies for registration.

206.2 Player Age Definition

- (a) The Age Group that a player is assigned depends upon the player's age on August 1 of the seasonal year.

U-19 Player has not reached 19th birthday before August 1
U-18 Player has not reached 18th birthday before August 1
U-17 Player has not reached 17th birthday before August 1
U-16 Player has not reached 16th birthday before August 1
U-15 Player has not reached 15th birthday before August 1

U-14 Player has not reached 14th birthday before August 1
 U-13 Player has not reached 13th birthday before August 1
 U-12 Player has not reached 12th birthday before August 1
 U-11 Player has not reached 11th birthday before August 1
 U-10 Player has not reached 10th birthday before August 1
 U-09 Player has not reached 9th birthday before August 1
 U-08 Player has not reached 8th birthday before August 1

- (b) Any team playing a player who is over-age as classified in 206.2 shall forfeit the game(s) in which such player takes part.
- (c) FOR INFRINGEMENTS TO THIS RULE, ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF ADMINISTRATION.

206.3 Player Age Group Birth Chart

US Youth Soccer	WSYSA	SEASONAL YEAR	
		08/09	09/10
U-19	U-19	8-89	8-90
U-18	U-18	8-90	8-91
U-17	U-17	8-91	8-92
U-16	U-16	8-92	8-93
	U-15	8-93	8-94
U-14	U-14	8-94	8-95
	U-13	8-95	8-96
U-12	U-12	8-96	8-97
	U-11	8-97	8-98
U-10	U-10	8-98	8-99
	U-09	8-99	8-00
U-08	U-08	8-00	8-01

Rule 207 INSURANCE

- (a) All players under the jurisdiction of WSYSA (includes Member Associations and Districts) must be insured through WSYSA before being allowed to participate in any WSYSA activities.
- (b) All injuries to be claimed against the insurance program shall be completely reported on the proper insurance claim form.
- (c) The WSYSA Insurance Program is valid for only sanctioned youth soccer activities.
- (d) In order that each player be properly insured, all proper forms must be completed prior to any out-of-state travel, and sanction granted.
- (e) For insurance coverage for International Travel and hosting of foreign teams, check with WSYSA office staff.

- (f) Any pre-existing physical, mental, sensory or emotional condition for which medical or therapeutic treatment or services were first rendered or recommended prior to an injury for which a claim is made under the WSYSA insurance policy, may be subject to exclusion from coverage under the policy unless a physician's written permission to participate is furnished prior to the covered activity.

Rule 208 TEAM TRAVEL

- (a) Any team desiring to travel outside the jurisdiction of this Association must submit a properly completed "Application for Travel" form to the WSYSA. No travel shall be allowed until approval of the application is made, and sufficient time must be allowed for processing the application for travel.
- (b) Any Member Association desiring teams travel outside the jurisdiction of this (WSYSA) Association for league play must submit to the District Commissioner and the WSYSA President a written request for such travel. No travel shall be allowed until approval of the application is made by both the WSYSA President and the President of the National State Association hosting the league. Sufficient time (minimum 30 days) must be allowed for processing the request within WSYSA.
- (c) In order for insurance to be effective, the activity must be sanctioned and permission granted by the WSYSA.

Rule 209 NON-AFFILIATED TEAMS

Under review.

Rule 210 BOYS VERSUS GIRLS TEAMS

Boys teams shall not compete against girls teams in league, tournament or exhibition matches.

Exception: This rule does not prohibit practice matches between boys and girls teams.

Rule 211 PLAYER PARTICIPATION IN SENIOR AMATEUR SOCCER

- (a) 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 WSYSA. The youth coach or other authorized team official must, in writing or by form, request permission from the WSSA. When the above clearance and permissions have been granted, the WSSA has discretion in permitting a youth player to play senior games and will be responsible for establishing the procedures under which this will be implemented.
- (b) A youth player who is required to sign an Amateur Form shall retain youth eligibility.

Rule 212 PLAYING WITH PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS

Any player signing a professional form or receiving payment for playing beyond reimbursement for actual expenses, shall lose all privileges of youth amateur status until reinstated as an amateur player according to Federation policies.

Rule 213 DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITIES

213.1 General

- (a) The WSYSA Executive Board shall have the power to penalize any Member Association, player, coach, parent, or member thereof, whose actions have willfully violated the Bylaws or Operating Procedures of the WSYSA, or are detrimental to the purposes of the WSYSA. Penalties may consist of warnings, temporary or permanent exclusion from the activities of the WSYSA.
- (b) The WSYSA Executive Board shall establish a WSYSA Appeals Committee which will be responsible for considering and determining all appeals pertaining to WSYSA Bylaws, Operating Procedures and other rules, regulations and policies. It shall be responsible for considering and determining directly all appeals from misconduct reports and other hearings arising out of WSYSA-administered leagues and events. In addition it will consider and determine all appeals from lower levels. It will not consider protests or appeals it deems frivolous.
- (c) The WSYSA Executive Board shall establish a WSYSA Disciplinary Committee, including Committee satellites, which will hear misconduct reports relating to WSYSA-administered leagues and events and have the power to penalize any player, coach, or person who can be identified as having an affiliation with a team, any of whose actions have willfully violated the Bylaws, Operating Procedures, WSYSA-administered league rules or WSYSA-administered event rules. The WSYSA Disciplinary Committee shall provide support for district league disciplinary committees. In addition, the Committee shall review reports from all USSF-, US Youth Soccer- and WSYSA-sanctioned events to ascertain if any further action is required. Penalties or further actions taken may consist of warnings, and/or temporary or permanent exclusion from any activity associated with USSF, US Youth Soccer and WSYSA. The WSYSA Disciplinary Committee shall hear protests.
- (d) The WSYSA Executive Board shall establish a WSYSA Ethics Committee which will review written allegations relating to violations of established US Youth Soccer and WSYSA Codes of Ethics. It shall be responsible for administering all ethics matters arising out of WSYSA-administered leagues and events or those referred directly by any WSYSA District or Member Association. It will not hear allegations it deems frivolous.
- (e) Any WSYSA member shall have the right to assistance in responding to an allegation of misconduct or similar charge.
- (f) The WSYSA Executive Board may authorize a program for mediation of disputes that otherwise would be subject to hearing by the Appeals Committee, Disciplinary Committee or Ethics Committee under this Rule 213.1. Mediation will not be available for disputes involving assault or abuse under Rule 214.4 and USSF Policy 531.9, or misconduct matters which occur during competition. The WSYSA Executive Board will provide the framework for mediation and will make qualified mediators available to the parties. The WSYSA Board of Directors will designate one of the standing committees to administer the mediation program.

Rule 214 PROTEST, GRIEVANCES, TOUCHLINE MISCONDUCT, ASSAULT OR ABUSE

214.1 Protests

- (a) PROTESTS are complaints arising out of the misapplication of the Laws of the Game or misapplication of a league/district/state administrative rule. The protest must be based upon violations of the published rules of the competition or WSYSA rules or FIFA Laws of the Game. Only those directly involved are permitted to file a protest. Only the coach of record for the game may file a protest.
- (b) Each WSYSA Member Association and District shall adjudicate all protests arising out of competitions conducted by that Member Association and District.
- (c) The WSYSA Disciplinary Committee shall adjudicate all protests arising out of competitions conducted by WSYSA.
- (d) If a match will be protested, the referee and opposing coach must be notified within ten (10) minutes of the final whistle.
- (e) Any protest must be submitted in writing, accompanied by a \$100.00 fee (money order or cashier's check; cash may be used with LPT only), to the proper authority as outlined in the procedures described herein within forty-eight (48) hours of the event being protested with the exception of LPT. The fee is refundable if the protest is upheld. No hearing or other administrative action shall result from circumstances or charges which are only communicated verbally.
 - (1) For LPT only: Protests must be submitted in writing and turned into the LPT field headquarters within thirty (30) minutes of the conclusion of the match.
 - (2) All protests must include the specific circumstances and rule / Laws of the Game violation(s) which lead to the protest.
- (f) Filing Procedures:

A protest must be filed in writing and shall include:

 - (1) The nature and specifics of the complaint.
 - (2) A listing of the rules or procedures which have been violated, including rule number.
 - (3) A statement of the desired resolution.
 - (4) Proper filing fee.
 - (5) Must be signed by the person submitting the protest.
- (g) The hearing and adjudication of any protest or allegation of misconduct must be completed within the following time frames after the filing of the cause of action in its completed form:

LPT	1 hour
State Sponsored Tournament	7 days
All Others	30 days
- (h) The decision and/or disciplinary sanctions imposed as the result of a hearing of any protest shall be binding at all levels, and shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations (leagues, tournaments, etc.). The filing of an appeal shall not "stay" the execution of such decisions and/or disciplinary sanctions.

**NOTICE OF PROTEST
To WSYSA Disciplinary Committee**

**PLEASE ATTACH PROTEST FEE: \$100.00
(Cashier's Check or Money Order Only) (Cash May Be Used Only If An LPT Protest)**

_____ **CASHIER'S CHECK** _____ **MONEY ORDER** _____ **CASH**

A. Individual/Organization filing Protest (the Protester)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Affiliation: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Email: _____

B. Opposing Party

Name: _____

Address: _____

Affiliation: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Email: _____

C. Date and Time of Game or Incident Being Protested: _____

D. Location of Game or Incident: _____

E. Please Describe the Claimed Errors: _____

F. List Rules or Procedures You Claim Were Violated, Including Rule Numbers:

G. Please State Briefly the Desired Resolution: _____

The protest must be submitted within 48 hours of the event being protested. With an LPT protest, it must be submitted to the LPT field headquarters within 30 minutes of conclusion of the match. See WSYSA Protest Rule 214.1. If a match will be protested, the referee and opposing coach must be notified at the conclusion of the match that a protest will be filed.

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of this Notice of Protest, together with appropriate protest fee in the amount of \$100.00 (in the form of a cashier's check or money order made payable to Washington State Youth Soccer Association) has been sent to (except with an LPT Protest where delivery must be made to LPT headquarters and cash may be used):

Washington State Youth Soccer Association
ATTENTION: Disciplinary Committee Director
500 S. 336th Street, Suite 100
Federal Way, WA 98003

On _____ at _____ AM/PM

I further certify that a true and correct copy of this Notice of Protest has been sent to all parties listed in Section B (except with an LPT Protest).

Date _____ Signature of Protester _____

214.2 Grievances

(a) Notes and Definitions

GRIEVANCES are complaints of a general nature which are not based upon specific rule violations and /or specific administrative decisions.

- (1) Proper documentation of all Grievances must be maintained, and all actions must be in accordance with the following procedures and time-frames.
- (2) A claim of ignorance of these policies and procedures shall not be satisfactory grounds for the alteration or waiving of such policies or procedures.
- (3) The chair of any committee which is established for the purpose of hearing a grievance shall be familiar with the policies and procedures defined herein.
- (4) Any hearing of a grievance must be as the result of a properly submitted written and signed grievance by a member of WSYSA. No hearing or other administrative action shall result from circumstances or charges which are only communicated verbally.

(b) Hearings

- (1) Hearings on grievances shall be conducted under WSYSA Rule 602 except when determined by the WSYSA Executive Board to be clearly inapplicable.
- (2) Hearings on grievances at the state level shall be before the WSYSA Grievance Committee. If there is no standing WSYSA Grievance Committee, the WSYSA Executive Board shall appoint one to hear the grievance. A grievance filed at the state level may be referred to a District or Association by the WSYSA Executive Board, if appropriate.

(c) Mandatory Conditions

- (1) The hearing and adjudication of the Grievance Committee must be completed within *forty-five (45) days* of the filing of the grievance in its completed form.
- (2) The decision and/or administrative orders imposed as the result of a hearing, shall be binding at all levels, and shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations (leagues, tournaments, etc.). The filing of an appeal shall not "stay" the execution of such decisions and/or administrative orders issued as part of the decision by the Grievance Committee.

(d) Filing Fees

For a grievance to the WSYSA Grievance Committee, the filing fee shall be **\$300.00** by means of a money order or cashier's check. ***If the grievance is upheld in full your fee will be refunded.***

214.3 Touchline Misconduct

- (a) "Touchline Misconduct" is a verbal statement or action that impedes, distracts, interferes or delays in any manner a referee (including assistant referees or fourth officials) from the duties of his/her game management. Such misconduct may occur before, during and after a match, including travel to and from the match. Misconduct may occur at later times when directly related to the duties or actions of a referee. Touchline Misconduct is not restricted to actions at the touchline or a match. Touchline Misconduct does not include written reports or comments to a referee assignor or other supervisory personnel.

- (b) Touchline Misconduct does not include assault or abuse of a referee under USSF Policy 531-9 or WSYSA Rule 214.4 (which must be heard by the WSYSA Appeals Committee). Touchline Misconduct is applicable to all participants as defined in WSYSA Rule 214.4. Where a participant is charged with a violation of USSF Policy 531-9 and/or WSYSA Rule 214.4, the participant may also be charged with Touchline Misconduct. The panel hearing the charges of violation of USSF Policy 531-9 and/or WSYSA Rule 214.4, may determine at the same time if Touchline Misconduct occurred. It is not necessary that there be a finding of a violation of USSF Policy 531-9 or WSYSA Rule 214.4 for there to be a finding of a violation of Touchline Misconduct. Where a participant is not charged with a violation of USSF Policy 531-9 and/or WSYSA Rule 214.4, the Touchline Misconduct charge shall be heard by the applicable Disciplinary committee.
- (c) Penalties for Touchline Misconduct may include a suspension or ban for one game up to five games. The suspended games are not necessarily to be served within the competition, but within any WSYSA sanctioned event. The game suspension definition will be determined by the hearing authority. In unusual circumstances or with repeat offenders, a suspension or ban may be increased up to six months. Alternative or additional sanctions may include proof of successful completion of referee certification course and/or anger management courses, and/or similar type training.

214.4 Assault or Abuse of Participants – Suspension

- (a) When any person shall assault or abuse a participant (as defined by (b) below) within WSYSA the matter shall be brought directly before the WSYSA Appeals Committee. (Note that assault or abuse of a referee by a player, coach, manager, club official or game official is subject to the jurisdiction of the Appeals Committee under the specific definitions and procedures of USSF Policy 531-9 -- Misconduct Toward Game Officials.) Nothing herein shall prevent a referee from carding a player or cautioning/ejecting a participant, or from the Disciplinary Committee imposing sanctions against a participant under its rules, even if the incident involved assault or abuse.
- (b) A participant, for the purposes of this specific rule, shall be defined as a registered player, the parent, relative or guardian of a registered player, a coach, assistant coach, trainer or team manager, a spectator, an officer of a Club, Association, District or member of the Board of Directors of this Association, referee, and any other person required to have Risk Management acceptance under the WSYSA Operating Procedures.
- (c) (1)
 - (i) Assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon an individual.
 - (ii) For purposes of this specific rule, “intentional act” shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another individual in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.
- (2) Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon an individual: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into an individual; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at an individual that could inflict injury; damaging an individual's clothing or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.

- (d) (1) Abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to an individual or their personal property.
- (2) Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon an individual: using foul or abusive language toward an individual that implies or threatens physical harm; spewing any beverage on an individual's personal property; spitting at (but not on) an individual; or verbally threatening an individual.
- (3) Abuse shall include, but not be limited to, racial, ethnic, religious or gender slurs directed at one or more individuals.
- (4) 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 abuse.
- (e) Assault or abuse may be grounds for suspension or ban from further participation and membership in the WSYSA or any affiliated Member Association, club or team. Such authority shall supersede any and all other penalty codes or rules and may include temporary suspension until a hearing upon the verification of an allegation of assault or abuse. Penalties and periods of suspension shall be as follows:
 - (1) Except as provided below, for any assault, at least one (1) year from the time of the assault;
 - (2) For a minor or slight touching of the individual or their personal property, a minimum of three (3) months;
 - (3) For an assault committed by an adult upon an individual seventeen (17) years of age or younger, at least three (3) years;
 - (4) For an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least five (5) years.
 - (5) In the case of assault, shorter periods may not be provided but, if circumstances warrant, a longer period may be provided (e.g., habitual offenders with two (2) or more incidents of suspension).
 - (6) The minimum suspension for abuse shall be three (3) matches. Longer periods may be provided when circumstances warrant (e.g., habitual offenders with two (2) or more incidents of suspension).

Rule 215 REQUIREMENT FOR APPROVAL OF EVENTS

- (a) This rule defines requirements for approval of events organized by Member Associations of WSYSA and other organizations.
- (b) The objectives of this rule are to assure compliance with US Youth Soccer rules in general, to protect WSYSA teams from exploitation, to assure that WSYSA teams are protected by insurance provided through this Association, and to maintain proper organization of competition events and activities.
- (c) Events are defined in this rule as league and tournament competitions, including 5-a-side and other modified versions of the game, as well as other programs related to the athletic and educational objectives of this Association, e.g., clinics, player camps, etc.
- (d) Standard forms are to be provided by WSYSA. Approved forms are to be compiled by the Secretaries of each respective level.

- (e) WSYSA recognizes the following levels of administration: Member Association, District and State.
- (f) Events involving, or open to, teams or players from a Member Association only shall be approved by the Member Association. Events involving, or open to, teams or players from more than one Member Association within the same District shall be approved by the District.
- (g) Events involving, or open to, teams or players from more than one District or from other US Youth Soccer-affiliated State Associations or from other FIFA-affiliated National Associations shall be approved by the WSYSA Executive Board.
- (h) Events organized by other organizations (including senior amateur, professional, college, commercial firms, etc.) generally are not approved ("not sanctioned" by WSYSA).
 - (1) However, the WSYSA Executive Board may grant approval to such events if they are deemed conducive to youth soccer development and if they are not in conflict with the WSYSA bylaws, policies and rules.
 - (2) It is the sole responsibility of the team coach or individual player to assure that the events in which they participate are properly approved. WSYSA disclaims any responsibility and shall not be held liable for injury or other financial obligation resulting from participation in non-approved events. WSYSA insurance is not in effect for non-approved events.
- (i) WSYSA registered players and teams participating in non-approved events will not use their WSYSA, District, Member Association, or registered team identity.
- (j) Penalties for violation of the provisions of (g) and (h) of this section may be invoked by the Executive Board.
 - (1) The maximum penalty for violations by a team shall be suspension of the coach for one (1) season.
 - (2) The maximum penalty for violations by a player (in events for individual players only) shall be suspension from five (5) scheduled league or tournament games.
- (k) Failure to comply with established reporting requirements may disqualify future applications for event approval.

215.1 Minimum Requirements for Approval are:

- (a) Identification of Organization responsible for organization event and disciplinary matters where applicable;
- (b) Brief description of event (e.g., league, invitational tournaments, etc.);

- (c) Commitment to comply with WSYSA Rules of Competition, WSYSA Disciplinary Code, and event report requirements that shall include reporting to the WSYSA Disciplinary Committee all misconducts pertaining to send-offs in tournament events within forty-eight (48) hours (NOTE: exceptions at any level require approval by the WSYSA Executive Board);
- (d) List of teams (or players, where applicable) participating, including Club and Member Association name.

Rule 216 RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

216.1 Objectives

The basic objectives of the WSYSA Risk Management Program are:

- (a) To review and recommend procedures regarding the safety of participants in the WSYSA program.
- (b) To establish secure records and maintain the background check information program for volunteers, employees and others who are entrusted with the supervision and care of players and participants.
- (c) To provide policy recommendations and education for WSYSA members to minimize liabilities and other manageable risks.

216.2 Administrative Responsibilities

- (a) The WSYSA President is responsible for the WSYSA risk management program, oversight of the background check information program and coordination of any legal advice necessary to protect the interest of WSYSA.
- (b) The WSYSA President or designee shall be responsible for ensuring that administrators, or other volunteers, and employees at all levels have a completed background check on file with the WSYSA.

216.3 The WSYSA Risk Management Committee Director shall:

- (a) Be the functional custodian of all background check records;
- (b) Be the WSYSA delegate to Region IV Risk Management Committee;
- (c) Provide risk management training;
- (d) Disseminate pertinent risk management information.

216.4 District

- (a) Each District Commissioner shall identify a representative to the WSYSA Risk Management Committee if requested by the President or the Risk Management Committee Director.

- (b) The duties of the Risk Management Committee members include attending all Risk Management Committee meetings as required, dispersing any and all risk management information from the Risk Management Committee to their respective associations, identifying any risk management concerns within their district and advising the State Risk Management Director of these risks, and any additional duties as required by the Risk Management Committee Director in the area of Risk Management.

216.5 Member Association

- (a) Each Member Association President shall identify a Risk Management Coordinator.
- (b) The duties of each Association's Risk Management Coordinator include training and oversight of Club Risk Management Coordinators; and dissemination of information regarding pertinent risk management information.

216.6 Employee/Volunteer Background Checks

- (a) The following individuals must have submitted and on file with the WSYSA Risk Management Director,
 - (1) A current, fully completed WSYSA Application and Disclosure Statement, signed under penalty of perjury either in electronic format or in hard-copy format.
 - (2) A completed and acceptable background history from the Washington State Patrol or other source deemed appropriate by the WSYSA President or designee, and:
 - (3) Any other documentation or background history deemed necessary by the Risk Management Director based on or needed to supplement the information contained in items one (1) and two (2) above:
 - (A) All Board Members within all levels of WSYSA;
 - (B) Any person seeking election or appointment as a WSYSA officer; a committee director and its committee members;
 - (C) Every employee or volunteer of WSYSA;
 - (D) All USSF registered referees who perform a service to the WSYSA, and
 - (E) Any person who at any time could be expected, in the performance of their duties, to be entrusted with the supervision, guidance and care of WSYSA members and players.
- (b) For the purpose of these requirements and procedures a volunteer is defined as any person who intends to be, is assigned as, or acts as a team official (coach, assistant coach, trainer, team manager, etc.) including those who are appointed or selected in any manner to coach at any level within WSYSA or its affiliates. These requirements and procedures also include all program administrators which include state, district, league, and/or, club officers and program directors, as well as team athletic, and/or medical trainers.
- (c) All individuals listed in Section 216.6 (a) above who file a WSYSA Application and Disclosure Statement with WSYSA will, in addition to all other disclosure and background check requirements listed above be checked against the US Youth Soccer and WSYSA Disciplinary Action Reports and records. Any person identified in these reports and/or records will be subject to additional review and possible probation or other status as determined by the President or designee on a case-by-case basis.

- (d) A WSYSA Application and Disclosure Statement-and Washington State Patrol background history-that are unacceptable to the WSYSA President or designee will cause a written notification of such to be sent back to the individual, stating the individual is not eligible to be an employee or volunteer. The right and process to appeal will be included with the letter.
- (e) The WSYSA Application and Disclosure Statement and the Washington State Patrol background history information will be reviewed by the President or designee.
 - (1) It shall be the obligation of every individual listed in Section 216.6(a) to fully complete the WSYSA Application and Disclosure Statement to provide complete and truthful information, and to sign either electronically or in person, and acknowledge the contents of the statements under oath and under penalty of perjury.
 - (2) It shall be the obligation of every individual listed in Section 216.6(a) to update his or her WSYSA Application and Disclosure Statement whenever new or additional information is obtained or made known to that person, or whenever that individual knows or should have known of information that would suggest the need for a new or updated Washington State Patrol or other background history. Each such individual is solely responsible for promptly providing any and all such new or updated information to the WSYSA, in writing. The WSYSA shall not be liable for any failure to know or learn of, identify or otherwise obtain such information.

216.7 Suspensions

- (a) Any person identified in Section 216.6(a) who has a documented history of child molestation or other record that would bring potential unnecessary risk to the health, safety or welfare of WSYSA members, participants, or others will be excluded from participation within WSYSA and WSYSA sponsored or sanctioned activities.
- (b) Any person identified in Section 216.6(a) who has been convicted of a felony, crimes of violence or crimes against persons shall be deemed unsuitable for participation in WSYSA related activities and will be removed from the Risk Management program.
- (c) If in the course of conducting a background check on any person identified in Section 216.6(a) adverse information is found on that individual's record, the WSYSA President or designee may require additional information to be supplied by that individual to reach a determination of suitability for further participation.
- (d) Any decisions resulting in a suspension from the Disciplinary or Ethics Committees concerning any person identified in Section 216.6(a) will result in that individual being removed from the Risk Management program until further notice.

216.8 Appeals

- (a) Any person who has been notified of his or her being removed from the Risk Management program has the right to appeal this decision per the appeals process established by WSYSA and USSF.

Rule 217 PLAYER PASS

217.1 Valid Player Pass

- (a) In any WSYSA, District, or Member Association administered or approved competition in which the rules of competition require player passes for the members of a team, all players must possess a valid player pass as designated by US Youth Soccer.
- (b) A valid player pass is a US Youth Soccer player pass, either initiated or distributed by the WSYSA office, showing on its face the current seasonal year, player's name, player's team name and ID number, player signature, and a recent identifiable player photo.
- (c) Individual player passes shall be physically separated and laminated in clear plastic.

217.2 Match Administration

- (a) Any player that does not possess a valid player pass shall not be permitted to participate in that match.
- (b) In any WSYSA, District, or Member Association administered or approved competition in which the rules of competition require player passes, it is recommended that the player passes for each member of a team be grouped together and secured with a ring or other fastener.
- (c) In the unlikely event that an entire team fails to show player passes, the referee shall allow the match to be played. Both coaches must report the incident to their respective League Administrator. The referee should note the incident on the game roster sheet and mail his copy to the appropriate league office.

NOTES:

SECTION 3 - RULES OF COMPETITION - OUTDOOR

Rule 300 OUTDOOR/FIELD

INTRODUCTION

All competitions shall be governed by the RULES as stated herein in all cases where they are applicable and where they are not in conflict with the WSYSA Bylaws. All affiliated members of WSYSA shall be governed by these Rules of Competition.

Rule 301 RULES OF PLAY

All games and competitions under the jurisdiction of the WSYSA shall be conducted subject to the "Laws of the Game" as published or authorized for publication by FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association), with those modifications published by WSYSA. In all cases where a game has been postponed or abandoned by a referee due to inclement weather, league and tournament directors shall determine whether the game is to be replayed in its entirety or whether the score at the time of postponement or abandonment shall stand and the game be counted as a completed game.

301.1 Field of Play

- (a) The following specifications are applicable to all competitions administered by the WSYSA. These WSYSA standards are recommended for league play administered by Member Associations; they are not mandatory.

Recommended field dimensions

Under-11 and below: 50 yards wide x 90 yards long minimum

Under-12 and above: 50 yards wide x 100 yards long minimum

- (b) Acceptable deviations from Law 1 of the "Laws of the Game" (FIFA) for goal posts shall be: plus/minus six (6) inches in width; plus/minus three (3) inches in height from inside measurements.

301.2 Game Duration, Overtime Periods, and Ball Size

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Duration</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>	<u>Circumference</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Under-19	Two 45 min. halves	#5	27" – 28"	14-16 oz
Under-18	Two 45 min. halves	#5	27" – 28"	14-16 oz
Under-17	Two 45 min. halves	#5	27" – 28"	14-16 oz
Under-16	Two 40 min. halves	#5	27" – 28"	14-16 oz
Under-15	Two 40 min. halves	#5	27" – 28"	14-16 oz
Under-14	Two 35 min. halves	#5	27" – 28"	14-16 oz
Under-13	Two 35 min. halves	#5	27" – 28"	14-16 oz
Under-12	Two 30 min. halves	#4	25" – 26"	11-13 oz

Overtime periods

- U-19 two up to a maximum of 15 min. halves
- U-18 two up to a maximum of 15 min. halves
- U-17 two up to a maximum of 15 min. halves
- U-16 two up to a maximum of 15 min. halves
- U-15 two up to a maximum of 15 min. halves
- U-14 two up to a maximum of 10 min. halves
- U-13 two up to a maximum of 10 min. halves
- U-12 two up to a maximum of 10 min. halves

301.3 Number of Players

- (a) Each team will have a limit of eighteen (18) registered players, unless a variance for good cause has been granted by the Association Registrar, the District Commissioner, and the WSYSA Registrar. No team shall be allowed to have fewer than eleven (11) registered players. (Exception: General Procedures, Rule 204.9).
- (b) Any coach, manager or official found guilty by a WSYSA, District, or Member Association Board of Directors or a WSYSA Disciplinary or Ethics Committee of knowingly using an ineligible player(s) (over-age, improperly registered, or under disciplinary suspension) will be suspended from participation in all WSYSA activities not to exceed the current and subsequent seasonal year.

301.4 Substitutions

- (a) Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, during any stoppage in play.
- (b) The number of substitutes shall be unlimited unless a competition superseding the jurisdiction of this Association determines otherwise; special competitions may be more restrictive.
- (c) Players not on the field of play must remain two (2) yards behind the touch line and not within eighteen (18) yards from the corner of the field.

301.5 Player's Equipment

- (a) All player equipment shall conform to the requirements of Law 4 of the Laws of the Game, as amended from time to time, and the WSYSA Rules of Competition.
- (b) It is the duty of the referee, pursuant to Law 5 of the Laws of the Game, as amended from time to time, to enforce the Laws of the Game and the WSYSA Rules of Competition concerning player equipment.
- (c) All players must be attired in matching uniforms to the satisfaction of the referee. A proper uniform consists of shorts, jersey, socks, shin guards, and footwear. In case of a color clash, the designated home team will change jerseys. Goalkeepers must wear colors which distinguish them from other players.

- (d) All or any member(s) of a team are permitted to wear extra protective clothing against the cold, including gloves without dangerous, protruding or hard objects, provided that:
 - (1) The proper team uniform is worn outermost; and
 - (2) Any hat should be without peak, bill or dangling or protruding object of any kind; however, the goalkeeper may wear a soft billed hat; and
 - (3) Referee discretion may be used to determine if an item of protective clothing is considered to go beyond the purpose of providing a means of retaining body heat.
- (e) Protective orthopedic devices, prosthetic devices and any equipment, gear, appliance or apparatus that is protective for a known medical condition may be worn during a regularly scheduled game provided that the referee determines that the device conforms to Law 4 of the Laws of the Game.

301.6 Officiating

- (a) A referee shall be appointed to officiate each game with the authority assigned to him as specified in the "Laws of the Game" (FIFA). Officiating of all games will be governed by the Rules of Play and the Rules of Competition.
- (b) All referees assigned to any game of the Commissioners' Cup or the State Championships must be assigned by a licensed referee assignor through a recognized referee association/chapter.
- (c) Failure of a scheduled referee to show up will not be the cause for canceling the match. A substitute official must be chosen upon agreement by both coaches and his decisions will be final.

301.7 Charging the Goalkeeper

- (a) The following Rule applies to all competitions under the jurisdiction of the WSYSA:
- (b) In all Under-11 age groups and below: No player shall make physical contact with the goalkeeper, or attempt to play the ball once the goalkeeper has control of the ball in any manner and to any degree whatsoever.
- (c) In all Under-12 age groups and above: No player shall make physical contact with the goalkeeper WITHIN THE GOAL AREA, harass the goalkeeper, or attempt to play the ball once the goalkeeper has control of the ball in any manner and to any degree whatsoever. For infringement of this special Rule, an indirect kick shall be awarded.
- (d) Note: Also included in "having control of the ball" is, if the goalkeeper holds the ball on the ground with one or both hands.

301.8 Coaching

- (a) Coaching from the sidelines - giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position - is permitted, provided:
 - (1) Neither mechanical nor electronic devices are used;
 - (2) The tone of voice is informative and not a harangue;

- (b) Each coach, substitute, or player is to remain within the "coaching area" two (2) yards behind the touch line, and not within eighteen (18) yards from the corner of the field).
- (c) No coach, substitute, or player is to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other players, substitutes or spectators.
- (d) No coach, substitute, or player is to use profanity.
- (e) No coach, substitute, or player is to incite, in any manner, disruptive behavior of any kind.
- (f) If the above rules are violated, the referee shall ask the offending party for compliance with the rules. The referee may file a written report with the Board of Directors responsible for the match.
- (g) In the event that compliance is not received from the offending party, the referee shall ask the offending party to leave the playing area. If this request is made, the referee must file a written report with the Board of Directors responsible for the match. If the offending party refuses to leave the playing area, or returns after leaving, the referee shall abandon the match and file a written report of the game abandonment with the Board of Directors responsible for the match.
- (h) It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Each coach, manager and team, club or league official shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of the spectators for or from their respective teams. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted at any field.

301.9 Restarting Play After An Injury

In the case of a temporary suspension due to an injury or any unusual situation, if one team is clearly in possession of the ball, the game shall be restarted by an indirect free kick by the team in possession of the ball at the point where the ball was when play was suspended. Should there not be clear possession at the time play is suspended due to an injury or any unusual situation, there will be a drop ball at the spot where the ball was declared dead.

301.10 Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match

Where WSYSA, District or Member Association administered competition rules require there be a winning team after a match has ended in a draw, teams shall then play age appropriate overtime periods. If no goal is scored during the overtime periods, the match is then to be decided according to the FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" procedure.

Rule 302 SMALL-SIDED PROGRAM RULES

Small-Sided Program Format Summary

	<u>U-6</u>	<u>U-7</u>	<u>U-8</u>	<u>U-9</u>	<u>U-10</u>	<u>U-11</u>
<u>Field Size</u>						
W x L in Yards	20 x 30	20/25 x 30/35	20/25 x 35/40	25/30 x 35/45	30/35 x 35/55	35/50 x 50/80
Center Circle Yards	6	6	6	10	10	10
Penalty Mark	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
<u>Goal Sizes in Feet</u>						
Recommended	6' x 6'	6' x 6'	6' x 8'	6' x 12'	6' x 18'	8' x 24'
Minimum	cones	cones	6' x 6'	6' x 8'	6' x 12'	8' x 24'
Maximum	6' x 6'	6' x 6'	6' x 12'	6' x 18'	6' x 18'	8' x 24'
Ball Size	#3	#3	#3	#4	#4	#4
Roster Size	6	6	8	9	10	14
Field Players	3	3	4	5	6	9
Goal Keepers	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<u>Game Lengths</u>						
Maximum Time	32 Minutes	40 Minutes	50 Minutes	50 Minutes	50 Minutes	60 Minutes
Recommended	(4)8 Minute Periods	(4)10 Minute Periods	(2)25 Minute Halves	(2)25 Minute Halves	(2)25 Minute Halves	(2)30 Minute Halves
Permitted	(2) 15 Minute Halves	(2) 20 Minute Halves	(4) 12 Minute Halves	(4) 12 Minute Halves	Must Use Halves	Must Use Halves
Implementation	2002	2002	2003	2004	2006	2006
Recommended						
Referee	Coach/Parent	Level 8 – 11	Level 8 – 11	Level 8 or 9	Level 8 or 9	Level 8 or Higher
Recommended						
Coaching Licensing	U-6 Certificate	U-8 Certificate	U-8 Certificate	U-10 Certificate	U-10 Certificate	U-12 "E" License

INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Youth Soccer Association Small-Sided Program is a modification of the adult game for age-appropriate play. These rules establish team, field, goal and ball sizes for U-6 play, and increases these each year for U-6 through U-11 players. This is done for a number of reasons:

- The number of players on the field should be developmentally appropriate for children to experience and develop the motor skills necessary in soccer. These rules allow players to experience appropriate tactical decisions for their age. It also meets the needs of the players' social development.
- These rules create a comfortable environment for the new youth coach. By increasing the number of players incrementally each year, the new coach is able to focus on creating developmentally appropriate practice sessions without the fear and need to focus on teaching specific field positions. With the emphasis on teaching the individual player, the concern for team results is minimized.
- By increasing the number of players on the field and rosters incrementally, it is easier for the coach to deal with the challenge of new players being added to the team. Often times, the new players added to the team are playing soccer for the first time. The use of small-sided games maximizes player contact time with the ball, which aids in the improvement of these new players and their integration into the team.
- The use of smaller field sizes reduces the strain on field space. Several age groups are able to share the same space, or, in most cases, more teams can play in the existing field space.

SEASON

Each league administrator will determine the season and number of games.

INSURANCE

1. Any injury, whether in practice, in the game, or in transit, must be reported to the coach as soon as possible.
2. All insurance matters are handled through the Washington State Youth Soccer Association Office.

302.1 Field of Play

(a) The following specifications are applicable to all small-sided competitions within the WSYSA:

U-11: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line. The maximum length is 80 yards and the minimum length is 50 yards. The maximum width is 50 yards and the minimum width is 35 yards. Interior markings shall conform to FIFA.

U-10: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line. The maximum length is 55 yards and the minimum length is 35 yards. The maximum width is 35 yards and the minimum width is 30 yards. Interior markings shall conform to FIFA, except the goal area shall be 6 yards; the penalty area shall be 14 yards. No penalty mark shall be used. The center circle shall be 10 yards.

U-9: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line. The maximum length is 45 yards and the minimum length is 35 yards. The maximum width is 30 yards and the minimum width is 25 yards. Interior markings shall conform to FIFA, except the goal area shall be 4 yards; the penalty area shall be 10 yards. No penalty mark shall be used. The center circle shall be 10 yards.

U-8: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line. The maximum length is 40 yards and the minimum length is 35 yards. The maximum width is 25 yards and the minimum width is 20 yards. Interior markings shall conform to FIFA, except the goal area shall be 2 yards; the penalty area shall be 6 yards. No penalty mark shall be used. The center circle shall be 6 yards.

U-7: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line. The maximum length is 35 yards and the minimum length is 30 yards. The maximum width is 25 yards and the minimum width is 20 yards. Interior markings shall conform to FIFA, except the goal area shall be 2 yards; the penalty area shall be 6 yards. No penalty mark shall be used. The center circle shall be 6 yards.

U-6 and below: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line. The maximum length is 30 yards and the maximum width is 20 yards. No interior markings shall be used except center circle, halfway line and corner kick arcs. The center circle shall be 6 yards.

(b) The following goal and field marking specifications are applicable to all small-sided competitions administered within the WSYSA:

Age Group	Max Goal Size	Min Goal Size	Recommended Goal Size
U-11	The goal size shall be 8' x 24'		
U-10	6' x 18'	6' x 12'	6' x 18'
U-9	6' x 18'	6' x 8'	6' x 12'
U-8	6' x 12'	6' x 6'	6' x 8'
U-7 and Below	6' x 6'	Cones	6' x 6'

Goals: In case permanent goals are not available, portable goals are acceptable but must be staked down to ensure player safety at all times. For U-7 and below, in the event that there are no permanent or portable goals, traffic cones may be set up or any other safe object may be used to mark the goals. In this case the Referee will set the “imaginary” height of the crossbar.

Field markings: The outside edge of the field may be indicated by chalked or painted lines not more than 4” in width. When painted lines are not feasible or permitted other means may be used.

302.2 Game Duration and Ball Size

Age Group	Maximum Game Duration (Recommended)	Ball Size
Under-11	60 Min./Two 30-minute halves	#4
Under-10	50 Min./Two 25-minute halves	#4
Under-9	50 Min./Two 25-minute halves (Periods permitted)	#4
Under-8	50 Min./Two 25-minute halves (Periods permitted)	#3
Under-7	40 Min./Four 10-minute periods (Halves permitted)	#3
Under-6	32 Min./Four 8-minute periods (Halves permitted)	#3

There shall be a five (5) minute break between halves or a two (2) minute break between periods.

302.3 Number of Players

Teams shall have no more than the following number of players and roster sizes:

Age Group	# Players on the Field	Roster Size
U-11	9	14
U-10	6	10
U-9	5	9
U-8	4	8
U-7	3 (no goalkeeper)	6
U-6 and below	3 (no goalkeeper)	6

302.4 Substitutions

- (a) Substitutions may be made, with consent of the referee during any stoppage of play.
- (b) The number of substitutes shall be unlimited unless a competition superseding the jurisdiction of the WSYSA determines otherwise. Each player will play a minimum of **50%** of the total playing time. Substitutions will be allowed in order to give an opportunity for all players to get equal playing time and to balance rather than to run up the score.
- (c) Players, coaches and spectators not on the field of play must remain two (2) yards behind the touchline and not within the distance of the goal area for the particular age from the corner of the field.

302.5 Player's Equipment

- (a) ALL PLAYERS SHALL WEAR SHINGUARDS. Socks must be worn up and over the shinguards.
- (b) All players shall be in uniform to play. A minimum "official" uniform is the standard league shirt (with a number). Goalkeepers shall wear shirt colors that distinguish them from other players.
- (c) All players shall wear footwear. A player may not play in their bare feet.
- (d) A player shall not wear anything that may be dangerous to other players or to themselves.
- (e) All or any member(s) of a team may wear extra protective clothing against the cold, including gloves without dangerous, protruding or hard objects, provided that:
 - (1) The proper team uniform is worn outermost; and
 - (2) Any hat should be without peak, bill or dangling or protruding object of any kind; however, the goalkeeper may wear a soft-billed hat; and
 - (3) Referee discretion may be used to determine if an item of protective clothing is considered to go beyond the purpose of providing a means of retaining body heat.

302.6 Officiating

- (a) The home team will be responsible for providing referees. In the event that a referee is not present, both coaches will mutually agree upon one. If one cannot be agreed upon, each coach will referee one-half.
- (b) Assistant referees will be used whenever possible to assist the referee. Young players or willing adults may also be used. Volunteer linesmen may be used at the discretion of the referee only for the purpose of calling the ball in or out of play.

302.7 Charging the Goalkeeper

- (a) In all Under-11 age groups and below: No player shall make physical contact with the goalkeeper, harass the goalkeeper or attempt to play the ball once the goalkeeper has control of the ball in any manner and to any degree whatsoever.
- (b) Note: Also included in "having control of the ball" is, if the goalkeeper holds the ball on the ground with one or both hands.

302.8 Coaching

Soccer presents an excellent opportunity to learn, develop, and establish group behavior, friendly relationships, fair competition, doing things in an organized manner, enjoyment and many other items. Above and beyond anything else it must be fun!

- (a) The coach or designated adult (18 years or older, unless approved by the Association) should attend every practice and every game. All coaches, team managers, and assistants must fill out the required Washington State Patrol forms and comply with all Risk Management requirements. There must be an approved adult at all functions.

- (b) The coach is responsible for his own behavior as well as that of his players and spectators. Remember this is just for fun.
- (c) Every player must play in each game at least **50%** of the playing time unless they are not able to play due to illness or injury.
- (d) All coaches should attend an appropriate level-coaching clinic prior to the start of the regular season.
- (e) Coaching from the sidelines is permitted but not recommended. Coaching must be done in a civil manner and the tone of voice will be informational and encouraging, not demanding or critical.
- (f) At home games, you are responsible for field preparation (check with your club) and for referees. Contact the visiting coach at least **three (3)** days before the scheduled game to reaffirm the time, directions to the field, and to share team colors (home team changes jersey color if visiting team is the same color). If the visiting coach is not contacted he/she should contact the home team coach
- (g) It is every coach's obligation and duty to attend coaching and referee clinics in order to acquire information that, in turn, may be passed on to the players. Below are recommended clinics for the indicated age groups:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Coaching Clinic</u>	<u>Referee Instruction</u>
U-6	U-6 Certificate	Coaches/parents
U-7 & U-8	U-8 Certificate	Level-11 through Level-8
U-9 & U-10	U-10 Certificate	Level-9 or Level-8
U-11	"E" License	Level-8 or higher

302.9 The Rules of Play

A coin is tossed; the team that wins the toss then decides which goal it will attack in the first half or period of the match. The other team takes kick-off to start the match. The teams will alternate the kick-off prior to the start of the second half or new period. Teams will only switch ends at half time of a game.

- (a) Start of Play
 - (1) The ball will be placed at the center of the field by the referee and the game will start with one player taking a kick into the opponent's half of the field, after a given signal by the referee. At the time of the kickoff, every player will be in his/her half of the field. Every player of the opposing team, to that of the kicker, shall be:

U-11, U-10, U-9	ten (10) yards from the center mark
U-8 and below	six (6) yards from the center mark
 - (2) The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player. For any infraction of these laws for U-9 and below, the referee will explain the proper procedure and the kickoff shall be retaken. Kick-offs for U-10 and above shall be played per FIFA rules.
 - (3) At U-7 and below a goal shall not be scored directly from a kickoff without the ball being touched by at least one other player on either team. At U-8 and above the limitation shall be per FIFA rules.

(b) Restart of Play

- (1) After a goal has been scored, the game shall be restarted in like manner by a player of the team that gave up the goal.
- (2) To start the second half, the game will be restarted with the kickoff by a player of the opposite team to that of the player who started the game.
- (3) Restarting play after temporary delay: In the case of a temporary suspension due to an injury or any unusual situation, if one team is clearly in possession of the ball, the game shall be restarted by an indirect free kick by the team in possession of the ball at the point where the ball was when play was suspended. Should there not be clear possession at the time play is suspended due to an injury or any unusual situation, there will be a drop ball at the spot where the ball was declared dead. The ball shall be deemed "in play" when the ball has touched the ground.

(c) Ball In and Out of Play

- (1) The ball is out of play when it has wholly crossed the goal line or whole touchline, whether it is on the ground or in the air,
- (2) The ball is out of play, when the referee has stopped the game.

(d) Method of Scoring

- (1) A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has crossed the whole of the goal line on the ground or in the air.
- (2) In the case the goal marker (cone) is knocked over or moved as a result of a direct hit by the ball as it crosses the goal line, the goal will not be allowed. In this case, the ball shall be put into play by either a goal kick or a corner kick, depending on who touched the ball last. The ball striking the inside of the goal marker and deflecting into the goal shall constitute a good goal. As in all judgment calls, the referee's decision will be final.

(e) Offside Rule

- (1) The offside rule will not apply to any U-9 and below team, however, the intent of the rule will be followed. Positioning a player in front of the opponent's goal irrespective of the location of the ball on the field is contrary to the aims of the program. The referee shall take appropriate action to prevent this kind of play (an indirect kick to the offended team and instructional statements to the violating players and coach.)
- (2) U-10 and above teams will play with the offside rule. The referees will call the rules and the proper penalties will be assessed.

(f) Fouls and Misconduct

- (1) **FREE KICKS:** Free kicks shall be classified under two (2) headings: "Direct", from which a goal can be scored by a direct kick against the offending side and "Indirect", from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been played or touched by a player other than the kicker before passing through the goal.
- (2) **NO DIRECT KICKS SHALL BE AWARDED AT U-9 AND BELOW. ONLY INDIRECT KICKS WILL BE USED.**
- (3) **Penalty Kicks will be granted ONLY at U-11 and above.** They will be taken at ten (10) yards from the goal.

- (4) A **DIRECT KICK** shall be awarded for the following nine (9) intentionally committed offenses:
 - Kicking an opponent
 - Tripping an opponent
 - Jumping at an opponent
 - Charging an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner
 - Charging an opponent from behind
 - Striking an opponent
 - Holding an opponent
 - Pushing an opponent
 - Handling the ball, with the exception of the goalie, in the designated area
- (5) An **INDIRECT KICK** shall be awarded for the following offenses:
 - Dangerous play, (high kicking)
 - Charging fairly (shoulder to shoulder) when the ball is not within the playing distance of the players involved
 - Impeding the progress of an opponent
 - Obstructing the goalkeeper (there will be NO INTENTIONAL physical contact with the goalkeeper in the "penalty area")
 - Preventing the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands
 - Lying on the ball and not allowing others to play it
 - Unsporting behavior
- (6) SLIDE TACKLING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED AT U-10 AND BELOW! If a slide tackle occurs it shall be considered dangerous play. The referee will stop play and instruct the player of his infraction and then award the opposing team an indirect free kick at the spot of the foul.
- (7) Consistent with the educational intent of the Small-Sided Program, the referee should inform the offending player of the infraction that was committed.
- (8) For all free kicks, the required distance for a defending player will equal that of the age-appropriate center circle (diameter).

(g) Throw-ins

- (1) When the whole of the ball passes over the whole touch line, either on the ground or in the air, it shall be put back into play by a throw-in. The throw shall be taken from the point where it crossed the line, by a player of the opposing team.
- (2) The thrower must face the field of play and must keep both feet on the ground while releasing the ball. He/she shall use both hands on both sides of the ball to deliver the ball from behind and over his/her head.
- (3) For U-9 and below in the event of any infraction of these laws the throw-in shall be retaken. Instruction shall be given by the referee. For U-10 and above, throw ins shall be done per FIFA rules.
- (4) A goal shall not be scored directly from the throw-in.

(h) Goal Kicks

- (1) When the whole of the ball passes over the whole of the goal line, excluding the portion between the goal posts and under the crossbar (either in the air or on the ground), having last been played by one of the players on the attacking team, it shall be kicked directly into play by a goal kick.
- (2) A goal kick may be taken from any point inside the goal area.
- (3) Any defending player, including the goalkeeper, may take the goal kick.
- (4) The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.

- (5) At U-7 and below a goal shall not be scored directly from a goal kick.
- (6) The ball is in play when it crosses outside the penalty area.

(i) Corner Kicks

- (1) When the whole of the ball passes over the whole of the goal line excluding that portion between the goal posts and under the crossbar, (either in the air or on the ground), having last been played by one of the defending team, a player of the attacking team shall have a corner kick.
- (2) The ball shall be placed within a three (3) foot arc from the corner flag or cone and shall be kicked into play from that position by an attacking player.
- (3) A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.
- (4) Players from the opposing team to the kicker shall not approach within the distance of the center circle measurement of the ball until it is in play.
- (5) If the player who takes the kick plays the ball a second time before it has been touched by another player, the referee shall explain to the kicker the proper procedure of a corner kick. Then the referee shall award an indirect kick to the opposite team from a spot where the infringement occurred.
- (6) For any other infringement the kick shall be retaken.

(j) Miscellaneous Rules

- (1) Unless otherwise modified by these rules, the standard laws of the game will govern.
- (2) Good judgment, sportsmanship and fair play should govern the decisions and actions of all coaches, referees and spectators.
- (3) For all U-10 and below age groups, a selection process will not be used for teams rostered for league play, there will be no published team standings, and game scores will not be recorded.

Rule 303 STATE SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS

Rule 303A US YOUTH SOCCER WASHINGTON STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

303A.1 Administration - US Youth Soccer Washington State Championships

- (a) The US Youth Soccer Washington State Championships - hereafter referred to as "State Championships" - will consist of one tournament. It will be open to all boys and girls teams Under 12 through Under 19, comprised of properly registered WSYSA youth players affiliated with Member Associations, provided such teams entering, and its Association, are in good standing with WSYSA and the team is in compliance with and has not violated the rules of the WSYSA, EXCEPT those teams that have entered the Challenge Cup, Commissioners' Cup or the President's Cup tournaments. Any team using an ineligible player(s) will forfeit all of its tournament games.
- (b) All Washington State Premier League Division I and Division II teams may only participate in the State Championships. All Division I teams will be seeded.
- (c) This will not be a single elimination tournament. There will be a random draw held that will determine team position (after the Division I teams are seeded.)
- (d) Teams entering the State Championships are ineligible to enter the Challenge Cup, Commissioners' Cup or President's Cup tournaments.

- (e) Players entering the State Championships are ineligible to enter the Challenge Cup, Commissioners' Cup or President's Cup tournaments.

303A.2 State Championships

- (a) The State Championships will have one tournament director appointed by the WSYSA Vice-President of Competition and approved by the WSYSA Executive Board. The tournament may have administrators appointed by the WSYSA Vice-President of Competition with such authority as granted by the Vice-President of Competition to perform their duties.
- (b) The WSYSA Vice-President of Competition will select venues for the tournament.
- (c) Each participating Member Association shall designate a representative to form the "Tournament Committee". Once the committee meets in early fall to cover rule changes, the Committee will be considered formed. Teams are to direct any questions or concerns to their association's tournament representative.
- (d) Applications for each tournament must be accompanied with the proper entry fee established by the WSYSA Board of Directors and the current team roster before the application is accepted.
- (e) (1) All Member Association Registrars will send a list of teams that they verified have entered the State Championships tournament to the WSYSA Office one day after the entry deadline.
(2) Rosters and any revisions will be processed by the local Association Registrar. All rosters will be verified by the Association Registrar before the first scheduled game in the tournament.
- (f) All teams entering the State Championships must have a minimum of nine (9) players registered to the team from the time of initial team registration. Any team using ineligible players will forfeit all of its tournament games.
- (g) All players in the State Championships must possess a valid US Youth Soccer player pass issued by the WSYSA. These passes are to be surrendered to the referee prior to each game. In the event a player does not receive a pass, they cannot play. The referee will return all cards to the coach at the conclusion of the game. The cards will be used to copy accurate information for the referee's misconduct report.
- (h) **CREDENTIALS**
The following items will be required for state tournament games:
 - (1) Credentials for play must be in order before the beginning of the preliminary rounds. Any non-credentialed or improperly credentialed player or coach shall have their passes pulled and they may not play or participate in the remainder of the tournament without a hearing.
 - (2) US Youth Soccer player passes shall be issued to every player in the State Championships. They will be required to have a current picture, signature and team ID number. They shall be physically separated (individual cards), laminated and be present at every game.
 - (3) A current coach's pass must accompany every adult who is working with the players. The coach's pass must have a current picture and signature in order to be valid.

- (4) Referees will check all coaches and players' passes at the beginning of each game. If an individual does not possess a valid pass, they will not be allowed to participate.
 - (5) Teams going into the Finals of the State Championships will bring with them, to the final game, proof of age and a current small picture. (A copy of club registration, medical form, and proof of age must be available for every player). 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. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.
- (i) The entry fee, application and preliminary roster must be submitted to the WSYSA office by November 15th. As a receipt the team will receive a copy of the rules, which will be sent to the team representative of record. The WSYSA will accept roster additions, releases and transfers up to a date set annually by the Tournament Director in conformance with the then applicable regulations of the US Youth Soccer national tournament. The effective date when the new and transferred player may play in a game with their new team will be January 1st.
 - (j) Teams submitting entries after the deadline will be accepted on a space-available basis. Late entries will be put on a waiting list in the order received and will be charged a \$50.00 late fee if accepted before the draw.
 - (k) **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON AFTER THE DRAW. NO PLAYER MOVEMENT WILL BE ALLOWED AFTER THE PUBLISHED ROSTER FREEZE DATE.**
 - (l) Any team dropping from the tournament shall be subject to the following:
 - (1) If a team drops out after the draw but before the first game, the team's Member Association will be fined \$200.00.
 - (2) If a team drops out during the preliminary round, the team's Member Association will be fined \$300.00. However, if a team drops out of the tournament immediately prior to their last scheduled preliminary game and hereafter, the team's Member Association will be fined \$400.00 and the coach or coaches will be reported to the WSYSA Ethics Committee. A portion of the fines may be used to defray reasonable and documented expenses of the home team to include referees and field rental, at the approval of the Tournament Director.
 - (m) If a team withdraws after the Quarterfinals, the team may be suspended for one (1) full year from entering all WSYSA sanctioned tournaments.
 - (n) There will be no refund of the entry fee unless the tournament, for a certain age group, is canceled due to a single entry. That team can be given the option of playing "up".

- (o) A copy of the tournament rules will be sent to the team representative of record entering the tournament upon receipt of the entry form by the WSYSA office. Rules for the tournament appear under Other Governing Documents, Rule 606.
- (p) Upon finishing the quarterfinals of the tournaments, teams advancing shall submit a team photo with all members identified to the Finals Host Committee.
- (q) A list of teams that have entered the tournament will be posted on the WSYSA web site after the application deadline.

303A.3 WSYSA Representation to US Youth Soccer Regional Championships

- (a) The State Championships will be used to determine Regional entries in age groups U-12 through U-19 where applicable.
- (b) Eligibility for Regionals will be according to placement in the State Championships:
 - (1) A team placing higher in the State Championships will be eligible before a lower placing team in the appropriate age group.
 - (2) If more than one team is at a placement under consideration, those teams will play off for the right to represent WSYSA.

303A.4 Additional Tournament Rules or Changes

Any additional tournament rules, special rules, requirements, procedures, administrative and organizational information necessary for staging the State Championships will be published separately as approved by the WSYSA Executive Board.

303B WASHINGTON STATE CHALLENGE CUP

303B.1 Administration - Challenge Cup

- (a) The Washington State Challenge Cup - hereafter referred to as "Challenge Cup" - will consist of one tournament with divisions as determined by the Tournament Director. It will be open to all boys and girls teams U-11 through U-19, comprised of properly registered WSYSA youth players affiliated with Member Associations, provided such teams entering, and its Association, are in good standing with WSYSA and the team is in compliance with and has not violated the rules of the WSYSA, EXCEPT those teams that have entered the State Championship, Commissioners' Cup, President's Cup or have played in the Washington State Premier League - hereafter referred to as "WSPL" - Division I and Division II during the season. Teams in the U-13 WSPL Premier Division during the season may participate in the Challenge Cup. Individual exceptions may be approved by the Tournament Director and the Vice President of Development. Any team using an ineligible player(s) will forfeit all of its tournament games.
- (b) All WSPL Division III teams who enter the Challenge Cup will be seeded into the top division.
- (c) This will not be a single elimination tournament. There will be a random draw held that will determine team position (after the Division III teams are seeded.)

- (d) Teams entering the Challenge Cup are ineligible to enter the State Championships, Commissioners' Cup or President's Cup tournaments.
- (e) Players may participate in any of the state tournaments (subject to the restriction in (a)) but in only one tournament at a time. Players may not play on a team at a lower level of play than their league team, without specific written permission from the Tournament Director.

303B.2 Challenge Cup

- (a) The Challenge Cup will have one Tournament Director appointed by the WSYSA Vice-President of Development and approved by the WSYSA Executive Board. The Tournament Director will have full authority to interpret these rules as deemed necessary to conduct the tournament, as approved by the Vice-President of Development. The tournament may have administrators appointed by the WSYSA Vice-President of Development with such authority as granted by the Vice-President of Development to perform their duties.
- (b) The WSYSA Vice-President of Development will select venues for the tournament.
- (c) Each participating Member Association shall designate a representative to form the "Tournament Committee". Once the committee meets in early fall to cover rule changes, the Committee will be considered formed. Teams are to direct any questions or concerns to their association's tournament representative.
- (d) Applications for each tournament must be accompanied with the proper entry fee established by the WSYSA Board of Directors and the current team roster before the application is accepted.
- (e)
 - (1) All Member Association Registrars will send a list of teams that they verified have entered the Challenge Cup tournament to the WSYSA Office one day after the entry deadline.
 - (2) Rosters and any revisions will be processed by the local Association Registrar. All rosters will be verified by the Association Registrar before the first scheduled game in the tournament.
- (f) All teams entering the Challenge Cup must have a minimum of nine players for U12 to U19 teams or seven players for U11 teams, which are registered to the team. Any team using ineligible players will forfeit all of its tournament games.
- (g) **CREDENTIALS** - The following items will be required for state tournament games:
 - (1) Credentials for play must be in order before the beginning of the preliminary rounds. Any non-credentialed or improperly credentialed player or coach shall have their passes pulled and they may not play or participate in the remainder of the tournament without a hearing.
 - (2) US Youth Soccer player passes may be issued to every player in the Challenge Cup. If required, they will be required to have a current picture, signature and team ID number. They shall be physically separated (individual cards), laminated and be present at every game.
 - (3) A current coach's/administrator's pass must accompany every adult who is working with the players. The pass must have a current picture and signature and be laminated individually and be present at every game in order to be valid.

- (4) Referees will check all passes at the beginning of each game. If an individual does not possess a required valid pass, they will not be allowed to participate.
- (h) The entry fee, application and preliminary roster must be submitted to the WSYSA office by the deadline date set by the Tournament Director. Since all records must be reviewed and signed by the Association Registrar, the only receipt a team will receive is the copy of the rules, which will be sent to the team representative of record. The WSYSA will accept roster additions, releases and transfers up to a date set annually by the Tournament Director. Any transfers submitted after the application deadline date will not be accepted for any player whose team is in the Challenge Cup tournament. The effective date when the new and transferred player may play in a game with their new team will be January 1st.
- (i) Teams submitting entries after the deadline will be accepted on a space-available basis. Late entries will be put on a waiting list in the order received and will be charged a \$50.00 late fee if accepted before the draw.
- (j) **LATE ENTRIES AFTER THE DRAW MAY BE ACCEPTED TO FILL BRACKETS, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.**
- (k) Any team dropping from the tournament shall be subject to the following:
 - (1) If a team drops out after the draw but before the first game, the team's Member Association will be fined \$200.00.
 - (2) If a team drops out during the preliminary round, the team's Member Association will be fined \$300.00. However, if a team drops out of the tournament immediately prior to their last scheduled preliminary game and hereafter, the team's Member Association will be fined \$400.00 and the coach or coaches will be reported to the WSYSA Tournament Committee for disciplinary action. A portion of the fines may be used to defray reasonable and documented expenses of the home team, to include referees and field rental, at the approval of the Tournament Director.
- (l) If a team withdraws after the Quarterfinals, the team may be suspended for one (1) full year from entering all WSYSA sanctioned tournaments. The Tournament Committee will conduct the hearing.
- (m) There will be no refund of the entry fee unless the tournament, for a certain age group, is canceled due to a single entry. That team can be given the option of playing "up" or in the State Championships, at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- (n) A copy of the tournament rules will be sent to the team representative of record entering the tournament upon receipt of the entry form by the WSYSA office. Rules for the tournament appear under Other Governing Documents, Rule 606.
- (o) Upon finishing the quarterfinals of the tournaments, teams advancing shall submit a team photo with all members identified to the Finals Host Committee.
- (p) A list of teams that have entered the tournament will be posted on the WSYSA web site after the application deadline.

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303B.5 Additional Tournament Rules or Changes

- (a) Any additional tournament rules, special rules, requirements, procedures, administrative and organizational information necessary for staging the Challenge Cup will be published separately as approved by the WSYSA Executive Board.

Rule 303C WASHINGTON STATE COMMISSIONERS' CUP

303C.1 Administration - Commissioners' Cup

- (a) The Washington State Commissioners' Cup - hereafter referred to as "Commissioners' Cup" - will consist of one tournament with divisions as determined by the Tournament Director. It will be open to all boys and girls teams U- 11 through U-19, comprised of properly registered WSYSA youth players affiliated with Member Associations, provided such teams entering, and its Association, are in good standing with WSYSA and the team is in compliance with and has not violated the rules of the WSYSA, EXCEPT those teams that have entered the State Championship, Challenge Cup or have played in the Washington State Premier League - hereafter referred to as "WSPL" - Division I-III and WSYDL teams during the season. Individual exceptions may be approved by the Tournament Director and the Vice-President of Development. Any team using an ineligible player(s) will forfeit all of its tournament games.
- (b) This will not be a single elimination tournament. There will be a random draw held that will determine team position.
- (c) Teams entering the Commissioners' Cup are ineligible to enter the State Championships, or Challenge Cup tournaments.
- (d) Players may participate in any of the state tournaments (subject to the restriction in (a)) but in only one tournament at a time. Players may not play on a team at a lower level of play than their league team, without specific written permission from the Tournament Director.

303C.2 Commissioners' Cup

- (a) The Commissioners' Cup will have one tournament director appointed by the WSYSA Vice-President of Development and approved by the WSYSA Executive Board. The Tournament Director will have full authority to interpret these rules as deemed necessary to conduct the tournament, as approved by the Vice-President of Development. The tournament may have administrators appointed by the WSYSA Vice-President of Development with such authority as granted by the Vice-President of Development to perform their duties.
- (b) The WSYSA Vice-President of Development will select venues for the tournament.
- (c) Each participating Member Association shall designate a representative to form the "Tournament Committee". Once the committee meets in early fall to cover rule changes, the Committee will be considered formed. Teams are to direct any questions or concerns to their association's tournament representative.

- (d) Applications for each tournament must be accompanied with the proper entry fee established by the WSYSA Board of Directors and the current team roster before the application is accepted.
- (e)
 - (1) All Member Association Registrars will send a list of teams that they verified have entered the Commissioners' Cup tournament to the WSYSA Office one day after the entry deadline.
 - (2) Rosters and any revisions will be processed by the local Association Registrar. All rosters will be verified by the Association Registrar before the first scheduled game in the tournament.
- (f) All teams entering the Commissioners' Cup must have a minimum of nine (9) players, for U12 to U19 teams or seven (7) players for U11 teams, which are registered to the team from the time of initial team registration. Any team using ineligible players will forfeit all of its tournament games.
- (g) **CREDENTIALS**
The following items will be required for state tournament games:
 - (1) Credentials for play must be in order before the beginning of the preliminary rounds. Any non-credentialed or improperly credentialed player or coach shall have their passes pulled and they may not play or participate in the remainder of the tournament without a hearing.
 - (2) US Youth Soccer player passes may be issued to every player in the Commissioners' Cup. If required, they will be required to have a current picture, signature and team ID number. They shall be physically separated (individual cards), laminated and be present at every game.
 - (3) A current coach's/administrator's pass must accompany every adult who is working with the players. The pass must have a current picture and signature and be laminated individually and be present at every game in order to be valid.
 - (4) Referees will check all passes at the beginning of each game. If an individual does not possess a required valid pass, they will not be allowed to participate.
- (h) The entry fee, application and preliminary roster must be submitted to the WSYSA office by the deadline date set by the Tournament Director. Since all records must be reviewed and signed by the Association Registrar, the only receipt a team will receive is the copy of the rules, which will be sent to the team representative of record. The WSYSA will accept roster additions, releases and transfers up to a date set annually by the Tournament Director. Any transfers submitted after the application deadline date will not be accepted for any player whose team is in the Commissioners' Cup tournament. The effective date when the new and transferred player may play in a game with their new team will be January 1st.
- (i) Teams submitting entries after the deadline will be accepted on a space-available basis. Late entries will be put on a waiting list in the order received and will be charged a \$50.00 late fee if accepted before the draw.
- (j) **LATE ENTRIES AFTER THE DRAW MAY BE ACCEPTED TO FILL BRACKETS, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.**

- (k) Any team dropping from the tournament shall be subject to the following:
 - (1) If a team drops out after the draw but before the first game, the team's Member Association will be fined \$200.00.
 - (2) If a team drops out during the preliminary round, the team's Member Association will be fined \$300.00. However, if a team drops out of the tournament immediately prior to their last scheduled preliminary game and hereafter, the team's Member Association will be fined \$400.00 and the coach or coaches will be reported to the WSYSA Tournament Committee for disciplinary action. A portion of the fines may be used to defray reasonable and documented expenses of the home team, to include referees and field rental, at the approval of the Tournament Director.
- (l) If a team withdraws after the Quarterfinals, the team may be suspended for one (1) full year from entering all WSYSA sanctioned tournaments. The Tournament Committee will conduct the hearing.
- (m) There will be no refund of the entry fee unless the tournament, for a certain age group, is canceled due to a single entry. That team can be given the option of playing "up" or in the State Championships or Challenge Cup, at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- (n) A copy of the tournament rules will be sent to the team representative of record entering the tournament upon receipt of the entry form by the WSYSA office. Rules for the tournament appear under Other Governing Documents, Rule 606.
- (o) Upon finishing the quarterfinals of the tournaments, teams advancing shall submit a team photo with all members identified to the Finals Host Committee.
- (p) A list of teams that have entered the tournament will be posted on the WSYSA web site after the application deadline.

303C.3 Additional Tournament Rules or Changes

Any additional tournament rules, special rules, requirements, procedures, administrative and organizational information necessary for staging the Commissioners' Cup will be published separately as approved by the WSYSA Executive Board.

Rule 304 WASHINGTON STATE PRESIDENT'S CUP

304.1 Administration

- (a) The Washington State President's Cup will consist of one tournament.
- (b) Age groups: U-11 through U-19, Boys and Girls. Including U-18 if two (2) or more teams enter.

- (c) Applications for the tournament must be accompanied with the required entry fee as set by the Board of Directors and the current team roster before the application is accepted. Rosters, registration documents supporting roster changes, and applications submitted to the District will be processed and verified by the local Association Registrar. All rosters will be verified by the State Registrar before the first scheduled game in the tournament. Districts will forward the state portion of the entry fee to the state office.
- (d) Rosters will be fixed as of the date the entry is submitted to the Association Registrar. This submission must be no later than October 10. Late entries will be accepted on space available, as determined by each District. No transfers to the team for the sole purpose of tournament play or guest players will be allowed. Any additions are subject to the State Registrar's approval and the approval of the President's Cup Director or the Vice-President of Recreation for WSYSA. No roster can be adjusted after play commences in the requesting team's District.
- (e) There will be no refund of the entry fee unless the tournament for a certain age group is canceled due to a single entry. This team can be given the option of playing in an older bracket or in the Commissioners' Cup or State Championships.
- (f) IGNORANCE TO THESE RULES WILL NOT BE AN EXCUSE OR GROUNDS FOR ANY PROTEST.
- (g) Teams entering the President's Cup are ineligible to enter the State Championships or Commissioners' Cup.
- (h) Districts may chose to fine a team for not showing at a District Preliminary game.
- (i) Any Association's team not showing or canceling for the State final round could be fined \$200.

304.2 Eligibility

- (a) The Washington State President's Cup shall be open to teams comprised of properly registered youth players affiliated with WSYSA Member Associations, provided such teams and their Associations are in good standing and have not violated the rules of WSYSA. Two-time past Champions of the President's Cup shall not be eligible to participate.
- (b) This cup will be open to recreational teams that play in a recreational league, A "recreational league is defined as any league "interclub or intraclub" where the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited. Individual Associations will determine whether their teams fit the "recreational league" classification.

Rule 305 WASHINGTON STATE PREMIER LEAGUE

305.1 Introduction

- (a) In order to provide an environment under which the development of youth soccer players is maximized, a Washington State youth league (hereafter known as the Premier League) has been formed for age groups U-13 through U-19. It is administered by Washington State Youth Soccer Association (WSYSA).
- (b) The WSYSA Bylaws and Operating Procedures are the governing documents. Modifications have been made expressly for Premier League competition. The Operating Procedures and Rules of Competition contained herein shall govern the conduct of the Premier League for Division I, Division II, Division III, and the U-13 Age Group Division I for both Boys and Girls.
- (c) The Premier League may have up to three divisions for Boys and Girls for age groups U-14 through U-19. The U-13 Age Group Division I will be a single division that may be divided into sections.
- (d) The Premier League shall be for teams who are duly qualified and comprised of properly registered youth players affiliated with WSYSA Member Associations or Districts, provided such teams entering and their Associations or Districts are in good standing with WSYSA and that the team is in compliance with and has not violated any of the rules of WSYSA.

305.2 Administration

- (a) WSYSA, under the Vice-President of Competition, will administer the Premier League.
- (b) A Premier League Committee will be established. This Committee will be responsible for all Premier League administration.
- (c) The Premier League Committee shall consist of the Director, Administrator for each Division, and one Representative from each District participating in the Premier League.
 - (1) The Director and Administrators will be appointed by the WSYSA Vice-President of Competition, with the approval of the WSYSA Executive Board.
 - (2) The District Representative will be that District's Director of Competition or designated alternate.
- (d) The Premier League Administrators may appoint a League Scorekeeper for each age group or division.
- (e) The Premier League season will be proposed by the Premier League Committee.
- (f) All Premier League games will be scheduled on the best fields available, properly marked, equipped and netted.
- (g) The WSYSA Vice-President of Competition and the Premier League Committee will formulate and publish the Operating Procedures and Rules of Competition for the Premier League as approved by the WSYSA Board of Directors.

305.3 Premier League Structure

- (a) Premier League Entry Level for the U-13 Age Group:
 - (1) Limit, One (1) Division, called the Premier League U-13 Age Group Division I, which may be divided into more than one section.
 - (2) Districts will recommend, with the Member Association's approval, their strongest teams (if any) capable of playing in the Premier League to the Premier League Committee.

- (b) All teams for the following year's U-14 season will qualify through the League Placement Tournament (hereafter known as LPT) for Division I, Division II, and Division III.

- (c) Premier League structure for U-14 through U-19 Age Groups:
 - (1) Limit, three (3) Divisions
The league structure for each division for the U-14 through U-19 is an eight (8) team limit. If teams drop after the next season's schedules have been completed, the league will be played as scheduled with byes inserted where games were previously scheduled.

 - (2) Promotion and Relegation:
 - (A) The top six (6) teams from this season's Division I U-14 to U-17 final league standings will be seeded by position into next season's Division I U-15 to U-18.
 - (B) Whenever there is a Division I and a Division II within the same Age and Gender group, teams finishing 7th and 8th from this season's U-14 through U-17 Division I will be relegated and seeded into 1st and 2nd position in the next season's U-15 through U-18 Division II. Teams finishing 1st and 2nd from this season's U-14 through U-17 Division II will be promoted and seeded into 7th and 8th position in the next season's U-15 through U-18 Division I.
 - (C) Division II teams finishing in positions 3, 4, 5 and 6 from this year's U-14 to U-17 will be seeded into the same positions in the next season's Division II U-15 to U-18.
 - (D) Whenever there is a Division II and a Division III within the same Age and Gender group, teams finishing 7th and 8th from this season's U-14 through U-17 Division II will be relegated and seeded into 1st and 2nd position in the next season's U-15 through U-18 Division III. Teams finishing 1st and 2nd from this season's U-14 through U-17 Division III will be promoted and seeded into 7th and 8th position in the next season's U-15 through U-18 Division II.
 - (E) Division III teams finishing in positions 3 and 4 from this season's U-14 to U-17 will be seeded into the same positions in the next season's Division III U-15 to U-18.

- (F) This season's U-14 through U-17 Division III teams finishing 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th will play in a LPT with a minimum double elimination format with any age-group teams not meeting the "returning player" requirement and any new teams. Each team must have their Association's approval.
- (H) The U-19 LPT will be an "open" tournament. All teams will be placed into the U-19 LPT by a random draw.
- (I) Following the completion of relegation/promotion and the LPT, but before the next season's schedules have been completed, if any seeded or placing team does not enter the next season's Premier League for any reason, that team's place will be filled from the next lower division or LPT (whichever is applicable) by order of seeded position. Divisions will be scheduled as long as six teams remain in the lowest division.

305.4 Team Eligibility

- (a) All U-15 through U-18 teams seeded in Division I, Division II, and Division III must meet the following "team roster" criterion for returning players: eight (8) returning players from the prior season's final league roster (October 31) must be carried on a team's roster from May 1 (the Premier League application roster and LPT roster if applicable) through October 31 (league season roster).
- (b) If a team does not meet the returning player criterion with its Premier League application roster, that team will be placed in the LPT.
- (c) Play up situations:
 - (1) This season's seeded U-14 through U-17 teams wishing to advance to an older age group for next season will participate in the next older age group LPT and forfeit its seeded position.
 - (2) This season's seeded U-14 through U-18 teams that were playing up and wish to return to their age level for next season will participate in the LPT for that age group and forfeit its seeded position.
- (d) The Member Association and the team hold the league position jointly. Teams are not free to move from one Member Association to another. Whenever a new Member Association is formed, the teams may decide whether to stay with the old Member Association or move to the new Member Association. Once a team lists a Member Association on its application to Premier League, the team must remain with that Member Association.
- (e) If a team splits and both teams meet the returning player criteria, the member Association decides which team will occupy the league position. The other team will be placed in the LPT.
- (f) Teams folding or not returning, creating an open position then:
 - (1) The Premier League reclaims the league position of any team which does not return.
 - (2) Divisional seedings for the next season will be adjusted and all returning teams below the team which did not return will advance one position.
- (g) Any team successfully qualifying through the LPT must have at least eleven (11) players from its LPT roster remaining on the team for the league season.

- (h) Teams meeting the requirement to retain their seeded position in the Premier League, must have at least eleven (11) players from its May 1 roster remaining on the team for the league season.
- (i) Teams must be current with all Premier League fees and fines from the prior season before their application will be accepted.

305.5 Entry Forms and Fee

- (a) To enter the Premier League, it is required that the Premier League Entry Form be completed with appropriate signatures and delivered to the WSYSA office with the applicable fee. A team representative's name may appear on only one Premier League Entry Form. The Premier League Entry Form contains the current fee schedule established by the WSYSA Board of Directors.
- (b) Setting the entry deadline for all teams is the responsibility of the Premier League Committee. Teams entering the LPT after the announced entry deadline will be accepted only if an opening exists and the timing for the schedule publication allows. A late entry fee will be charged.
- (c) It is requested that Member Associations make every effort to submit team entry forms and associated fees as a total package. This reduces mistakes and makes the forms easier for the office and Administrators to process.
- (d) If any team withdraws after July 1, the team's Member Association will be fined \$300.00 for each occurrence.
- (e) During league play, any team having an unexcused forfeiture, as determined by the Premier League Committee, will be fined \$150.00 for the first occurrence. A second unexcused forfeiture may constitute a withdrawal from the Premier League, and the team's Member Association will be fined an additional \$300.00.
- (f) Team Entry Forms:
 - (1) Team entry forms must be signed by the Member Association Registrar (alternates, Member Association President or Select Program Director).
 - (2) Team entry forms not containing the required signatures will not be processed and will be returned to the affected Association for resolution.
- (g) Team entry forms must be accompanied by a preliminary team roster, signed by the Member Association Registrar. Returning teams must meet the returning player minimums as set forth in Premier League Rules.

305.6 League Standings/Tie Breaker

- (a) Three (3) points will be given for each win, one (1) point for each tie, and zero (0) points for a loss.

- (b) If any ties exist in Division standings, the following criteria will be used for breaking those ties (except as qualified elsewhere in this document):
 - (1) Head to head.
 - (2) Fewest goals against: All league games.
 - (3) Best goal differential: All league games.
 - (4) Flip a coin.

- (c) Ties in Divisional standings between three or more teams will be resolved as follows:
 - (1) Eliminate the results of all teams not tied.
 - (2) Apply the point system to the remaining teams which are tied.
 - (3) For teams that remain tied, the following criteria will be used for breaking those ties (except as qualified elsewhere in this document):
 - (a) Head to head.
 - (b) Fewest goals against.
 - (c) Best goal differential.
 - (d) Flip a coin.
 - (4) If teams remain tied, repeat the above steps as necessary.

305.7 Recognition Awards

Recognition of winning teams will be accomplished through the presentation of awards, budget permitting. Awards may be in the form of individual trophies, medallions, and/or team trophies.

305.8 Rules of Play

- (a) All league play, tournaments, and special competition under the jurisdiction of the Premier League shall be conducted in accordance with current WSYSA Rules of Competition, except as modified herein.

- (b) Field of Play - If a field is not properly marked, equipped and netted, the referee will have the option to NOT allow the game to be played.

305.9 Player's Equipment

Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey, clearly visible and a minimum of six (6) inches high. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional.

305.10 Game Sheets and Player Passes

- (a) Prior to a Premier League game, coaches must provide the referee with a WSYSA game sheet (or equivalent) and valid player passes for all players. A valid player pass is a US Youth Soccer/WSYSA player pass for the player's current team that is signed by the player, has a recent identifiable photo of the player, and is laminated. Players must be listed on the game sheet and have a valid player pass to be eligible to play in the game.

- (b) Any player that does not possess a valid player pass shall not be permitted to participate in that match.

- (c) In the unlikely event that an entire team fails to show player passes, the referee shall allow the match to be played. Both coaches must report the incident to their Premier League Administrator. The referee should note the incident on the game roster sheet and mail his copy to the WSYSA office.

305.11 Coaching/Sideline Conduct

- (a) Coaching from the sidelines – giving direction to one’s own team on points of strategy and position – is permitted, provided:
 - (1) Neither mechanical or electronic devices are used;
 - (2) The tone of voice is informative and not a harangue.
- (b) All coaches, substitute players and other bench personnel are to remain within the “coaching area” (two yards behind the touch line, and not within eighteen yards of the goal line).
- (c) No player, coach, substitute player or other bench personnel are to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other players, substitutes, or spectators.
- (d) No player, coach, substitute player or other bench person is to use profanity.
- (e) No player, coach, substitute player or other bench person is to incite, in any manner, or engage in any kind of disruptive behavior.
- (f) If the above rules are violated, the referee shall ask the offending party for compliance with the rules. The referee may file a written incident report to the WSYSA office, attn: WSYSA Disciplinary Committee.
- (g) In the event that compliance is not received from the offending party, the referee shall ask the offending party to leave the playing area. If this request is made, the referee must file a written incident report to the WSYSA office, attn: WSYSA Disciplinary Committee.
- (h) If the offending party refuses to leave the playing area, or returns after leaving, the referee shall abandon the match and file a written report of the game abandonment with the WSYSA office, attn: WSYSA Disciplinary Committee.
- (i) It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Each coach, manager and team, club or league official shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of the spectators for or from their respective teams. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted at any field.

305.12 Player Release and Transfer/Player Identification

- (a) All teams participating in Premier League competition are eligible in US Youth Soccer sponsored events. Therefore, the player release and transfer rules applicable to US Youth Soccer competition shall prevail.
- (b) Both US Youth Soccer and WSYSA have a seasonal year defined as September 1st through August 31st.

- (c) Premier League rosters must be completed with appropriate signatures, postmarked or received in the WSYSA office by August 1.
- (d) A Premier League team is limited to a minimum of eleven (11) registered players at one time on a team and no more than eighteen (18) as qualified by (h) and (i) below.
- (e) A team shall be limited to a total of three (3) players received by transfer per seasonal year.
- (f) Premier League rosters are frozen thirty (30) day prior to the end of the league season for each age group. No additions or transfers except for tournament play.
- (g) Players being transferred or added to a team may not play until they have a player pass for their new team. The completed transfer or add form is not a replacement for the player pass.
- (h) A team that entered the Premier League through the LPT must have at least eleven (11) players, who were members of the LPT team, on its roster throughout the Premier League season.
- (i) A team that entered the Premier League from a seeded spot must have at least eleven (11) players, who were members of the team on the league application form, on its roster throughout the Premier League season.

305.13 Scheduling of Games

- (a) Regularly scheduled Premier League games and the LPT shall have priority over any and all competition entered into by Premier League teams.
- (b) The Premier League Administrators are responsible for scheduling of all games. They have final authority to determine playing dates.
- (c) All Premier League games will be played on Sunday except for the Under-13 and Under-14 Age Groups, which will be played on Saturday. To eliminate mountain travel in December, Divisions with Eastern Washington teams may have some "double header" weekends with games on both Saturday and Sunday.
- (d) The Home team determines field location and kick-off time. Teams must provide the Member Association Representatives with the home game and requested kick-off time information:
 - (1) League games should be scheduled to begin no earlier than 9:00 AM and no later than 5:00 PM, unless agreed to by the visiting team in writing (includes fax and E-mail) at least two (2) weeks prior to the game.
 - (2) Double header weekends: Saturday games should not be scheduled to start before 2:00 PM and Sunday games should start no later than noon, unless agreed to by the visiting team in writing (includes fax and E-mail) at least two (2) weeks prior to the game.

- (3) Teams traveling more than 2.5 hours for one game need to have time to travel in the same day. These games should not start before noon or after 3:00 PM. The WSYSA-recognize Association address, or zip code if no address is listed, of the traveling team to the scheduled game field determines travel time.
- (4) Failure to schedule game start times within the prescribed guidelines may result in a mandatory game reschedule at the discretion of the Premier League Administrator.
- (e) The respective Premier League Administrator must approve all schedule changes. A schedule change request must be agreed to by both teams and must be submitted to their Premier League Administrator prior to the scheduled game date on the "Premier League Game Reschedule Request" form. If the request is approved, the home team is responsible for rescheduling the field and the officials. If a team fails to show, on this date, that team will receive a loss for that game. If both teams fail to show, both teams will receive a loss for that game.
- (f) If a referee declares a field unplayable at kick-off time or the field is closed by the field administrator, both coaches must report the postponement to their Premier League Administrator. The home team is responsible for rescheduling the game with the approval of the visiting team. If the teams cannot agree on a reschedule date, their Premier League Administrator will determine the reschedule date and location. The designated home team will be responsible for any field rental and referee expenses. If a team fails to show, on this date, that team will receive a loss for that game. If both teams fail to show, both teams will receive a loss for that game, zero points for both teams.
- (g) If a game is not played because there was no referee and a substitute could not be agreed upon (reference Premier League Rule "Officiating"), subject to the approval of the respective Premier League Administrator, the visiting team may have the choice of rematch date and location. If there is no referee at the rescheduled game and a substitute cannot be agreed upon, the respective Premier League Administrator will reschedule the game at the expense of both teams.
- (h) If both teams have been notified of the game location and kick-off time, and one team fails to show up for the game, following a fifteen (15) minute grace period, the game will be forfeited to the showing team with a score of 1-0.
- (i) If both teams have been notified of the game location and kick-off time, and both teams fail to show up for the game, both teams will receive a loss for that game, zero points for both teams.
- (j) All league games must be played by the final weekend of the league season unless approved in advance by the respective Premier League Administrator.

305.14 Responsibilities of Coaches/Managers

- (a) The following are the responsibilities of the assigned “home team”:
 - (1) Marking the field-of-play;
 - (2) Providing a proper game ball;
 - (3) Providing nets and corner flags;
 - (4) Providing adequate directions to the opposing team to the “home team’s” venue as soon as game time and location are scheduled by the local scheduler and at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the game and by no later than 9:00 PM Wednesday night.
- (b) Visiting teams must confirm receipt of the above “directions” by no later than 9:00 PM Thursday night.
- (c) The Coach or Manager of both teams (regardless of win, loss or tie) report each game score as instructed by their Premier League Administrator. Teams that do not report their score may be fined \$15 for each occurrence.
- (d) Any coach, assistant coach, team manager, or other party having direct contact with players must be in compliance with WSYSA’s Risk Management Policy.

305.15 Reporting Scores

- (a) Teams must report the game score as directed by their League Administrator.
- (b) If a game was not played as scheduled for any reason, this information must be reported to the League Administrator.
- (c) If a game is rescheduled, the score must be reported to the League Administrator following the actual game.
- (d) If a game was abandoned, this information must be reported to the League Administrator.

305.16 Officiating

- (a) A referee shall be assigned to officiate each game with the authority assigned as specified in the “Laws of the Game” (FIFA).
- (b) If possible, the Referee Assignor will be responsible for scheduling properly registered and qualified referees and assistant referees.
- (c) If assistant referees cannot be scheduled, each team must provide one (1) person to act as club linemen, if the referee wishes.
- (d) Referees who are also coaches, team managers, or relatives of players-of-record in a given age group of the Premier League shall not be assigned matches in that age and gender group. Other individuals should disqualify themselves if there is a conflict of interest in that age and gender group.

- (e) Failure of a referee to show up within fifteen (15) minutes of a scheduled game time will constitute grounds for a rematch. A substitute official may be chosen upon agreement by both coaches and the substitute's decisions will be final.
- (f) Coaches may file a letter of concern on a referee to the WSYSA Youth Referee Administrator.
- (g) It is the responsibility of the Member Association to send a complete Premier League game schedule to the Referee Coordinator responsible for scheduling referees for their Premier League games at the earliest opportunity.
- (h) Before the start of each game, the referee will request the home team to choose the side of the field its team and parents will occupy. The visiting team and its parents will occupy the opposite side.
- (i) If any player has been sent off the field of play by the referee for violating the "Laws of the Game", the referee must file a written report following the completion of the game to:

Washington State Youth Soccer Association
 Attention: WSYSA Disciplinary Committee
 500 S. 336th Street, Suite #100
 Federal Way, WA 98003

- (j) Before the start of each game, the referee will obtain a game sheet and collect the player passes from each team. Players not listed on the game sheet and not possessing a valid player pass will not be allowed to participate in the game. At the end of the game, the referee will note on the game sheet: the final score, misconducts issued, and any other information deemed appropriate. The referee will return one copy of each game sheet to each team, and if misconducts were issued or other problems noted, return or fax the white copy to the WSYSA office at the above address.
- (k) Player passes are to be surrendered to the referee prior to each game. The referee will return ALL passes to the coach at the conclusion of the game. The passes will be used to copy accurate information to the referee's misconduct report.

305.17 Game Abandonment

- (a) If it has been determined that a Premier League game is abandoned by the referee due to actions of the coach, players, spectators or any combination thereof, NO REPLAY WILL BE GRANTED.
- (b) Furthermore, if at the time of the abandonment:
 - (1) The opposing team is ahead, the score will be the final score.
 - (2) The team causing the abandonment is ahead, the game shall be considered forfeited and a score of 1-0 in favor of the opposing team will be awarded.
 - (3) If the score is tied, the game shall be considered forfeited and a score of 1-0 in favor of the opposing team will be awarded.
 - (4) If it has been determined that both teams caused the abandonment, then both teams will be given a loss, zero points for both teams.

305.18 Coaching Qualifications

- (a) For U-13, it is encouraged that coaches for Premier League teams obtain a minimum of the USSF “D” license.
- (b) For U-14 through U-19, all coaches are encouraged to possess a minimum USSF “C” license.

305.19 Coaching Ethics

- (a) No coach/player will have in his/her possession, or consume, alcoholic beverages during any Premier League event.
- (b) All coaches will adhere to the WSYSA Code of Ethics.
- (c) Any coach, manager or official found guilty by a WSYSA Ethics Committee of knowingly using an ineligible player(s) (over-age, improperly registered, or under disciplinary suspension) will be suspended from participation in all WSYSA activities not to exceed the current and subsequent seasonal year.

Rule 306 WASHINGTON STATE YOUTH DEVELOPMENTAL LEAGUE (WSYDL)

306.1 Introduction

- (a) In order to provide an environment under which the development of youth soccer players is maximized, a Washington State Youth Developmental League (hereafter known as WSYDL) has been formed for age groups U-14 through U-19. It is administered by Washington State Youth Soccer Association (WSYSA).
- (b) The WSYSA Bylaws and Operating Procedures are the governing documents. The WSYDL will adhere to the same guidelines and rules as established for the Washington State Premier League, Rule 305.

306.2 Administration

- (a) WSYSA, under the Vice-President of Competition, will oversee the WSYDL.
- (b) The Premier League Committee will be responsible for WSYDL administration.

306.3 Team Eligibility and WSYDL Structure

- (a) The WSYSA office and WSYSA Disciplinary Committee will support the WSYDL.
- (b) All teams must have participated in this year’s LPT.
- (c) The WSYDL shall be limited to eight (8) teams in each age and gender group based on order of finish at the LPT.
- (d) League schedules will be prepared using an eight (8) team bracket. In the event a team drops or folds prior to August 1, there will still be a WSYDL, if there are seven (7) remaining teams.

- (e) If two or more teams drop or fold prior to August 1, there will be no WSYDL in that particular age and gender group. The remaining teams will be returned to their respective Districts and/or Member Associations.
- (f) If teams drop or fold after August 1, "BYES" will be inserted into the WSYDL schedule where those team(s) would have played.
- (g) WSYDL teams must have at least eleven (11) players from its LPT roster remaining on the team for the entire league season.
- (h) After August 1, player movement is governed by WSYSA registration policies, procedures and guidelines.

Rule 307 INTER-DISTRICT LEAGUE(S), IDL's

- (a) Definition of an IDL:
Any District-Administered League where teams from outside the host District are allowed to play.
- (b) Approval:
Prior to forming an IDL the host League Administrator would need to get written approval from the respective District Commissioner(s) for teams that would be playing in the League(s) indicating that their teams are in good standing with their home District and that that team has their approval to play in a league outside of their home District.
- (c) Rules of Competition:
IDL Leagues will use WSYSA Washington State Premier League rules as their official "Rules Of Competition".
- (d) Risk Management:
All coaches must be in compliance with WSYSA's Operation Procedure Rule 216 and have on file with WSYSA, a fully completed Application/Disclosure Statement signed under penalty of perjury either in electronic format or hard copy format.
- (e) League Reports:
Each IDL Administrator is required to submit a report to the WSYSA Vice-President of Competition within 60 days.

NOTES:

SECTION 4 – RULES OF COMPETITION - INDOOR

Rule 400 INDOOR/COURT

Rule 401 RULES OF PLAY

- (a) The Rules of Play shall be the OFFICIAL INDOOR SOCCER LAWS, as published by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), except those modified for the benefit of youth soccer by US Youth Soccer and/or the Washington State Youth Soccer Association (WSYSA).
- (b) All games shall be played under these Rules and Regulations of WSYSA. While in general terms leagues may adopt Rules which are more restrictive than these Rules, Leagues may not adopt Rules which are less strict than these Rules. No League Rule may be adopted which is in violation of these WSYSA rules or in violation of the spirit and intent of the WSYSA Indoor/Court Program.
- (c) It is hereby stated that unless otherwise stated within these WSYSA Rules, all other WSYSA Rules and Regulations pertaining to outdoor/field soccer are applicable to WSYSA Indoor/Court soccer.

Rule 402 REGISTRATION

- (a) WSYSA registration rules apply with the following exceptions:
 - (1) Inter-district and inter-association registration is allowed, with the approval of the appropriate District Commissioners involved. A player may only register to a maximum of three concurrent playing teams, and only in the following circumstances:
 - (A) One current playing outdoor team, one current playing indoor/court team, and one coed team.
 - (B) A player may not compete for two different teams on the same day.

Rule 403 TEAM ROSTER LIMITATIONS

Any team shall be limited to not more than sixteen (16) registered players at any given time. No team shall be allowed to have less than four (4) players registered at any given time.

Rule 404 LENGTH OF GAMES, OVERTIME PERIOD, AND BALL SIZE

The recommended duration of games, overtime periods, and ball size, are as follows:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Overtime</u>	<u>Ball</u>
U-19	4 quarters/15 min. ea./stop clock	Two 5-min. halves	#5
U-16	4 quarters/15 min. ea./stop clock	Two 5-min. halves	#5
U-14	4 quarters/15 min. ea./stop clock	Two 5-min. halves	#5
U-12	4 quarters/15 min. ea./stop clock	Two 5-min. halves	#4
U-10	4 quarters/15 min. ea./stop clock	Two 5-min. halves	#4
U-08	4 quarters/15 min. ea./stop clock	Two 5-min. halves	#3

Rule 405 FIELDS AND EQUIPMENT

The appropriate League shall insure the condition of the field of play, the proper field markings, and the proper equipment. It shall be the responsibility of each team to have a game ball.

Rule 406 SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions shall be as stated in the USSF Official Indoor Soccer Laws, Law III, Rules 3.2; 3.4; 3.5; 3.6; 3.7; 3.8.

Rule 407 COACHING FROM THE SIDELINE (PLAYER BOX)

- (a) Coaching from the player box (giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position) is permitted, provided:
 - (1) No mechanical devices are used;
 - (2) The tone of the voice is informative and not a harangue;
- (b) Each coach, substitute, or player is to remain within the "player box";
- (c) No coach, substitute, or player is to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other players, substitutes, or spectators;
- (d) No coach, substitute, or player is to use profanity;
- (e) No coach, substitute, or player is to incite, in any manner, disruptive behavior of any kind.

Rule 408 REFEREE GAME REPORT FORM AND PLAYER PASSES

- (a) The referee shall require that both teams enter all the appropriate information on a Referee Game Report Form (line-up card) prior to the start of the game.
- (b) The referee shall verify player identity with USSF, US Youth Soccer or League "player identification passes" encased in plastic, (i.e., laminated, bonded, fused, integrated and sealed within plastic). Each such pass must be properly signed by the player and a certified Registrar and must have a photograph of the player (as of the current seasonal year) affixed to the pass, must be clearly marked for "Indoor/Court" play, and may not be used for outdoor play. Conversely, outdoor passes may not be used for Indoor/Court play.
- (c) The referee must collect the player passes of those players who are to participate in the game. The Referee Game Report Form (Line-up Card) shall list all the players who are to participate in the game. The referee shall draw a line through the name of any player appearing on the game report form (Line-up Card) from whom the referee does not receive a player pass. The referee shall require the coach or manager of each team to sign the game report form (Line-up Card) verifying that the team and player information entered thereon is true and correct. The referee shall not permit a player to enter the game unless he has collected that player's "player pass".

- (d) Upon completion of the game and before signing the game report form (Line-up Card), the referee shall check the accuracy thereof. The referee shall mail the report to the proper authority within forty-eight (48) hours, holidays excluded, along with the player pass of any ejected player and, in such cases of ejection, the referee shall also mail a supplementary disciplinary report. A referee game report form (Line-up Card) must be filed for every game played.
- (e) Unless there is a properly credentialed and registered team administrator within the player box, the game shall not proceed.

Rule 409 DEFINITIONS

- (a) Indoor Play shall be defined as that game of soccer which is described in the USSF OFFICIAL INDOOR SOCCER LAWS.
- (b) Court Play shall be defined as "any other play".
All WSYSA rules and regulations apply unless modified by items one (1) through eight (8) above.

SECTION 5 – RULES OF COMPETITION - COED

Rule 500 COED LEAGUES

- (a) Coed teams shall consist of an equal number of male and female field players. If the keeper is a female, then one additional male field player is allowed but not to exceed the allowable number of team members.
- (b) The league will be organized and administered by a home association using older players as much as possible with the guidance from adult advisors. All elements of a soccer program must be set-up league rules, disciplinary procedures, referee and coaching training, and administrative instruction.
- (c) All league play must be within a home association.
- (d) Dual registration is allowed. Rosters must be sent to the WSYSA office before first league game.
- (e) Home associations may restrict player participation; such as: no high school varsity or premier players allowed.
- (f) Insurance and registration fees are required from those players not already members of WSYSA.
- (g) Uniforms: All field players on one team must wear shirts of the same color.
- (h) No slide tackling and only minimal physical contact is allowed.

NOTES:

SECTION 6 - OTHER GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Rule 601 REGISTRATION DEADLINES

THE ASSOCIATION REGISTRAR AND/OR CLUB REGISTRAR MAY SET EARLIER DEADLINES IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE HANDLING OF THE FORMS.

In all cases, the Association Registrar must have the information by the deadlines below. The Association Registrar then has 5 days to forward the forms to WSYSA. (Exception - Special WSYSA-administered competition deadlines)

601.1 Initial Team Registration Forms

PREMIER LEAGUE TEAMS	AUGUST 1	Postmarked or received at WSYSA
DISTRICT TEAMS	AUGUST 1	If player cards are required
	SEPTEMBER 1	If no player cards are required
ASSOCIATION & SMALL-SIDED	SEPTEMBER 30	Fall Leagues
ASSOCIATION & SMALL-SIDED	APRIL 15	Spring Leagues

601.2 Team Update Forms and Player Transfer Forms

ALL TEAMS:	OCTOBER 31	Fall Leagues
	APRIL 30	Spring Leagues

All forms must have all required signatures, Team ID #, and dated by the receiving Association Registrar before that player is considered a rostered team member. The Association Registrar is responsible for seeing that all copies of Registration forms are distributed in a timely manner.

601.3 Tournament Deadlines

WASHINGTON STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- (a) Entry forms due no later than NOVEMBER 15th, postmarked or received in the WSYSA Office.
- (b) All tournament rosters must be verified and signed by the Association Registrar before submitting to WSYSA. All paperwork for rosters must be completed and submitted along with the rosters by a date to be set by the tournament director.
- (c) All players transferred or added for the purpose of state tournament competition are eligible to play for the receiving team JANUARY 1.

WASHINGTON STATE PRESIDENT'S CUP

Entry forms due no later than OCTOBER 10th.

Rule 602 ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING PROCEDURES

602.1 Notes and Definitions

- (a) These procedures shall be used for protests, administrative, ethics and grievance hearings. By necessity these procedures will not all be applicable to protest hearings held shortly after a match. These procedures are designed to provide a fair hearing and due process to all parties. In order to accommodate the facts of a particular case, the procedures may be modified or further defined by the chairperson of the hearing panel, but notice of that modification or further requirements should be provided to all parties in writing.
- (b) A claim of ignorance of these policies and procedures shall not be satisfactory grounds for the alteration or waiving of such policies or procedures.
- (c) The chair of any committee which is established for the purpose of a hearing, shall be familiar with the policies and procedures defined herein.
- (d) Any hearing must be as the result of a properly submitted written cause of action by a member of WSYSA. No hearing or other administrative action shall result from circumstances or charges which are only communicated verbally.
- (e) An established, verifiable provider includes, but is not limited to: U.S. certified mail, return receipt requested; FedEx; or DHL.

602.2 Mandatory Conditions

- (a) Any and all allegations of assault or abuse as it pertains to USSF Policy 531-9 and WSYSA Rule 214.4 shall be immediately submitted to the WSYSA Appeals Committee.
- (b) The decision and/or disciplinary sanctions imposed as the result of a hearing of any allegation of misconduct, shall be binding at all levels, and shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations (leagues, tournaments, etc.). The filing of an appeal shall not "stay" the execution of such decisions and/or disciplinary sanctions.

602.3 Hearing Committee Composition

- (a) Committees hearing and deciding allegations shall be composed of persons having no conflict of interest in the matters being heard, and having no direct association with the principal parties in the matters. Committee members should be readily available from a time and geographic standpoint. No person shall adjudicate a matter at more than one level.
- (b) The chair of any committee shall appoint one committee member to make a written record (minutes) of all proceedings. It is recommended that a recording be made of the hearing (but not deliberations). A recording of the hearing may substitute for written minutes.

602.4 Filing Procedures

- (a) The hearing procedures for all organizations and levels within WSYSA are described herein.
- (b) An allegation of misconduct must be filed in writing, and shall include:
 - (1) The nature and specifics of the complaint.
 - (2) A listing of the rules or procedures which have been violated, including rule number.
 - (3) A statement of the desired resolution.
 - (4) Proper filing fee, if any.
 - (5) Allegations of misconduct must be signed.
- (c) Due to some competition rules, filing by their specified procedures precludes using the below format. Additionally, referees' game reports, while conforming to a different format, shall also be accepted.
- (d) Filing shall be as follows:
 - (1) It is recommended that the original document of the protest, grievance or allegation of misconduct, along with all supporting documents, shall be forwarded by an established verifiable provider.
 - (2) Signed facsimiles may be accepted as originals. Emails may be accepted as originals, as long as they are signed or promptly followed by a signed copy.

602.5 Documentation Processing

- (a) Upon a request for a hearing under this rule, the receiving authority shall institute the following procedures:
 - (1) The appropriate action or response shall be determined by conducting a "validation/review" of the following:
 - (A) Identifying the principal parties involved.
 - (B) Determining if they are in good standing.
 - (C) Determining if all the information necessary to adjudicate the matter and reach a decision is included. (Such information may include names, addresses, phone numbers, minutes, applicable rules, referees' game reports, etc.)
 - (D) Determining whether the matter has been filed with the proper authority.
 - (E) Determining that specific charges are made, the rules allegedly violated are cited, and the desired resolution has been stated, if applicable.

NOTE: Once complete information has been obtained, forty-eight (48) hours is considered sufficient for the conduct of this "validation/review". A forty-five (45) day time limit will begin upon completion.
 - (2) Upon completion of the "validation/review", if all the information and documentation necessary to reach a decision are available, the principal parties are to be immediately notified of receipt of the complaint.
 - (3) This notification shall also include the date, time, and place of the hearing. If notification of the receipt of the complaint, and notification of the date, time, and place of the hearing cannot be accomplished at the same time, two (2) separate notifications shall be required.

- (b) Sufficient time should be allowed for the parties to prepare and appear, except in an emergency, by consent of all parties, or unusual circumstances. Committee Chair shall be the arbiter. Unless the rules of the competition dictate sooner, the hearing shall be scheduled after a minimum of ten (10) and on or before a maximum of twenty-one (21) days following notification of the receipt of the complaint in its completed form.
- (c) Notification of the receipt of a protest or allegation of misconduct, and of the date, time, and place of a hearing, shall be communicated to the principal parties at the same time, and by the same method. This notification shall be accomplished by one of the following methods (in order of preference):
 - (A) Telephone, with written follow-up sent by US Mail (to be sent as per method B or C below).
 - (B) Certified US Mail, return receipt requested.
 - (C) Other established verifiable provider.
 - (D) Email with confirmation of receipt.
- (d) Notifications shall contain the following:
 - (1) A condensed restatement of the cause of action.
 - (2) The date, time and place of the hearing.
 - (3) What limits or restrictions (if any) will be imposed on testimony.
 - (4) Whether or not testimony must be in written form, and the date by which such written testimony must be received.
 - (5) That written testimony must be signed.
 - (6) Any other special requirements.
- (e) A complete copy of this rule shall accompany the Notification of Hearing sent to the principal parties.

602.6 Alternative Procedure

As an alternative procedure, when WSYSA, an Association or District receives a written complaint which is validated and it appears likely that a violation has occurred, WSYSA, an Association or District may propose a sanction without first holding a hearing if notice and an opportunity for an impartial hearing is provided prior to any sanction being imposed. If this procedure is used, the defendant/respondent shall be afforded at least ten (10) days notice to request a hearing prior to any sanction being imposed. Nothing contained herein shall prevent referees from exercising their authority as otherwise provided under the rules and laws of the game.

602.7 Procedures for Hearings

- (a) Hearings shall be held with the principal parties, witnesses for both sides, and all necessary evidence, actually appearing before the members of the Hearing Committee.
- (b) Testimony from witnesses need not be taken in the presence of other witnesses, but the principal parties may be present for all proceedings except the deliberations of the Hearing Committee.

- (c) Any defendant shall have the right to assistance in responding to an allegation.
- (d) Copies of signed written statements submitted as evidence shall be provided to all parties prior to the hearing, unless waived.
- (e) In the event that a principal party refuses or declines to attend the hearing, or leaves the hearing prior to completion, the committee may continue with the hearing and render a decision based upon the oral and written testimony provided.
- (f) At the discretion of the committee chair, further evidence may be provided at the time of the hearing.

602.8 Agenda

- (a) All parties and witnesses, will be brought into the hearing chamber. The following items will be described by the Committee Chair:
 - (1) Statement of case to be heard, including:
 - (A) Names of parties involved (including team, league, etc.).
 - (B) Specific event involved (game, tournament, etc.).
 - (C) Date of occurrence.
 - (D) Rule numbers and description of rules allegedly violated.
 - (2) Procedures for hearing, including:
 - (A) Plaintiffs and Defendants allowed to remain in hearing chamber. All witnesses to wait in outer chamber.
 - (B) All written evidence should have been presented in advance for distribution and inclusion in the evidence packet.
 - (C) All written evidence presented at the hearing will be passed to the Chair. The Committee will vote on its acceptance as proper evidence (criteria to include notarization of signatures, pertinence as to eyewitness accounts, etc.)
 - (D) All questions/statements from involved parties will be addressed to the Chair, who will ask the appropriate individual for an answer/rebuttal if he deems it pertinent.
 - (E) Witnesses may be recalled after initial testimony for further testimony and/or clarification.
 - (F) Parties under 18 years of age should have a parent, guardian or designated responsible adult with them at all times during the hearing; however, that parent, guardian or designated responsible adult may not act as a witness.
- (b) All witnesses will then be excused to outer chamber.
 - (1) Plaintiff will present case.
 - (2) Witnesses for plaintiff will be called individually.
 - (3) Committee will question plaintiff/witnesses as deemed necessary after each witness's testimony has been given. The opposing party may also ask questions of the witness through the chair if the questions are relevant and appropriate.
 - (4) Defendant will present case.
 - (5) Witnesses for defendant will be called individually.

- (6) Committee will question defendant/witnesses as deemed necessary after each witness's testimony has been given. The opposing party may also ask questions of the witness through the chair if the questions are relevant and appropriate
 - (7) Any witnesses will be recalled as necessary.
 - (8) Plaintiff will make closing statement.
 - (9) Defendant will make closing statement.
- (c) Hearing adjourned; parties excused; Committee to deliberate.

602.9 Evidence and Testimony Evidence

(a) Evidence

- (1) All evidence, such as identification cards, team rosters, referees' game reports, letters, proof of age documents, and other sources of written or printed information, shall be original or official only. No copies (e.g., photo, xerographic, or other reproductions) shall be acceptable.
- (2) Notarized documents shall attest to the validity of the signatures thereon, and shall not attest to the validity of the information contained in the document.
- (3) Proof-of-age documents shall conform to the rules of competition and WSYSA Rule 204.7.2, "Proof Of Age".

(b) Testimony

- (1) All testimony shall be limited to the principal parties, eye-witnesses, and recognized authorities on the subject (such as the registrar on registration matters).
- (2) If a witness cannot appear at an open hearing, written testimony shall be accepted. Notarization may be required at the option of the hearing authority, but only if such requirement was communicated in the notification of the hearing.
- (3) Character witnesses and other third-party witnesses shall not be allowed.
- (4) Testimony may be restricted with respect to time as long as a reasonable amount of time is provided to present and defend the case, depending upon the particular facts of the case.

(c) Document Directory

- (1) A document directory (list of written exhibits) shall be established, and maintained at each level there after.
- (2) All documentary evidence received shall be listed. The minutes (or recording) of the proceedings and a copy of the notification of decisions shall be listed as the final documents for each hearing.

602.10 Decisions

- (a) The committee hearing the matter shall decide each issue arising from the hearing. The chair shall vote only when necessary to break a tie.
- (b) The decisions of the committee, and any disciplinary sanction imposed, shall respond only to the specific issues and allegations contained in the complaint (as filed).

- (c) Any other issue and/or rule violation, which may become known or apparent during the hearing, may be referred to the appropriate authority (violations of WSYSA and USSF policies pertaining to assault or abuse shall be referred to the WSYSA Appeals Committee). This referral may be accompanied by a recommendation for appropriate action. When such matters are referred, notice of the referral shall be included with the notification of decisions rendered.
- (d) Decisions shall be reduced to written form, and shall be forwarded to the principal parties within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of deliberations and drafting of the decisions (Sundays and holidays excepted).
- (e) If a suspension is imposed upon an affiliated player or administrator, the WSYSA office shall also receive a copy of the decision. Suspension of players for less than thirty (30) days duration are exempt from this requirement. On suspensions of longer than six (6) months, a notification will be forwarded to US Soccer Secretary General.
- (f) If suspension imposed is for six (6) months or more, suspension may also be honored by other USSF/US Youth Soccer affiliates or associates under written agreement with WSYSA.
- (g) Notification of the decisions of the committee shall be communicated to the principal parties at the same time, and by the same method.
- (h) Notification shall be communicated in writing, by one of the following methods (in order of preference):
 - (1) Hand delivered to member with a signed receipt being kept by the committee.
 - (2) Certified US Mail, return receipt requested.
 - (3) Other established verifiable provider.
- (i) Verbal communication of decisions shall not be permitted. Consideration should be given to ensure that the method chosen provides adequate notice to teams which are impacted by the decision(s).
- (j) Notification of the decisions shall include a statement of the procedure for appeal. The statement shall clearly indicate the appropriate level of jurisdiction, including the identity and address of the person and/or office to which the appeal may be directed.
- (k) If a violation of US Soccer Policy 531-9 or WSYSA Rule 214.4 is adjudged by the WSYSA Appeals Committee to have occurred, appeal shall be directly to the USSF Appeals Board within ten (10) days of receipt of the decision, with appropriate filing fees.
- (l) Written minutes or recordings of all hearings will be considered proprietary and made available only on request from higher level authorities in direct line of appeal.

Rule 603 APPEALS

603.1 Notes and Definitions

- (a) An appeal is a written request to a higher level that a decision rendered at a lower level hearing should be overturned or modified. There will normally be a hearing at the lower level, but an appeal may be made that a hearing was requested and was improperly denied at the lower level. All appeals shall be to the WSYSA Appeals Committee. (There shall be no appeals to Districts.) (Note: An exception is that allegations of assault or abuse (USSF Policy 531-9 and/or WSYSA Rule 214.4) are originally heard only by the WSYSA Appeals Committee.) Only those parties to the original action who are directly affected by the decision shall be allowed to file an appeal.
- (b) Proper documentation of the appeal must be maintained, and all actions must be in accordance with the following procedures and time-frames.
- (c) A claim of ignorance of these policies and procedures shall not be satisfactory grounds for the alteration or waiving of such policies or procedures.
- (d) The chair of any committee which is established for the purpose of hearing an appeal, shall be familiar with the policies and procedures defined herein.
- (e) Any hearing of an appeal must be as the result of a properly submitted written and signed notice of appeal by an affected party or their agent, i.e. parent or guardian.
- (f) Appeals from the decisions of the WSYSA Appeals Committee shall be to the United States Soccer Federation (USSF).
- (g) An established verifiable provider includes, but is not limited to: U.S. certified mail, return receipt requested; Fed Ex; or DHL.

603.2 Line of Jurisdiction

In the case of an appeal, **NO REHEARING IS POSSIBLE**. The appellate committee shall review the record from the hearing and any written arguments submitted on the appeal.

603.3 Mandatory Conditions

- (a) No authority other than the WSYSA Appeals Committee shall hear or adjudicate an allegation of violation of USSF Policy 531-9 as it pertains to assault or abuse on a referee or assistant referee or WSYSA Rule 214.4 "Assault or Abuse of Participants – Suspension" as it pertains to assault and abuse of participants. Any and all allegations of assault or abuse as it pertains to these two Rules shall be immediately submitted to the WSYSA Appeals Committee which is the only Committee authorized to validate and adjudicate such allegations.

- (b) The adjudication of the appeal must be completed within **forty-five days (45)** of the filing of the notice of appeal in its completed form and completion of the validation/review.
- (c) The decision and/or disciplinary sanctions imposed as the result of a hearing of any appeal shall be binding at all levels, and shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations (leagues, tournaments, etc.). The filing of an appeal shall not **"stay"** the execution of such decisions and/or disciplinary sanctions.

603.4 Appeals Committee Composition

- (a) Committees hearing and deciding appeals shall be composed of persons having no conflict of interest in the matters being heard, and having no direct association with the principal parties in the matters. Committee members should be readily available from a time and geographic standpoint. No person shall adjudicate a matter at more than one level.
- (b) The chair of any committee shall appoint one committee member to record of all proceedings, either electronically or manually.
- (c) The WSYSA Appeals Committee shall be composed of not less than three (3) members, and preferably five (5) members, plus the Director. The Director shall be appointed by the WSYSA Executive Board.
- (d) Any hearing relating to assault or abuse under USSF 531-9 or WSYSA Rule 214.4 shall follow the procedures established in Rule 602.

603.5 Filing Procedures

- (a) An appeal must be filed in writing, and shall include:
 - (1) The nature and specifics of the claimed error(s).
 - (2) A listing of the rules or procedures which have been violated, including rule number.
 - (3) A statement of the desired resolution.
 - (4) Proper filing fee.
 - (5) Signature of the person submitting the appeal.
- (b) A form for this purpose has been attached to this document. Use of this form is not mandatory, but doing so helps assure that the necessary information is presented in the proper manner.
- (c) The properly completed notice of appeal must be mailed (or hand delivered) to the WSYSA office within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the decision which is being appealed (Sundays and holidays excluded). If mailed, a verifiable provider (such as U.S. mail, certified mail, return receipt requested, or overnight courier, such as FedEx or DHL) should be used to evidence timely mailing and receipt. Failure to timely mail the notice of appeal will result in the appeal being rejected except for an adequate showing of excusable neglect. Note that the rules of a competition may have more stringent timelines for appeal.

- (d) Filing shall be as follows:
 - (1) The original document of the appeal, along with all supporting documents, shall be forwarded by an established verifiable provider.
 - (2) Note that the parties will normally be allowed to submit detailed written arguments at a later time after the appeal is validated (accepted).
- (e) Additionally, in an appeal of a lower-level decision, one (1) copy shall be sent to the chair of the lower-level hearing board. This copy shall serve as notice of the filing of an appeal.
- (f) Upon such notice received, the chair of the lower-level hearing board shall immediately submit all retained evidence and documentation to the WSYSA Appeals Committee. This submittal shall also be by an established, verifiable provider.

603.6 Filing Fees

- (a) For an appeal to the WSYSA Appeals Committee, the filing fee shall be \$300.00 by means of a money order or cashier's check. If the appeal is upheld on all issues the fee will be refunded.
- (b) For an appeal to the United States Soccer Federation, the filing fee is established in the published policies of the USSF.

603.7 Documentation Processing

- (a) Upon filing of an appeal, the receiving authority shall institute the following procedures:
 - (1) The appropriate action or response shall be determined by conducting a "validation/review" of the following:
 - (A) Identifying the principal parties involved as members of WSYSA and/or parties to the initial hearing and/or necessary parties.
 - (B) Determining if they are in good standing, if applicable.
 - (C) Determining if the appeal is directly related and germane to the decision of the lower authority. (If not, the appeal must be rejected and returned).
 - (D) Determining whether the matter has been filed with the proper authority.
 - (E) Determining that the rules allegedly violated are cited and the desired resolution has been stated.
 - (F) Verify that the applicable appellate fee was paid.
 - (G) Document has been signed.

**NOTICE OF APPEAL
To WSYSA Appeals Committee**

PLEASE ATTACH APPEAL FEE: \$300.00 (Cashier's Check or Money Order Only)

_____ **CASHIER'S CHECK** _____ **MONEY ORDER**

A. Individual/Organization filing Appeal (**the Appellant**)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Email: _____

B. Opposing Party

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Email: _____

C. Date of Decision Being Appealed _____

**Appellant: Please Be Sure To Attach A Copy Of The Decision To This Notice to Appeal.*

D. Please State Briefly the Claimed Errors: _____

E. Please State Briefly the Desired Resolution: _____

F. List Rules or Procedures You Claim Were Violated, Including Rule Numbers:

G. Date that the Decision Being Appealed was received by Appellant: _____

*Appellant has forty-eight (48) hours (Sundays and holidays excluded) from date of receipt of the decision within which to file this **Notice of Appeal** with the Washington State Youth Soccer Association Appeals Committee. Send this **Notice of Appeal** to the attention of the WSYSA Appeals Committee Director at the address below.

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of this Notice of Appeal, together with appropriate appeals fee in the amount of \$300.00 (in the form of a cashier's check or money order made payable to Washington State Youth Soccer Association) has been sent to:

Washington State Youth Soccer Association
ATTENTION: Appeals Committee Director
500 S. 336th Street, Suite 100
Federal Way, WA 98003

I further certify that a true and correct copy of this Notice of Appeal has been sent to all parties listed in Section B.

Date _____ Signature of Appellant _____

Rule 604 WSYSA OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (ODP)

ODP information is available on the WSYSA web site (www.wsysa.com) or by contacting the WSYSA Office at (253) 476-2237.

Rule 605 DISCIPLINARY

605.1 Notes and definitions:

- (a) Reports of Misconduct include cautions and sendoff (yellows, reds) and any supplemental reports submitted by the game official(s).
 - (1) Players receive cautions and sendoffs. Players are shown cards.
 - (2) All other participants as defined by WSYSA Rule 214.4 (b) receive either warnings (caution/yellow card equivalent, or dismissals/ejections. (sendoff red card equivalent.) Participants (other than players) are not shown a card.
 - (3) The seasonal year shall be as defined in the WSYSA Bylaws.
- (b) Penalty points will be accumulated over the seasonal year. Yellow cards will be accumulated at one (1) point each, red cards at three (3) points each.
- (c) Any players, coaches or other team officials who are shown the red card/sent off the field of play for a violation of the Laws of the Game, will be ineligible to participate in the next regularly scheduled match. A more severe penalty may be applied by the Disciplinary Committee.
- (d) The referee must send a written report for any carded/cautioned/sent off/warned/ejected player(s), coach, or team officials to the WSYSA disciplinary system within forty-eight (48) hours following the completion of the match.

605.2 Line of Jurisdiction

- (a) Each WSYSA Member Association shall deal with all reports of misconduct arising out of competitions conducted by that Member Association.
- (b) Each WSYSA District shall deal with all reports of misconduct arising out of competitions conducted by that District.
- (c) Each WSYSA sanctioned tournament shall adjudicate all reports of misconduct arising out of the competition conducted by that tournament.
- (d) Any actions against a player, coach or other team official, or team by Districts or Member Associations that may be cause for the player, coach or other team official, or team to sit out games shall not be considered unless WSYSA is notified of the District or Member Association disciplinary actions(s) fifteen (15) days prior to the start of the WSYSA sanctioned tournament. Any suspensions occurring after the fifteen (15) day window requires immediate notification of WSYSA. If so properly notified in writing, the Tournament Disciplinary Committee shall honor such disciplinary actions as handed down by the respective District or Member Association disciplinary committee.
- (e) A WSYSA Disciplinary Committee shall adjudicate all reports of misconduct arising out of competitions conducted by WSYSA.

- (f) The host District for the Inter-District League(s) (IDL) will administer any disciplinary problems within the League. However, the District Disciplinary Committee must adhere to the WSYSA Penalty Code established in the Governing Documents. Furthermore, any disciplinary action taken against a player, coach or other team official, team, administrator, parent or spectator must be reported to the WSYSA Disciplinary Committee within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the league season.
- (g) Disciplinary includes the satellite committees and WSYSA-administered Disciplinary Committees. Any decision made by a Disciplinary Committee shall be honored by succeeding Disciplinary Committees.

605.3 Sanctions

(a) Cautions/Yellow Cards

- (1) Players/coaches that accumulate three yellow cards/warnings during the league season will be ineligible to participate in the next regularly scheduled league match. The player/coach will sit out one additional match for each additional yellow card/warning received during the league or cup season.
- (2) Yellow card/warning accumulation from league play will not carry into state tournament play. Any player or coach receiving their third or subsequent yellow card/warning in the tournament competition will be required to sit out their next match. Proof of a sit out must be sent to the Disciplinary Committee.

(b) Ejections/Red Cards

- (1) Players/coaches receiving a red card/dismissal, will be ineligible to participate in the next regularly scheduled match.
- (2) Sanctions: The Disciplinary Committee may not impose a sanction that exceeds those provided herein (minimums) without notice and an opportunity for a hearing. A more severe sanction may be imposed for more serious offenses. The Disciplinary Committee may also forward any report of misconduct on to any appropriate committee, and shall forward any cases involving assault or abuse under USSF 531-9 or WSYSA Rule 214.4 to the WSYSA Appeals Committee.
 - (A) **SERIOUS FOUL PLAY**
Suspended for a minimum of one (1) match
Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: when a player, in a violent or dangerous manner intentionally holds, trips, pushes, charges or tackles an opponent from behind.
 - (B) **VIOLENT CONDUCT**
Suspended for a minimum of two (2) matches
Examples include but are not necessarily limited to: striking or attempting to strike another player, team official or spectator, or unlawfully entering the field of play during an altercation.

- (C) **SPITTING AT ANOTHER PERSON**
 - (i) Suspended for a minimum of two (2) matches for spitting at another person.
 - (ii) Suspended for a minimum of three (3) matches for spitting on another person.
- (D) **DENYING GOAL BY HANDLING THE BALL**
Suspended for a minimum of one (1) match.
- (E) **DENYING GOAL BY OTHER UNLAWFUL MEANS**
Suspended for a minimum of one (1) match.
- (F) **FOUL OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE**
 - (i) Player: Suspended for a minimum of one (1) match.
Team Official: Suspended for a minimum of two (2) matches
Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: not directed at another. Foul or abusive language said loud enough for the game official to hear, but not directed at a specific individual. Includes, racial, sexual, religious or ethnic slurs.
 - (ii) Player: Suspended for a minimum of two (2) matches
Team Official: Suspended for a minimum of three (3) matches
Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: directed at another. Word or actions directed at an individual. Includes, racial, sexual, religious or ethnic slurs.
 - (iii) Player: Suspended for a minimum of three (3) matches
Team Official: Suspended for a minimum of four (4) matches
Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: directed at a referee. Word or actions directed at an individual. Includes, racial, sexual, religious or ethnic slurs. Includes racial harassment, sexual harassment, ethnic slurs.
- (G) **SECOND CAUTION/WARNING**
Suspended for a minimum of one (1) match. Receives a second caution in the same match, resulting in a red card ejection.

605.4 Point Violations

- (a) When a player/coach accumulates points as provide for in 605.4(b), (c), (d) or (e) below, the player or coach will be required to attend a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee to determine if the player or coach should be suspended for a term not to exceed the remainder of the current seasonal year and the subsequent seasonal year. The Disciplinary Committee has the option of suspending the player/coach, but allowing any suspended player/coach to participate under probation. Should the player/coach violate the probation, the Disciplinary Committee will notify the player/coach of the reinstatement of the balance of the original suspension. The player/coach may file a petition for reinstatement of their eligibility to compete on any team, or coach within WSYSA, accompanied by a nonrefundable filing fee of \$100.00 for a player and \$250.00 for a coach.

- (b) Players/coaches that accumulate three red cards/ejections in a seasonal year will be subject to disciplinary actions.
- (c) Players that accumulate seven (7) points from red and/or yellow card accumulation during the seasonal year will be subject to disciplinary actions.
- (d) A coach of a team receiving fifteen (15) points accumulated from red and/or yellow cards during the seasonal year, will be subject to disciplinary actions.
- (e) The coach of a team that has four players who received red cards during the seasonal year will be subject to disciplinary actions.

Rule 606 STATE TOURNAMENT RULES

606.A State Championships, Challenge Cup and Commissioners' Cup

606.A.1 Cup Format

Premier League Division I teams will be seeded in the State Championships. Premier League Division III teams who enter the Challenge Cup will be seeded in the top division. All other teams will be positioned by draw to fill out the remaining positions.

606.A.2 Seeding

Seeding in the US Youth Soccer Washington State Championships, Washington State Challenge Cup and Washington State Commissioners' Cup will be determined by the Tournament Directors with the help of the Premier League Director following rules outlined in Rules 303A.1, 303B.1, and 303C.1 and similar to the format used in previous years, as outlined below:

- (a) The Premier League Director shall seed the eight (8) Division I and III teams (U-13 will not be seeded). Premier League Division I and Division II teams can only play in the State Championships.
- (b) Seeding will be done the Friday after the last regularly scheduled Premier League game, based on standings as of that date. Any game results not reported by this date WILL NOT BE USED for purposes of calculating the standings. All makeup games will be scheduled prior to the last regularly scheduled games. Protested games and extended season games will be excluded.

606.A.3 Scheduling

- (a) The Tournament Director is responsible for scheduling all tournament games.
- (b) (1) All tournament games shall be played on the day scheduled. To declare a field unplayable due to adverse weather conditions will be the prerogative of the referee, the Tournament Director or the WSYS Vice-President of Competition. ALL AGE GROUPS U-14 AND BELOW, IN THE TOURNAMENTS, NORMALLY WILL PLAY ON SATURDAYS WITH AGE GROUPS U-15 AND ABOVE NORMALLY SCHEDULED TO PLAY ON SUNDAYS. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to require teams to play both Saturday and Sunday if circumstances necessitate. If games are canceled due to an unplayable field or adverse weather that prevents a

team from traveling to the venue site, the Tournament Director will determine the rescheduling.

- (2) Failure of a scheduled referee to show up will not be the cause for canceling or protesting the game. A substitute official must be chosen upon agreement by both coaches and that official's decision will be final and must be in writing.

(c) Responsibilities of Coaches and Managers:

- (1) The following are the responsibilities of the assigned "home" team:

- (a) Providing the "visiting" team with game time and adequate directions to the "home" team's venue no less than 72 hours prior to the game and by no later than 9:00 PM Wednesday night.
- (b) Marking the field of play;
- (c) Providing a proper game ball;
- (d) Providing nets.

- (2) Responsibilities of the assigned "visiting" team:

- (b) Visiting teams must confirm to the home team, receipt of the above "directions" and "game time" by no later than 9:00 PM Thursday night.

1. If a team has to travel more than one hundred (100) miles to play a game, the home team must schedule the game at a reasonable time for travel (11:00 am-3:00 pm). Exceptions to this rule may apply if the traveling team agrees.
2. Requests for rescheduling a game shall be directed to the team's Association Tournament Representative, who in turn will get a decision on the request from the Tournament Director. Games must be rescheduled prior to the regularly scheduled games.
3. If a game is not played on the scheduled field, following approval of the change by the Tournament Director, it is the responsibility of the coach calling for the change to follow up on all coordination, i.e., notification of the rescheduled game to the Tournament Director, both Association Representatives, opposing coach and referee coordinators. If a game is not played due to inadequate coordination, it will be declared a forfeit against the team calling for the change.
4. If both teams are properly notified and one fails to show up, following a 15-minute grace period, the game will be forfeited to the showing team. If both teams are properly notified and both teams fail to show up, both teams will be ineligible to continue in any further tournament competition. (Extenuating circumstances, i.e., transportation failure, must be favorably considered.)

- (d) All Semi-final and Final games will be scheduled by the Tournament Committee and neutral referees will be assigned.

606.A.4 Tournament Playing Rules

- (a) All games will be played under “WSYSA Rules of Competition” unless stated herein.
- (b) Any team forfeiting a match will be removed from the tournament and their Member Association fined. In round robin or preliminary play, any team forfeiting a match will have all game results deleted from Division standings. In single elimination play, the score shall be reported 3-0 in favor of the opponent. (The shut out point will not be awarded for a forfeit).
- (c) (1) Whenever games are not played on neutral fields, the following preparations are the responsibility of the home coach, or manager:
 - (A) Provide a proper game ball;
 - (B) Provide proper field markings (line the field);
 - (C) Assure that a referee has been assigned by their Association referee coordinator;
 - (D) Provide the “visiting” team with adequate directions to the “home” venue and game time no less than 72 hours prior to game time. Neutral field coordination is the responsibility of the Association donating the field.
- (d) (1) It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Each coach, manager, club, Association or District official shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of spectators for or from their respective teams. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted on any field.
 - (2) Coaching from the boundary lines by coaches or supporters, i.e., giving instructions to players on the field on points of strategy and tactics is prohibited. Coaches may direct specific players to change field position assignments, e.g., from fullback to mid-fielder, and may give positive encouragement at any time.
- (e) From the Semi-final games on, a fourth official will be used at the games and both teams will be on one side of the field. Substitution of players will be done through the fourth official. If on sidelines, spectators will be on opposite sides from the teams.
- (f) Four (4) bench personnel only will be allowed on the field.
- (g) Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey, clearly visible and a minimum of six (6) inches high. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional.
- (h) Each coach must submit a game roster sheet to the referee showing players' name and jersey numbers prior to the start of each game.
- (i) (1) Teams will receive 6 points for a win, 3 points for a draw, no points for a loss. Plus a point for each goal scored up to a maximum of three (3) per game for both teams. Shutout = 1 point for holding an opponent scoreless.
 - (2) Ties will stand in preliminary rounds except as provided in (3) below.

- (3) When two teams are tied for first place in a Division, and they are playing each other in their final preliminary round game, they will determine a winner as specified in Rule 301.10 using the age appropriate overtime periods specified in Rule 301.2 to establish the first and second place teams in that Division. Their association tournament committee representative must notify the teams of the requirement that the match cannot end in a draw and the winner be determined as specified above prior to the game upon the direction of the tournament scorekeeper or Tournament Director. Game results will be recorded as a tie.
- (j) (1) Ties in divisional standings between two (2) teams will be resolved as follows:
- (A) Head to Head (Winner of match between 2 teams)
 - (B) Average points: Win = 3 points
Tie = 1 point
Loss = 0 points
 - (C) Average least goals allowed
 - (D) Average most goals scored (Max. 3 per game plus 1 for a shut out.)
 - (E) Average goal differential per game (Max of 5 games)
 - (F) Midweek game for games to decide who is to go on OR flip of coin for seeding purposes in the elimination phase.
- (2) Ties in divisional standings between three or more teams will be resolved as follows:
- (A) Eliminate the results of all teams not tied.
 - (B) Apply the point system to the remaining teams which are tied. Example:

A team	1-2, 1-0 =	9 points
B team	0-0, 0-1 =	4 points
C team	0-0, 2-1 =	12 points
 - (C) If teams still remain tied, repeat the above process until no more teams can be eliminated.
 - (D) Least goals allowed.
 - (E) Tie breaking game prior to mini-semi final.
 - (F) After the 1st Place team has been determined repeat the above steps as necessary to determine the 2nd Place team.
- (k) (1) Ties in single elimination games will be resolved as follows:
- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| U-19, U-18, U-17, U-16, U-15 | Two 15-minute overtime periods |
| U-14, U-13, U-12, U-11 | Two 10-minute overtime periods |
- (2) If still tied after overtime periods, FIFA "kicks from the mark" will apply to determine a winner.
- (l) Score reporting - The coach or manager of both teams (winning and losing) must notify their Association Representative as to the final score of all games through the Semi-finals, not later than 7:30PM of the game day. If neither team reports the score, it will be recorded as "no game played" for both teams.

- (m) (1) Home Team - The "home" team will be listed first (1st) in a tie breaking, Elimination, Semi-final or Final round game.
- (2) Uniform Color Conflict - The designated "home" team will be responsible for changing color of the uniforms in the event of a color conflict.
- (3) All teams are required to carry a contrasting colored shirt to all games.

- (n) Violations and Penalties - Any infraction or violation of WSYSA state tournament rules may result in any of the following penalties:
 - (1) Ineligibility of a player or team for tournament play;
 - (2) Forfeiture of a game or games;
 - (3) Return of tournament trophy and/or medals;
 - (4) Revocation of the title "Tournament Champion" and all rights associated with such title.

606.B President's Cup

606.B.1 Format For Washington State President's Cup

- (a) Preliminary Tournament Rounds (District level):

Each team playing in the preliminary rounds will have a minimum of two games. No single elimination unless both coaches agree to a one game, winner moves on, competition format prior to the start of the first game. Format will be determined by the number of teams entering in each age level. Timing and format of the preliminary rounds will be decided by the District.

- (b) Tournament Format:
 - (1) Each District may advance at least one team to State-level competition. In addition, one of the seven (7) Districts will be selected to provide a wild card team that will advance. A blind draw shall be used to select that District. If selected, that District may advance an additional team to State-level competition. In the event that one or more Districts have no teams to advance, more than one District may be selected to provide an additional team.
 - (2) State-level competition shall be held on one weekend, at a single location for each age group and gender.
 - (3) Team placement into tournament brackets shall be done using a blind draw.
 - (4) Preliminary round robin games shall be played on Saturday. Semi-final and final games shall be played on Sunday.
 - (5) WSYSA retains the right to choose the tournament format in the event it hosts the semi-finals or finals.
 - (6) Tournament format shall be determined based on the number of entries as follows:

2 TEAMS ENTERED Single championship game.
Winner is champion.

3 TEAMS ENTERED Preliminary round robin and a final.
TEAM 1 vs TEAM 2
TEAM 2 vs TEAM 3
TEAM 3 vs TEAM 1
FINAL - #1 Points vs #2 Points

4 TEAMS ENTERED Preliminary round robin and a final.

TEAM 1 vs TEAM 2
TEAM 3 vs TEAM 4
TEAM 2 vs TEAM 3
TEAM 4 vs TEAM 1
FINAL - #1 Points vs #2 Points

5 TEAMS ENTERED Preliminary round robin, cross-over semi-finals, and a final.

TEAM 1 vs TEAM 2
TEAM 3 vs TEAM 4
TEAM 2 vs TEAM 5
TEAM 4 vs TEAM 1
TEAM 5 vs TEAM 3

SEMI-FINAL #1 (#1 Points vs #4 Points)
SEMI-FINAL #2 (#2 Points vs #3 Points)
FINAL (Semi-final #1 winner vs Semi-final #2 winner)

6 TEAMS ENTERED Preliminary round robin, cross-over semi-finals, and a final.

<u>BRACKET A</u>	<u>BRACKET B</u>
TEAM 1 vs TEAM 2	TEAM 4 vs TEAM 5
TEAM 2 vs TEAM 3	TEAM 5 vs TEAM 6
TEAM 3 vs TEAM 1	TEAM 6 vs TEAM 4

SEMI-FINAL #1 (A Bracket #1 Points vs B Bracket #2 Points)
SEMI-FINAL #2 (B Bracket #1 Points vs A Bracket #2 Points)
FINAL (Semi-final #1 winner vs Semi-final #2 winner)

7 TEAMS ENTERED Preliminary round robin, cross-over semi-finals, and a final.

NOTE: Requires a lighted field or shortened half lengths in order to play all preliminary games on Saturday.

TEAM 2 vs TEAM 3
TEAM 4 vs TEAM 5
TEAM 6 vs TEAM 7
TEAM 1 vs TEAM 2
TEAM 3 vs TEAM 4
TEAM 5 vs TEAM 6
TEAM 7 vs TEAM 1

SEMI-FINAL #1 (#1 Points vs #4 Points)
SEMI-FINAL #2 (#2 Points vs #3 Points)
FINAL (Semi-final #1 winner vs Semi-final #2 winner)

8 TEAMS ENTERED

Preliminary round robin, cross-over semi-finals and a final.

OPTION #1 **NOTE:** Requires lighted fields or shortened half lengths in order to play all preliminary games on Saturday.

BRACKET A

TEAM 1 vs TEAM 2
TEAM 3 vs TEAM 4
TEAM 2 vs TEAM 3
TEAM 4 vs TEAM 1
TEAM 2 vs TEAM 4
TEAM 3 vs TEAM 1

BRACKET B

TEAM 5 vs TEAM 6
TEAM 7 vs TEAM 8
TEAM 6 vs TEAM 7
TEAM 8 vs TEAM 5
TEAM 6 vs TEAM 8
TEAM 7 vs TEAM 5

SEMI-FINAL #1

(A Bracket #1 points vs B Bracket #2 points)

SEMI-FINAL #2

(B Bracket #1 Points vs A Bracket #2 Points)

FINAL

(Semi-final #1 winner vs Semi-final #2 winner)

OPTION #2

BRACKET A

TEAM 1 vs TEAM 2
TEAM 3 vs TEAM 4
TEAM 2 vs TEAM 3
TEAM 4 vs TEAM 1

BRACKET B

TEAM 5 vs TEAM 6
TEAM 7 vs TEAM 8
TEAM 6 vs TEAM 7
TEAM 8 vs TEAM 5

SEMI-FINAL#1

(A Bracket #1 points vs B Bracket #2 points)

SEMI-FINAL #2

(B Bracket #1 points vs A Bracket #2 points)

FINAL

(Semi-final #1 winner vs Semi-final #2 winner)

606.B.2 Scheduling

- (a) The Host Site Director is responsible for scheduling all tournament games. Games in the preliminary rounds (Saturday) may be shortened.
- (b) All tournament games must be played on the day and the time scheduled. To declare a field unplayable due to adverse weather conditions will be the prerogative of the Referee or the Host Site Director only.
- (c) Request for rescheduling a game must be directed to the Host Site Director.
- (d) If both teams are properly notified, games will start at scheduled time if both teams have a minimum seven (7) players. If one team fails to have seven players at scheduled game time, or any time within a fifteen (15) minute grace period, the game will be forfeited to the showing team. If both teams are properly notified and fail to show, both teams will be ineligible to continue in any further tournament competition. (Extenuating circumstances i.e. transportation failure, must be favorably considered by the Host Tournament Committee).
- (e) The Disciplinary Committee will not entertain or uphold any protest based on erroneous scheduling of whatever nature or protests following a properly decided forfeiture.

606.B.3 Tournament Playing Rules

- (a) All games will be played under "WSYSA Rules of Competition" unless stated herein.
- (b) Field and referee coordination is the responsibility of the hosting Association.
- (c) It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Each coach, manager, club, Association, or District official shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of spectators for or from their respective teams. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted at any field.
- (d) Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey, clearly visible and a minimum of six (6) inches high. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are optional.
- (e) Preliminary round robin game points will be awarded as follows:
 - (1) six (6) points will be awarded for a win.
 - (2) three (3) points will be awarded for a tie.
 - (3) one (1) additional point will be awarded to each team for each goal scored (maximum of three (3) per team per game).
 - (4) one (1) additional point will be awarded for a shutout.

(In the event that a team forfeits, the other team will be awarded nine (9) points, the equivalent of a 2-0 shutout.)

(In the event of a forfeit award, while a game is in progress, the winning team will be awarded either round robin game points earned (up to 10 points possible) or 9 points, the equivalent of a 2-0 shutout. The losing team will be awarded any goal points earned (up to a maximum of three).

(In the event of a 0-0 tie, both teams will be awarded three (3) points).

- (f) Ties in divisional standings will be resolved as follows:
 - (1) Head to head.
 - (2) Least goals allowed.
 - (3) Most goals scored (maximum 3 per game) plus (1) point for each shutout.
 - (4) Coin toss.

(When breaking ties between three or more teams, once a tie is broken the remaining tied teams, if any, start back at (1).)

- (g) Ties in the game play will be resolved as follows:
 - (1) U-19, U-18, U-17, U-16, U-15 Two up to a maximum 15 minute overtime periods
 - (2) U14, U-13, U-12, U-11 Two up to a maximum 10 minute overtime periods
 - (3) If still tied, FIFA shootout procedures will be followed.

- (h) Uniform Color Conflict

The designated "home team" will be responsible for changing color of the team uniforms in the event of a color conflict and will have choice of sideline. The "home team" will be the team listed first on the schedule.

(i) **Violations and Penalties**

Playing of a player not listed on the President's Cup Tournament Roster held by the Site Coordinator shall result in forfeiture of any and all President's Cup games in which that player appeared on the roster presented to the referee. In addition, that team shall be suspended for the remainder of the President's Cup tournament. Should a team be suspended from President's Cup competition, any remaining games scheduled for that team shall be recorded as a forfeit.

Rule 607 PREMIER LEAGUE PLACEMENT TOURNAMENT (LPT)

607.1 Introduction

- (a) The purpose of the Premier League Placement Tournament (hereafter known as LPT) is to determine which teams will fill the unseeded and contestable positions for the upcoming Premier League season.
- (b) The WSYSA Bylaws and Operating Procedures are the governing documents. Modifications have been made solely for the WSYSA LPT competition. The Operating Procedures and Rules of Competition contained herein shall govern the conduct of the WSYSA LPT play for Premier League positions, both Boys and Girls.

607.2 Administration

- (a) The LPT will have a Tournament Director appointed by the WSYSA Vice-President of Competition and approved by the WSYSA Executive Board.
- (b) The LPT Tournament Director will appoint, with the approval of the Vice-President of Competition, the following committee members:

- Boys and Girls U-14 LPT Administrator
- Boys and Girls U-15 LPT Administrator
- Boys and Girls U-16 LPT Administrator
- Boys and Girls U-17 LPT Administrator
- Boys and Girls U-18 LPT Administrator
- Boys and Girls U-19 LPT Administrator

- (c) Every District should contribute a representative to form the Tournament Committee.
- (d) Each venue site must select a "Venue Director" who should attend all LPT Committee meetings.

607.3 Eligibility

- (a) For a team to be eligible for the WSYSA LPT it must:
 - (1) Be comprised of youth players properly registered with WSYSA.
 - (2) Be in good standing with WSYSA and in compliance with WSYSA rules.
 - (3) Be affiliated with a WSYSA Member Association or District that is in good standing with WSYSA.

- (4) Be qualified according to WSYSA Operating Procedures and the Rules of Competition for the Premier League, Rule 305.3 and Rule 305.4.
 - (5) Submit a properly completed and signed Premier League application and roster along with appropriate league and tournament fees.
- (b) Placement in the LPT for non-seeded Premier League teams depends on the previous season's final league standings. The seedings will be adjusted if teams do not return to the league and all teams below the non-returning team will be moved up in position.
 - (c) Based on the adjusted seedings of teams returning to the Premier League, the following teams are eligible for the LPT:
 - (1) Division III positions five (5) and below, all new teams and any other teams required to participate in the LPT play for the open Division III positions. In some cases more than four (4) Division III positions may be available.
 - (2) Under-fourteen (U-14) teams.
 - (d) If an LPT team's roster includes a player rostered to a team already seeded in the Premier League; Division I, II, or Division III, and that player plays for that seeded team during the coming season, the LPT team will be disqualified from the Premier League. The player involved will be subject to disciplinary action by the WSYSA Disciplinary Committee.
 - (e) A team that enters the Premier League through the LPT must have at least eleven (11) players from its LPT roster remaining on the team for the league season.
 - (f) Any last season's Premier League team playing in the LPT must have at least eight (8) returning players from their last season's October 31st roster on their Premier League application roster and LPT roster, and carry these players on their roster through August 1st (Premier League registration roster). After August 1st, player movement is governed by WSYSA registration rules.

607.4 Entry Forms and Fees

- (a) By May 1st, the WSYSA office must be in receipt of every team's Premier League Entry Form containing all appropriate information, including Association signatures, along with their LPT fee. A team representative's name may appear on only one Premier League Entry Form. Please refer to the Premier League Entry Form for the current fee schedule.
- (b) Teams that participate in the LPT and qualify for a Premier League position will need to submit their WYSL fee to the WSYSA office by July 1st. If the league fee is not received by this date, the Premier League committee may replace this team with another team from the LPT.
- (c) All correspondence must be mailed to:
 - Washington State Youth Soccer Association
 - Attention: Premier League
 - 500 S. 336th Street, Suite #100
 - Federal Way, WA 98003

- (d) Preliminary team rosters are required at time of application. Each Member Association's Registrar must verify the fact that returning teams meet the Premier League returning player requirements found in Rule 305.3 and Rule 305.4.
- (e) At the LPT venues, tournament rosters which are properly signed by Member Association Registrars, must be submitted at least thirty (30) minutes prior to a team's first game.
- (f) Teams entering after the May 1st deadline will be accepted only if an opening exists and the timing for schedule publication allows. The LPT Committee has final authority.

607.5 Format for the LPT Tournament

- (a) The format for the LPT will be a minimum double elimination.
- (b) Tournament draw:
 - (1) U-14: Teams are drawn in the following order: Returning first and second place U-13 Division I section teams, returning third through sixth place U-13 Division I section teams, then returning seventh and eighth place U-13 Division I section teams along with all new teams. Every effort will be made to schedule the tournament so that returning first and second place teams in a second round winner's bracket do not play each other until the third round of play.
 - (2) U15-U18: Teams are drawn in the order of the adjusted seeded positions. All returning teams that did not meet the returning player criteria are drawn with the new teams.
 - (3) U-19 will be "open" tournament and teams will be placed into the tournament by a random draw.
- (c) All games will be played until a winner is determined.

607.6 Scheduling of Games

- (a) The LPT Director is responsible for scheduling all tournament games.
- (b) Teams will play no more than two (2) games per day.
- (c) If a team plays two (2) games in one day, the games will be scheduled with start times at least six (6) hours apart.
- (d) All tournament games will be played on the day and time scheduled. Only the referee or the Venue Director has the authority to declare a field "unplayable".
- (e) If one team fails to appear at the scheduled field by fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time, the team present will advance to the next round. The game score will reflect a forfeit (1-0). The forfeiting team may continue in the tournament (or be eliminated) as if the game had been played and lost.
- (f) If both teams fail to appear at the scheduled field by fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time, the LPT Director may eliminate both teams from the tournament.

- (g) If any team deliberately forfeits a match, the team will be removed from both the LPT and Premier League. That team will also be fined \$350 and the matter may be referred to the WSYSA Ethics Committee.

607.7 Rules of Play

- (a) All games shall be conducted subject to the “Laws of the Game” (FIFA) as modified by WSYSA.
- (b) Each coach is responsible for the conduct of team players and supporters. Foul and abusive language on the field or the sidelines shall not be tolerated.
- (c) Each player must wear a jersey with a unique (non-duplicated) number, minimum size six inches (6”) high. The number must be readily discernible to the officiating crew and must be securely attached so as not to create a playing hazard.
- (d) GAME TIE BREAKING RULE – In the event that a game is tied at the end of regulation play, overtime periods will be conducted as follows:
 - (1) U-14’s will have two (2) five (5) minute overtime periods with a five (5) minute rest period before the start of the first overtime period.
 - (2) U-15 through U-19 will have two (2) ten (10) minute overtime periods with a five (5) minute rest period before the start of the first overtime period.
 - (3) If a game is still tied at the end of both overtime periods, a winner will be determined by the FIFA recommendation for taking Kicks From the Penalty Mark (as accepted by the International Board and as published in the “Referee’s Chart & Player’s Guide to the Laws of the Game”). Teams winning in overtime or by kicks will have one (1) goal added to their regulation score.
- (e) SCORE REPORTING – The Coach or Manager of BOTH teams (winning or losing) must notify a member of the Tournament Committee as to the final score of their game within one (1) hour of completion of the game.
- (f) UNIFORM COLOR CONFLICT – The first team listed on the schedule is designated the “home” team. The designated “home” team will be responsible for changing colors of team uniforms in the event of a color conflict.
- (g) GAME BALL – Both teams will bring a regulation game ball to the match.
- (h) GAME ROSTER SHEETS – Teams will give the referee a complete WSYSA Game Roster Sheet prior to the start of each game. Player cards may be required for the LPT.

607.8 Tournament Ranking

- (a) A tournament shall be played until enough teams are eliminated leaving the remaining teams as qualifiers.
- (b) Qualifying teams with no losses shall be ranked higher than teams with one (1) loss.
- (c) Teams with two (2) or more wins shall be ranked by round eliminated.

- (d) Teams with one (1) win shall be ranked next followed by teams with no wins.
- (e) Tie-breaker criteria for (c) and (d) will be as follows:
 - (1) Head-to-head (only if all tied teams played one another).
 - (2) Goal differential in the tied teams' two (2) losses.
 - (3) Goals allowed in the tied teams' two (2) losses.
 - (4) Best result against an undefeated team, if applicable.
 - (5) Flip a coin, or schedule game between tied teams with the Tournament Director's approval. Tournament Director's decision will be final.
- (f) When breaking ties between three (3) or more teams; once a tie is broken, the remaining tied teams, if any, start back at (1) head-to-head.

607.9 Officiating

- (a) A referee shall be assigned to officiate each game with the authority assigned to him as specified in the "Laws of the Game" (FIFA).
- (b) The Washington State Referee Committee (SRC) will be responsible for scheduling properly registered and qualified referees and assistant referees.
- (c) If assistant referees cannot be scheduled, the referee may ask each team to provide one (1) person to act as club linesman.
- (d) The following individuals may not be assigned to LPT games in any given age and gender group: coaches, team managers, or relatives of players-of-record. Other individuals should disqualify themselves if there is a conflict of interest in that age and gender group.
- (e) If no referee is available within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled game time, the Venue Director must be informed and a substitute official must be chosen. Decisions of the substitute official will be final. Games must be played as scheduled.
- (f) Before the start of each game, the referee will request the home team to choose the side of the field the team and spectators will occupy. The visiting team and its spectators will occupy the opposite side.
- (g) If any player or coach has been sent off the field-of-play for violating the "Laws of the Game", the referee must give a written report to the Tournament Director or member of the Tournament Committee, preferably within one (1) hour of the completion of the game, if possible.

Rule 608 WSYSA CODE OF ETHICS

608.1 WSYSA Board of Directors

- (a) DIRECTIONS: As a board member, you need to be aware that more is expected of those in leadership roles. Review the following statements. Signing this Code of Ethics solidifies your commitment to ones board service.

- (b) As a member of this board, I will:
- (1) Represent the interests of all people served by this organization, and not favor special interests inside or outside of this nonprofit.
 - (2) Not use my service of this board for my own personal advantage or for the advantage of my friends or associates.
 - (3) Keep confidential information confidential.
 - (4) Respect and support the majority decisions of the board.
 - (5) Approach all board issues with an open mind, prepared to make the best decisions for everyone involved.
 - (6) Do nothing to violate the trust of those who elected or appointed me to the board, or of those we serve.
 - (7) Focus my efforts on the mission of the nonprofit and not on my personal goals.
 - (8) Never exercise authority as a board member except when acting in a meeting with the full board or as I am delegated by the board.
 - (9) Consider myself a "trustee" of this organization and do my best to ensure that it is well-maintained, financially secure, growing and always operating in the best interests of those we serve.
 - (10) Take an active role in educating WSYSA players about sports nutrition, fitness and about prevention of tobacco use. Each board member should avoid the use of all tobacco and tobacco related products when in the presence or view of players at WSYSA sanctioned events and related activities.

608.2 WSYSA Coaches

- (a) Purpose: This code of ethics has been developed to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of soccer within the Washington State Youth Soccer Association (WSYSA).
- (b) Article I - Responsibilities to Players
- (1) The coach shall never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players.
 - (2) Coaches shall instruct players to play within the laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
 - (3) Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
 - (4) Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.
 - (5) Demands on players' time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals or progress.
 - (6) Coaches must never encourage players to violate WSYSA recruitment, eligibility or players rules and policies.
 - (7) Coaches should direct players to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery.
 - (8) Coaches should take an active role in educating their players about sports nutrition, fitness and about prevention of tobacco use. Coaches should avoid the use of all tobacco and tobacco related products when in the presence or view of players at WSYSA sanctioned events and related activities.

(c) Article II - Responsibility to WSYSA and Member Associations

- (1) Adherence to all WSYSA and Member Association rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation and recruiting are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of each coach to know and understand these rules.
- (2) Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the appropriate WSYSA or Member Association officer or committee.

(d) Article III - Responsibilities to the Laws of the Game

- (1) Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the Laws of the Game.
- (2) Coaches are responsible to assure their players understand the intent as well as the application of the Laws.
- (3) Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the Laws of the Game.
- (4) Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with intent of causing injury to opposing players.
- (5) The coach must constantly strive to teach good sporting behavior.

(e) Article IV - Responsibility to Officials

- (1) Officials must have the support of coaches, players and spectators. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials the presence of players or spectators.
- (2) Professional respect, before, during and after the game, should be mutual. There should be no demeaning dialogue or gestures between official, coach or player.
- (3) Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of the game.
- (4) Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

(f) Article V - Responsibilities regarding Scouting and Recruiting

- (1) All WSYSA rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed by coach, manager or any team representative.
- (2) It is inappropriate to recruit player(s) actively playing for another team.
- (3) It is unethical for a player to be recruited or enticed from the Olympic Development Program (ODP) setting, either by his ODP coach or any other coach, manager, player, parent or team representative.
- (4) When discussing the advantages of his/her organization, the coach has an obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams and organizations.
- (5) It is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete which cannot be fulfilled; illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and immoral to deliver same.
- (6) Coaches shall not scout any team, by any means whatsoever, except in regularly scheduled games.

(g) Article VI - Responsibility of Public Relations

- (1) Coaches have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents or media should be positive and constructive.
- (2) Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public when representing their team, member association and WSYSA.

- (3) Coaches must not attempt to influence member associations or WSYSA in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.
- (h) Article VII - Other Responsibilities
 - (1) A coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to himself, his organization and the sport of soccer.
 - (2) While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary professional conduct.
 - (3) The attitude and conduct of the coach towards officials, players, spectators and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.
 - (4) It is unacceptable for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench before, during or after the game.
 - (5) Coaches must use their influence on his/her spectators that demonstrate intimidating and/or unacceptable behavior towards officials, player(s) and opposing team members.

608.3 WSYSA Communications

- (a) The WSYSA Communications Code of Ethics applies to all communication within the WSYSA membership transmitted in all forms of media including, but not limited to, printed material, letters, memoranda, email, web sites, facsimile, etc. It shall apply to all members, employees and volunteers at any level of WSYSA (state, district, association, club, league, etc.).
- (b) Communications within WSYSA normally shall be limited to matters pertaining to the objectives and purposes of WSYSA and its youth soccer-related activities and shall not be used for any other purpose or to promote any other interest.
- (c) The contents of all communication shall be appropriate, responsible and honest. Members shall not knowingly distribute inaccurate, false, or unsubstantiated information.
- (d) Communications by an individual representing any WSYSA board, committee, or other official group shall include the name of the official group they represent and the title they hold. When communicating as a private individual (i.e. not representing any WSYSA board, committee, or other official group), they shall so indicate.
- (e) Members shall not use WSYSA communications data (web sites, email lists, mailing lists, registration data, etc.) in an effort to secure an advantage for another organization or individual, or for their personal, financial or business gain.
- (f) General group communications (electronic or printed) from WSYSA administrators, shall utilize methods of distribution that keep individual recipient information (email addresses, names, etc.) confidential (i.e. "Blind Copy"), unless there is agreement by the individuals involved to include that information. When utilizing group communications of this type, the originator should identify the title of the group to which the message is being sent. The group title should be contained in the first line of the message (i.e. "To All Association and Club Presidents.").
- (g) Communications labeled as "confidential" and/or intended only for specific individuals, shall not be edited, forwarded or distributed to others, without the prior permission from the originator.

- (h) Communications of a private nature shall not be distributed to other individuals unless necessary for official documentation/notification purposes as specified in official WSYSA procedures (i.e. letters of reprimand, disciplinary or suspension matters).
- (i) Communications intended for any WSYSA administrator(s) shall identify any and all others being copied.
- (j) Communications of any type shall be directed first to the appropriate local administrator(s) responsible and shall give them an appropriate time to respond before directing similar communications to other administrative levels or other individuals. This does not prohibit or discourage the use of copying higher levels for informational purposes when communicating directly with appropriate local administrator(s).
- (k) Communications directed to higher administrative levels requesting official action or decisions shall be copied to any other lower level authority affected, responsible, or previously contacted regarding the issue.
- (l) When a communication is received at an administrative level that should be addressed to a different administrative authority, the receiver should: (1) respond to the originator (copying the appropriate level/s) with the fact that the communication (i.e. letter, email, facsimile, etc.) was received; (2) state in the response that the matter is more appropriately handled at another level and identify the appropriate level, contact person and title of the position; (3) forward the communication (copying the originator) to the appropriate authority identified.
- (m) Communications shall not contain defamatory or disparaging remarks about WSYSA, its members, employees or volunteers.
- (n) Complaints or allegations of misconduct regarding any administrator's actions and/or decisions shall be directed to the appropriate responsible authority.
- (o) Communications by members shall not use titles from professional or commercial affiliations (i.e. law enforcement, legal, medical professions, etc.) with the intent to influence decisions. These titles should only be utilized when actually acting in the official capacity of that title.
- (p) Violations of this code are subject to review and disciplinary action by the WSYSA Ethics Committee.

Rule 609 EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND CHECK APPEAL HEARINGS

609.1 Introduction

Appeals arise as the result of an adverse decision from an administrative action or disciplinary hearing by the President of Washington State Youth Soccer Association or designee, in regards to Rule 216.6 "Employee/Volunteer Background Checks". An appeal can only be filed by those parties to the original action, who are adversely impacted by those rules.

609.2 Filing Procedures

- (a) An appeal shall not have the effect of "staying" a previous ruling. Previous decisions remain in force, pending the result of the appeal.
- (b) An appeal shall be filed with the Risk Management Appeals Committee within ten (10) calendar days of receipt by the appellant of the prior adverse ruling (Sundays and Holidays excluded). Request to be submitted to the WSYSA State Office.
- (c) An appeal must be in writing and include:
 - 1. The nature and specifics of the appeal.
 - 2. The most current phone, physical address and email address for contact verification and any documentation that the appellant has regarding the issue.
 - 3. All Risk Management Appeals to be held at the WSYSA State Office.
- (d) The original document of the appeal, along with all supporting documents, and six (6) copies shall be forwarded by Registered U.S. Mail, Certified US Mail - Return Receipt Requested. Additionally, one (1) copy shall be sent to the WSYSA President or designee as notice of the filing of an appeal.

609.3 Filing Fee

As established by the WSYSA President and/or the Risk Management Appeals Committee

609.4 Document Processing

- (a) Document processing will closely adhere to WSYSA Rule 602.5 "Documentation Processing".
- (b) All other procedures will comply with WSYSA Bylaws and Operating Procedures, current edition.

609.5 Appeals

All Risk Management Appeals to be held at the WSYSA State Office.

Rule 610 TOPSOCCER: THE OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR SOCCER (TOPS)

TOPSoccer (TOPS) is a program initiative of US Youth Soccer adopted by the WSYSA Board of Directors. It is the official WSYSA program for athletes with disabilities. TOPSoccer will serve these soccer players in the same local clubs and associations as their non-disabled peers.

By providing a community based training and development program for people with disabilities, organized by local Member Associations and youth soccer clubs, a broader spectrum of players will have the opportunity to learn and play soccer.

The emphasis of TOPSoccer is on participation, development, and training. The goal is to enable the many athletes with disabilities to develop their physical fitness, technical skill, and self-esteem, through the game of soccer.

TOPSoccer is not geared toward any specific type of disability and is open to any player over the age of four (4) years of age. There are varied types and levels of participation to meet the needs of the players. The unique aspect of TOPSoccer is that each local program is different and is created around the needs of the participants. For example:

- Skills only: one-time clinics and/or ongoing specialized training for participants who due to physical limitations or differing levels of function cannot participate in adaptive/modified games.
- Adaptive and modified skills training and small-sided games.
- Unified program of challenged and able-bodied athletes.

610.1 TOPSoccer: Eligibility

WSYSA TOPSoccer shall be open to players over the age of four (4) years of age with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities, and who have properly completed TOPS registration and are in compliance with WSYSA Rule 204.8 “Player Registration and Rostering”, Rule 207 “Insurance” and Rule 301.5 “Player’s Equipment”. EXCEPTION: Athletes with Down syndrome are required to have a current x-ray. For their safety, if the x-ray is positive, they may participate in individual skills only.

610.2 TOPSoccer: Committee Director

The WSYSA TOPSoccer committee director shall be involved with each program started by a WSYSA member. The TOPS Director will support each program in its creation, development, compliance with safety concerns, registration, coaching, enlistment of supporting resources and adaptations of modified playing rules. The Director will supply a program guide, a coach’s guide and an inventory of community resources. The TOPS Director will notify, in writing, the WSYSA Vice-President of Recreation and the WSYSA office of any and all TOPS activity.

610.3 TOPSoccer: Registration of Participants

- (a) Participants in TOPSoccer will be registered with WSYSA.
All players and coaches shall register through the WSYSA online process.
Registration shall include:
- (A) TOPS player information form
 - (B) TOPS medical information form, with Down syndrome x-ray diagnostic if applicable
 - (C) Risk Management/Background Clearance forms for coaches, assistants and TOPSoccer Buddies
 - (D) Physician’s permission to participate, per Rule 207 “Insurance”, as required
- (b) A copy of the TOPSoccer player information form must be available for reference at all TOPSoccer training sessions for each participant.

APPENDIX A

Policy 531-9 – Misconduct Toward Game Officials

Section 1 General

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

Section 2 Rule Application

(A) This policy shall supersede any inconsistent 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.

(B) Nothing in this policy rule shall be construed to restrict or limit any league, event/tournament or Organization Member from applying equal or greater restrictions to anyone not listed in section 4(a)(1) of this policy (i.e., a spectator associated with a club or team).

(C) This policy shall not apply to players, coaches, managers, club officials, or league officials while participating in Professional League Member activities.

Section 3 Terms and References

As used in this policy —

(1) “Referee” includes the following:

(a) all currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees, 4th officials or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match.

(b) any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee (under Rule 3040).

(c) any club assistant referee.

(2) “Hearing” means a meeting of at least three neutral members, one of whom is designated or elected to serve as chairman. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to guidelines established by the Organization Member.

(3) (a)

(i) Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.

(ii) For purposes of this policy, “intentional act” shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.

(b) 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 personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.

(4) (a) 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.

(b) Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee that implies or threatens physical harm; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; or spitting at (but not on) the referee.

Section 4 Jurisdiction and Hearings

(A) General

- (1) When any amateur or professional player, coach, manager, club official or game official assaults or abuses a referee, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in the responsible Organization Member which is affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation.
- (2) When an allegation of assault is verified by the Organization Member the person is automatically suspended until the hearing on the assault.
- (3) The Organization Member must hold a hearing within thirty (30) days of the verification by the Member of the abuse or assault or, if applicable, the thirty (30) day period provided by subsection (B)(3) of this section. If the Member does not adjudicate the matter within that period of time, original jurisdiction shall immediately vest in the Federation's Appeals Committee to adjudicate the matter, to which the same provisions as to the term of suspension shall apply.
- (4) Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension.

(B) Events and Tournaments

- (1) In the event an assault or abuse of a referee occurs in an event outside the alleged offender's home state, the referee shall (A) immediately notify the Event/Tournament Chairman, and (B) forward a copy of the game report and his/her comments on the incident to the Event/Tournament Chairman.
- (2) The Event/Tournament Chairman shall have the right to immediately convene a hearing at the site of the Event/Tournament, at which the alleged offender, the coach of the alleged offender when the offender is a player, and the game official should be present. Information presented at this hearing shall promptly be relayed to the alleged offender's Organization Member President by the Event/Tournament Chairman, both orally and in writing; however, failure to provide written information shall not restrict the offender's home State Association from taking action with regard to any referee abuse or assault.
- (3) Final jurisdiction shall vest with the alleged offender's home Organization Member. A hearing shall be held by that Organization Member within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the initial report of the abuse or assault on a referee.

Section 5 Penalties and Suspensions

(A) Assault

- (1) The person committing the referee assault must be automatically suspended as follows:
 - (a) for a minor or slight touching of the referee or the referee's uniform or personal property, at least 3 months from the time of the assault;
 - (b) except as provided in clause (i) or (ii), for any other assault, at least 6 months from the time of the assault;
 - (i) for an assault committed by an adult and the referee is seventeen (17) years of age or younger, at least 3 years; or
 - (ii) for an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least five (5) years.
- (2) An Organization Member adjudicating the matter may not provide shorter period of suspension but, if circumstances warrant, may provide a longer period of suspension.

(B) Abuse

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

Section 6 Appeals

A person who is found to have committed the abuse and / or assault may appeal to the Appeals Committee by following the procedures of Federation Bylaw 705 within ten (10) days from receipt of the decision of the Organization Member.

Section 7 Procedure for Reporting Assault and Abuse

(A) Procedures for reporting of referee assault and/or abuse shall be developed and disseminated by the National Referee Committee to all Federation registered referees.

(B) Referees shall transmit a written report of the alleged assault or abuse, or both, within forty-eight (48) hours of the incident (unless there is a valid reason for later reporting) to the designee of the Organization Member and the State Referee Administrator. For tournaments or special events, the referee shall transmit a written report to the tournament director on the day of the incident and to his home state SRA within ten (10) days of the incident.

APPENDIX B

USSF Policy 531-10 MISCONDUCT OF GAME OFFICIALS

Section 1 Terms and References

- (A) "Game Officials" includes the following:
- (1) all currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees, 4th officials or others appointed to assist in officiating in a match.
 - (2) any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee (see section 2 of Policy 531-8).
 - (3) any club assistant referee.
 - (4) any referee development program person performing any official function at a match.
- (B) "Referee Development Program Person" includes any referee, referee administrator, referee assessor, referee instructor, referee assignor, or other person serving in such capacity in a line or supervisory position, including members of any referee committee appointed by the Federation, its Divisions, Affiliates or Associates, a State Association, or a competition, tournament or other appropriate authority.
- (C) "Hearing" means a meeting of at least five members, one of which is designated or elected to serve as Chairman. The Chairman of a hearing shall not vote except to break a tie vote. Such members, including the Chairman, shall not be the State Referee Administrator, the State Director of Referee Instruction, the State Director of Referee Assessment, a Federation National or FIFA Referee, or any other member of the State Referee Administration.
- (D) "State Association" shall be that State Association through which the game official is registered or referee development is appointed. Where a state has both Amateur and Youth National State Associations, the reference shall mean that State Association which has legal authority within its state to administer the registration of the referee or the appointment of the referee development program person charged.

Section 2 Procedures

- (A) Misconduct at a Match
- When any game official is accused of having committed misconduct toward another game official, participant, or spectator at a match, or of having a conflict of interest, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in the State Association or Organization Member through which the accused game official is registered. In the situation where Amateur and Youth State Associations exist in a state, and the incident of alleged misconduct occurred at a match sanctioned by one State Association, jurisdiction shall vest with the State Association sanctioning the match in question.

(B) Misconduct Away From a Match

When any game official, referee, referee assistant or referee development program person is accused of unethical conduct, misuse or abuse of authority or conflict of interest in any matter in the pursuit of or may affect the individual's official dealings within and as authorized by the Federation, its Divisions, Affiliates or Associates, a State Associations or Organization Member, or a competition, tournament or other appropriate authority, the matter shall vest immediately in the State Association through which the accused game official is registered or through which the referee development program person is appointed.

(C) Any allegation of misconduct or of conflict of interest by a game official as described by subsection (A) of this section, or of unethical conduct, misuse or abuse of authority or conflict of interest as described by subsection (B) of this section, shall be made in writing to the State Referee Administrator or to the State Association(s) or Organization Member that shall report all such allegations including any allegations against the State Referee Administrator, to the State Association(s) or Organization Members through which the accused game official is registered or through which the accused referee development program person is appointed.

(D) Upon receipt by the appropriate Organization Member of a verified written complaint, a hearing shall be conducted within thirty (30) days from verification pursuant to guidelines established by the Organization Member having jurisdiction as provided by subsection (A) or (B) of this section. The guidelines may include referring the complaint to the State Referee Committee for the hearing. The hearings and appeal process shall provide for adequate due process for the accused person including proper notice of charges, the right to bring witnesses in defense, and the right to confront and to cross-examine the accusers.

(E) The Chairman of the hearing committee shall transmit the findings of the committee in writing to all parties concerned including the accused and the accusers and to the State Association(s) or Organization Member within seven days of the hearing.

(F) Any party subject to penalties shall receive, at the time of notification of the decision, a notice of the rights of appeal and a copy of the procedures and deadline dates required for such an appeal to be properly considered. Time for filing an appeal shall start with the date official receipt of the decision by the party making the appeal.

Section 3 Penalties

(A) The severity of the penalty imposed upon an individual shall be determined by the decision-making body having jurisdiction.

(B) Penalties may be among the following:

- (1) letter of reprimand;
- (2) a fine;
- (3) suspension from all active participation in the Federation for a fixed period of time;
- (4) any combination of clauses (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection; and
- (5) dismissal from the Federation.

(C) Any individual while under suspension may not take part in any activity sponsored by the Federation or its members.

Section 4 Appeals

- (A) Any game official who is found guilty of misconduct as defined in this rule may appeal the decision of the hearing committee as follows:
- (1) to a Referee Disciplinary Committee jointly appointed by the Amateur and Youth State Associations.
 - (2) to the Federation Appeals Committee as provided under Federation Bylaw 705.
- (B) The party appealing the decision of a committee shall have ten (10) days to file the notice of appeal of a decision. Time for filing an appeal shall start with the date of official receipt of the decision by the party making the appeal.

APPENDIX C

USSF BYLAWS, PART VII—HEARINGS, GRIEVANCES, DISPUTES AND APPEALS

BYLAW 705: APPEALS PROCEDURES

Section 1

- (a) The Appeals Committee shall consider and determine appeals from final decisions rendered by State Associations relating to activities sponsored by the Federation and the State Association or its members. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final. The Appeals Committee has the power to call for the production of any documents and evidence the Appeals Committee may require.
- (b) (1) In this subsection, “competition” may include games, tournaments, league play, or a regular season.
- (2) No decision of a State Association that arises out of the application of the rules of competition which is made in the course of the competition, and has no consequence beyond the competition, is appealable. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the rights of appeal available under the Amateur Sports Act or the Constitution or Bylaws of the USOC relating to the opportunity of Athletes to participate in “protected competition”, as defined in the USOC constitution.

Section 2 An appeal shall be made in accordance with procedures established by the Board of Directors and is begun by submitting a notice of appeal within ten (10) days from the date of the official receipt of the decision by the party making the appeal. Copies of the notice of appeal shall be sent to all opposing parties and to the appeals committee or other body whose decision is being appealed.

Section 3 The notice of appeal shall be accompanied by the appeal fee in the form of money order or cashier’s check in an amount determined by the Board of Directors. The appeal fee shall be retained by the Federation.

Section 4 The appeals committee or other body whose decision is being appealed shall, within ten (10) business days of the date of acceptance of jurisdiction by the Appeals Committee of the notice of appeal, forward to the Secretary General and to all parties the official record utilized by it in making its decision. Parties should not resubmit documents contained in the official record.

Section 5 Within twenty (20) business days of the date of acceptance of jurisdiction by the Appeals Committee of the notice of appeal, the appealing party shall submit to the Secretary General any argument it wishes to make in support of the appeal and shall furnish copies of the argument to all opposing parties and to the appeals committee or other body whose decision is being appealed.

Section 6 Within thirty (30) business days of the date of acceptance of jurisdiction by the Appeals Committee of the notice of appeal, all opposing parties shall submit to the Secretary General any argument they wish to make in opposition to the appeal.

Section 7 A decision rendered by a Organization Member from which an appeal is taken is not suspended pending the final decision of the Appeals Committee unless the Committee otherwise orders. The decision of the State Association may be upheld, reversed, or reversed and remanded.

APPENDIX D

USSF/US YOUTH SOCCER CODE OF ETHICS

PLAYERS

- (1) Strive to maintain integrity within our sport.
- (2) Know and follow all rules and policies set forth by clubs, leagues, state, and national associations.
- (3) Work in the spirit of cooperation with officials, administrators, coaches, and spectators to provide the participants with the maximum opportunity to develop.
- (4) Be a positive role model.
- (5) Set the standard for sportsmanship with opponents, referees, administrators, and spectators.
- (6) Keep sport in proper perspective with education.
- (7) Encourage moral and social responsibility.
- (8) Just say no to drugs.

COACHES

The overall responsibility of any coach is to create a safe, fun filled, learning environment.

With this basic premise established, US Youth Soccer has developed the following Coaches Code of Ethics that addresses three areas:

- Safety
- Player Development
- Ethics

SAFETY

- (1) My first responsibility is the health and safety of all participants.
- (2) It is recommended that coaches become certified in basic first aid and are aware of their club, league, or state requirements in this area.
- (3) Be prepared to handle first aid situations as well as medical emergencies at all practices and games, both home and away:
 - Have and know how to use a properly supplied first aid kit/ice.
 - 911 emergency procedures/telephone location.
 - Always carry emergency medical release forms and team safety and information cards.
 - Follow up all injuries with parents/guardians.
- (4) Know and understand the Laws of the Game.
- (5) Inspect player's equipment and field conditions for safety reasons.
- (6) Utilize proper teaching and instructing of players regarding safe techniques and methods of play.
- (7) Implement appropriate training programs to make sure players are fit for practice and competition.
- (8) Supervise and control your players so as to avoid injury situations.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

- (1) Develop the child's appreciation of the game.
- (2) Keep winning and losing in proper perspective.
- (3) Be sensitive to each child's development needs.
- (4) Educate the players to the technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of the game for their level.
- (5) Implement rule and equipment modifications according to the player's age group.
- (6) Allow players to experience all positions.
- (7) Players need to have fun and receive positive feedback.
- (8) Practices should be conducted in the spirit of enjoyment and learning.
- (9) Provide the appropriate number of training sessions and games according to the player's stage of development.
- (10) Strive to help each player reach his or her full potential and be prepared to move on to the next stage of development.

ETHICS

- (1) Strive to maintain integrity within our sport.
- (2) Know and follow all the rules and policies set forth by clubs, leagues, state and national associations.
- (3) Work in the spirit of cooperation with officials, administrators, coaches and spectators to provide the participants with the maximum opportunity to develop.
- (4) Be a positive role model.
- (5) Set the standard for sportsmanship with opponents, referees, administrators and spectators.
- (6) Keep sport in proper perspective with education.
- (7) Encourage moral and social responsibility.
- (8) Just say no to drugs and alcohol.
- (9) Coach should continue his/her own education in the sport.

REFEREE

- (1) I will always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.
- (2) I will conduct myself honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of my position.
- (3) I will always honor an assignment or any contractual obligation.
- (4) I will attend training meetings and clinics so as to know the Laws of the Game, their proper interpretation and their application.
- (5) I will always strive to achieve maximum team work with my fellow officials.
- (6) I will be loyal to my fellow officials and never knowingly promote criticism of them.
- (7) I will be in good physical condition.
- (8) I will control the players effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing fairness.
- (9) I will do my utmost to assist my fellow officials to better themselves and their work.
- (10) I will not make statements about any games except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
- (11) I will not discriminate against nor take undue advantage of any individual group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
- (12) I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and I will strive to make my actions reflect credit upon that organization and its affiliates.

REFEREE ASSESSORS

- (1) That I shall always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.
- (2) That I will conduct myself honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of my position.
- (3) That I shall always honor all assignments.
- (4) That I will attend clinics, to become proficient in the Laws of the Games and their proper interpretation.
- (5) That I will always try to achieve a rapport with the officials I assess.
- (6) That I will never knowingly criticize my fellow Assessors.
- (7) That I will be courteous and considerate when critiquing officials during the post game.
- (8) That I will do my utmost to help the officials become better and more professional.
- (9) That I will not make statements about any game official except in my official capacity.
- (10) That all my assessments are confidential and are only to be shared with those on a "need to know" basis.

REFEREE ASSIGNORS

- (1) I will maintain the utmost respect for referees and other officials of the game and I will conduct myself honorably at all times.
- (2) I will make assignments based on what is good for the game and what is good for the referee.
- (3) As a member of the United States Soccer Federation, my actions will reflect credit upon that organization.

- (4) I will contribute to the continuous development of referees in the National Referee Development Program.
- (5) I will conduct myself ethically and professionally in the assignment process.
- (6) I will respect the rights and dignity of all the referees and I will not criticize them unless it is in private, constructive and for their benefit.
- (7) I will offer equal opportunity to all qualified referees, and I will not discriminate against or take undue advantage of any individual or group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
- (8) I will cooperate fully in the timely resolution of any grievance hearing or complaint.
- (9) I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization or its affiliates.
- (10) I will safeguard the confidentiality of the USSF registered referee list.
- (11) I will give priority to USSF affiliated games

APPENDIX E

ABOUT US YOUTH SOCCER ODP

The US Youth Soccer ODP Philosophy

To identify players of the highest caliber on a continuing and consistent basis, which will lead to increased success for the U.S. National Teams in the international arena.

The US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program (ODP) in Washington identifies players with exceptional talent, exposes them to higher levels of coaching and training, and presents them to the Regional and National Team coaches for possible selection to a National Team.

Purpose

The US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program was formed in 1977 to identify a pool of players in each age group from which a National Team will be selected for international competition; to provide high-level training to benefit and enhance the development of players at all levels; and, through the use of carefully selected and licensed coaches, develop a mechanism for the exchange of ideas and curriculum to improve all levels of coaching.

How do I participate?

Contact your local WSYSA member association and/or club to find out more about getting involved with ODP in Washington. The WSYSA directory is at www.wsysa.com. You can also follow the links to ODP information under Players and Parents on the WSYSA web site's main page. The WSYSA office telephone number is (253) 476-2237.

Program Description History

In 1979 the program expanded, the organization became more efficient and multi-year plans were developed. State Associations were encouraged to develop programs which supported and worked in tandem with National and Regional programs. At the beginning of 1982 a formalized program for girls was created, with the addition of a full committee (one member from each Region).

Current Organization

From 1982 until the present, international events for youth national teams have increased substantially and the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program has kept pace by instituting trials and player pools for five age groups in the boys' program, and five age groups in the girls' program.

The US Youth Soccer ODP Selection Process

Each state association holds ODP tryouts on an annual basis. Age groups and tryout dates may be different from state to state, based on seasonal and state considerations. Your first contact should be to your state association for tryout information.

How are Players Selected?

Players are selected, in most states, on the basis of open tryouts. These tryouts are conducted by state association coaches who are recognized for their ability to identify and train players with superior skills. Some state associations, including Washington, combine scouting techniques and invitations to certain players with the open tryouts. Selection of these players is not an easy task. The state association head coach or State Coach will, in most cases, be assisted in the selection process by several other qualified coaches from the club or league level. Players are evaluated on the four components that make up a soccer player:

1. Technique
2. Tactics
3. Fitness and Athletic Ability
4. Psychological Component (attitude)

What are Regional Camps?

US Youth Soccer is divided into four regions, each of which offers a regional camp for state association ODP teams in each eligible age group. The camps are designed to provide high level competition and training for participating players. During this training and competition, players who are capable of performing at a higher level of play are identified for possible national team camp, pool, or team participation. Each region varies somewhat as to the specifics and the cost of their camps. Your state association or regional administrator should be contacted for more information.

What is a National Camp?

National Camps and Interregional events are held throughout the year at various locations in the United States. The National Team Coach or a National Staff Coach is present at these events to observe, train, and identify players for placement in the national pool or on a national team.

What are the Benefits of Participating in US Youth Soccer ODP?

1. Development as a player. The opportunity to train and play with the best players in one's age group.
2. Quality instruction from nationally licensed coaches.
3. Quality competition. Games against other state association ODP teams.
4. Exposure to regional and national team coaches.
5. The opportunity to represent one's state, region, or country in competition.
6. Exposure to college coaches.

NOTES: