

# **Alabama Youth Soccer Association**

**(A Division of Alabama Soccer Association)**

## **Rules and Regulations**

**RULES & REGULATIONS  
OF THE  
ALABAMA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
(A Division of Alabama Soccer Association)**

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**RULES & REGULATIONS  
OF THE  
ALABAMA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
(A Division of Alabama Soccer Association)**

**Article I. - General**

**3:01:01 Authority**

1. The Rules and Regulations contained herein will govern all members of the Alabama Youth Soccer Association (hereinafter called AYSA or the Association) in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Charter, Constitution, and Bylaws of ASA. All competition will be governed by the rules and regulations as stated herein unless the rules of a specific competition determine otherwise.
2. Member Organizations may deem fit to include rules and regulations more stringent than those included herein, but in no case may rules and regulations be less stringent. Member Organizations must submit their rules and regulations and any amendments for review and approval by ASA.
3. Each team will assume responsibility for the conduct of its Players, Parents, Coaches, Managers, and Team Assistants and it is the responsibility of each team to insure that its actions on or off the field do not bring disrespect upon AYSA. Each member organization will be responsible for the conduct of those persons associated with its operations and it is the responsibility of each member organization to insure that its actions do not bring disrespect upon AYSA.
4. Falsification of records will be grounds for disbarment from future participation and /or membership in AYSA.
5. Any person found guilty of violating the Constitution and Bylaws of ASA, or Rules & Regulations of AYSA may be asked to appear before the Board of Directors of ASA in order to explain said violation.
6. A plea of ignorance of the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules & Regulations is not sufficient and violators may expect appropriate action by the Board of Directors of ASA.

**3:01:02 Insurance**

1. All registered ASA member organizations whose team names are on file with AYSA and includes the names of their team members (up to age 19), coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers, for whom premium has been paid, will be covered under the established insurance program of AYSA.
2. The member organization's insurance representative will check the claim against player registration records and will forward all claims to the AYSA office for processing.

**3:01:03 Application To Travel**

1. Any AYSA team wishing to travel outside the jurisdiction of AYSA shall submit a properly completed "Application For Travel" and appropriate fee to AYSA. All copies of this form, together with roster and Hosting Agreement from tournament, must be delivered to AYSA at least 30 days prior to playing games in the United States, Canada or Mexico, and at least 90 days prior to playing games in any other country. Travel outside of the United States, Canada or Mexico requires approval of USYSA. Notification of travel approval or denial will be sent directly to the team's coach or team representative and to the tournament Director or Host Organization. Applications for travel that are not submitted within the foregoing time frames will be charged a special processing fee as determined by the Board of Directors. The time limits in this paragraph are set by USYSA and permission to travel may be refused if these stated time limits are not satisfied.

**3:01:04 Games With Non-Affiliates** Affiliated AYSA teams desiring to play exhibition or "friendly" games with (against) non-affiliated teams must obtain permission from their state office in writing.

**3:01:05 Hosting Tournaments or Out-Of-State Teams**

1. Teams, clubs, or other organizations wishing to host a tournament must request permission from AYSA in accordance with the procedures detailed in the USYSA "Travel and Tournaments Policy" (Available through the USYSA web site at [www.usysa.com](http://www.usysa.com) )
2. Teams, clubs, or other organizations desiring to host Out-Of-State Teams for exhibition or "friendly" games must receive permission from their state office in writing.

3. Only teams and participants in good standing with AYSA/USYSA and affiliated organizations may participate in tournaments sanctioned by AYSA. Participants and teams playing in tournaments, which have not been sanctioned by AYSA or USYSA, will not have the privileges, benefits and protection of AYSA. All players and coaches must have USYSA player/coaches passes before each game in order to participate in any AYSA sanctioned tournament.
4. All tournaments sanctioned by AYSA shall adhere to and abide by all Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Rules and Procedures of ASA/AYSA and USYSA.
5. If an assault on a referee occurs in a Alabama event/tournament by a player from another state, the referee shall immediately notify the Event/Tournament Chairman and forward a copy of the game report and his/her comments on the incident to the Event/Tournament Chairman on the day of the incident, and the National State Association President and the player's home state within ten (10) days. The Event/Tournament chairman shall have the right to immediately convene a hearing at the site of the event/tournament, at which the player, his/her coach and the game official shall be present. The Event/Tournament Chairman or the AYSA Office shall promptly relay all of the information presented and the action taken at this hearing to the player's State President or Office verbally and in writing.

## **Article II. - Registration Procedures - General Membership**

### **3:02:01 State Registration**

1. All players must register in the state in which he/she resides with his or her parents, or in the case of a student in residence at a boarding school, college, or university, the player may register in the state in which the boarding school, college, or university is located.
2. All players or teams wishing to compete in a state other than the state in which they are registered, must receive written permission from:
  - a. The State Association where they are registered.
  - b. The State Association where they wish to play.
3. Written permission must be obtained each seasonal year (August 1 - July 31) and the Player Release/Transfer form must be used.

### **3:02:02 District Registration**

1. Players must register in the district within which they reside except as noted in #4 below.
2. All players wishing to compete on a team operating in a district other than the district in which they are registered must receive permission from:
  - a. The Club where they are registered (only if already registered for the soccer year);
  - b. The Club where they wish to play;
  - c. The District Commissioner from where they should be registered;
  - d. The District Commissioner where they wish to play;
  - e. **State Registrar**
3. All teams wishing to compete in another district with which they are not registered must receive written permission from:
  - a. The Club where they are registered;
  - b. The League where they wish to play.
4. All players that are registering with Division I teams may cross district boundaries and register in the other district without obtaining permission. This is only for the initial registration of this player per seasonal year.
5. A decision by the districts, leagues, clubs or commissioners may be appealed to the Appeals Committee of the ASA Board of Directors.
6. These permissions must be obtained each seasonal year (August 1 - July 31) and the Player Release/Transfer form must be used.

### **3:02:03 Proof of Age**

1. Players must verify upon registration their date of birth.
2. Proof of Age will consist of a birth certificate or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health records, passport, alien registration card issued by the United States government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age or a certificate of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency.
3. Hospital, baptismal, religious certificates, driver's license, and/or Military ID cards will not be accepted as

proof of age.

**3:02:04 Dual Registration** Players, with the concurrence of their local association, at initial registration, may roster on two or more **Intra-club** youth teams per seasonal year. The player must indicate his/her primary team at initial registration. Division I and II players may be dual rostered on to an Intra-club DIII team. A player may play for only 1 team in any state tournament competition (Division I, Division II and the Governor's Cup). Refer to the state tournament rules with regard to which team a dual rostered player may play on.

**3:02:05 Team Registration** All teams participating in league play are required to submit an AYSA Team Registration Form (Roster). The submittal of the roster binds the player to that team for the Seasonal Year (August 1 - July 31) unless the player requests a transfer or is released in accordance with their local associations and AYSA's Rules and Regulations.

**3:02:06 Team Formation Rules** The current definition of team formation is as follows:

1. **Division I (Classic)**  
The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is permitted. Division I is an Inter-Club AYSA administered program in which no rule restricts the manner in which players may be rostered to participating team except those rules in Item 5 below.
2. **Division II (Recreational Plus, Intermediate Level, or Premier)**  
The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is permitted. Division II is an Inter-Club AYSA administered program in which no rule restricts the manner in which players may be rostered to participating team except these rules in Item 5 below.
3. **Division III (Recreational, Beginning, or Entry Level)**  
The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited. Division III Teams may be formed by evaluation of in-house (Intra-Club) players for the purpose of creating teams of comparably skilled players or to include teams where more than fifty per-cent (50%) of the players have played together in the preceding year. Each player is required to play at least one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline.
4. **Division IV (Intra-Club)**  
The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited.
5. **General Rules**
  - a. The following rules (as directed by the Board of Directors of ASA) will apply to all divisions:
    - (i) Rules that define and prohibit unethical recruiting behavior.
    - (ii) Rules that limit the participation of players previously rostered to another team;
    - (iii) Rules that define specific age requirements.

**3:02:07 Team Names** Any teams which have the same name (e.g. Club's Name) must be identified by a numerical prefix/suffix or a different name. The same team name will not be used for more than one team in the same age division within a district or league.

**3:02:08 Registration Responsibility**

1. Each Member Organization will be responsible for insuring proper registration of their players, coaches, team managers, and teams, proper accounting of fiscal transactions, and accurate reporting to the AYSA Registrar.
2. Deadlines for submitting rosters and fees to AYSA shall be determined by the Board of Director's of ASA prior to the AGM.

### **Article III - Age Limit Definition**

**3:03:01 Definition, "Youth"**

1. The term "youth" as applied to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules & Regulations will mean an amateur player who has not attained his/her nineteenth (19th) birthday prior to August 1 immediately preceding the start of any seasonal year.
2. A player who reaches his/her nineteenth (19th) birthday on or after August 1st of the current seasonal year will be allowed to complete the seasonal year.

**3:03:02      Limiting Age Groups**

1. Players attaining the limiting age for any age group on or after August 1st are eligible to play the whole seasonal year.
2. **TEAM AGE DIVISIONS**

All member organizations, unless otherwise sanctioned by the Board of Directors of ASA, will divide players among teams of equal age divisions who are:

  - UNDER - 19 Player has not reached their nineteenth (19th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
  - UNDER - 18 Player has not reached their eighteenth (18th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
  - UNDER - 17 Player has not reached their seventeenth (17th) birthday before Aug. 1st of the Seasonal Year.
  - UNDER - 16 Player has not reached their sixteenth (16th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
  - UNDER - 15 Player has not reached their fifteenth (15th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
  - UNDER - 14 Player has not reached their fourteenth (14th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
  - UNDER - 13 Player has not reached their thirteenth (13th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
  - UNDER - 12 Player has not reached their twelfth (12th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
  - UNDER - 11 Player has not reached their eleventh (11th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
  - UNDER - 10 Player has not reached their tenth (10th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
  - UNDER - 9 Player has not reached their ninth (9th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
  - UNDER - 8 Player has not reached their eighth (8th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
  - UNDER - 7 Player has not reached their seventh (7th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
  - UNDER - 6 Player has not reached their sixth (6th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.

**Article IV. - Rules of Play**

**3:04:01      Laws of the Game**    The Rules of Play will be the "Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA with those modifications stated herein. All contests sanctioned by AYSA will abide by the "Laws of the Game" and the modifications as adopted by AYSA.

**3:04:02      General**

1. Players wearing orthopedic casts, air-splints, or metal splints will not be eligible to participate in any game without parental permission and prior inspection and approval of the officiating referee or senior referee at an event.
2. All players will be required to wear protective shin guards (to be worn beneath their game socks) at all times while actively participating in a game or practice. Such shin guards will be of the type and style of protective athletic equipment specifically designed to protect the player's lower leg (shin bone).

**3:04:03      Coaching from the Sidelines**

Coaching from the sidelines (giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position) by a coach or assistant coach is permitted, provided:

1. No mechanical devices are used;
2. The tone of voice is informative and not a harangue;
3. No coach, assistant coach, team manager, player, or substitute is to be anywhere but at his or her own bench area during the game. A team's bench area will be that area one (1) yard away from the touchline and extending to ten (10) yards both ways from the half-line to maximum of twenty (20) yards. If both teams locate their bench areas on the same side of the field, due to existing adverse conditions, then each bench area will be limited to that area one (1) yard from the touchline and extending to ten (10) yards, one way, from the half-line only.
4. No coach, assistant coach, team manager, player, substitute, parent, or spectator is to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, players, substitutes, parents, or spectators.
5. No coach, assistant coach, team manager, player, substitute, parent, or spectator is to use profanity.
6. No coach, assistant coach, team manager, player, substitute, parent, or spectator is to incite, in any manner, disruptive behavior of any kind.
7. The report of infraction and the disciplinary action by the appropriate organization will be forwarded to the Disciplinary Committee of the Board of Directors of ASA for review and, where appropriate, possible further

action.

**3:04:04 Uniform Colors** Where colors of uniforms are similar, the home team must effect a change to colors which are distinct from those of the opponent.

**3:04:05 Playing Format & Ball Specifications** The playing format, length of the games, overtime periods, ball size, ball weight, ball dimensions, and roster size for each age group, will be as follows

| DIV | Playing Format | Goal-Keeper | Game Length       | Overtime Periods | Ball Size | Ball Circumference | Ball Weight | Field Size                      | Off-Sides | Roster Size |
|-----|----------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| U19 | 11 v 11        | Yes         | 2-45 min halves   | 2-15 min halves  | 5         | 27" – 28"          | 14 – 16 oz  | FIFA Standards                  | Yes       | 11 - 22     |
| U18 | 11 v 11        | Yes         | 2-45 min halves   | 2-15 min halves  | 5         | 27" – 28"          | 14 – 16 oz  | FIFA Standards                  | Yes       | 11 - 22     |
| U17 | 11 v 11        | Yes         | 2-45 min halves   | 2-15 min halves  | 5         | 27" – 28"          | 14 – 16 oz  | FIFA Standards                  | Yes       | 11 - 22     |
| U16 | 11 v 11        | Yes         | 2-40 min halves   | 2-15 min halves  | 5         | 27" – 28"          | 14 – 16 oz  | FIFA Standards                  | Yes       | 11 – 18     |
| U15 | 11 v 11        | Yes         | 2-40 min halves   | 2-10 min halves  | 5         | 27" – 28"          | 14 – 16 oz  | FIFA Standards                  | Yes       | 11 - 18     |
| U14 | 11 v 11        | Yes         | 2-35 min halves   | 2-10 min halves  | 5         | 27" – 28"          | 14 – 16 oz  | FIFA Standards                  | Yes       | 11 – 18     |
| U13 | 11 v 11        | Yes         | 2-35 min halves   | 2-10 min halves  | 5         | 27" – 28"          | 14 – 16 oz  | FIFA Standards                  | Yes       | 11 – 18     |
| U12 | 8 v 8          | Yes         | 2-30 min halves   | 2-10 min halves  | 4         | 25" – 26"          | 11 – 13 oz  | 45/55 yds wide x 60/80 yds long | Yes       | 8 – 14      |
| U11 | 8 v 8          | Yes         | 2-30 min halves   | 2-10 min halves  | 4         | 25" – 26"          | 11 – 13 oz  | 45/55 yds wide x 60/80 yds long | Yes       | 8 – 14      |
| U10 | 6 v 6          | Yes         | 2-25 min halves   | Ties will Stand  | 4         | 25" – 26"          | 11 – 13 oz  | 35/45 yds wide x 45/60 yds long | No        | 7 – 11      |
| U09 | 6 v 6          | Yes         | 2-25 min halves   | Ties will Stand  | 4         | 25" – 26"          | 11 – 13 oz  | 35/45 yds wide x 45/60 yds long | No        | 7 – 11      |
| U08 | 4 v 4          | No          | 4-12 min quarters | Ties will Stand  | 3         | 23" – 24"          | 11 – 12 oz  | 20/30 yds wide x 25/35 yds long | No        | 5 – 8       |
| U07 | 4 v 4          | No          | 4-12 min quarters | Ties will Stand  | 3         | 23" – 24"          | 11 – 12 oz  | 20/30 yds wide x 25/35 yds long | No        | 5 – 8       |
| U06 | 3 v 3          | No          | 4-8 min quarters  | Ties will stand  | 3         | 23" – 24"          | 11 – 12 oz  | 15/25 yds wide x 20/30 yds long | No        | 4 – 6       |

In tournament play, if the game is still tied after overtime periods, FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner.

(AYSA may permit variances in Rule 3:02:05 Team Registration, Rule 3:03:01:01 Age Limit, Rule 3:03:02:02 Team Age Divisions, and Rule 3:04:05 Length of Game in the best interest of the development of the sport in Alabama.)

**3:04:06 Conditions of Grounds**

1. The home club will be responsible for the condition of the grounds, the proper field markings, and proper equipment. Nets and approved corner flags are required.
2. It will be the responsibility of both teams to have a proper game ball.

**3:04:07 Substitutes**

1. The number of substitutes will be unlimited unless superseded by directives from FIFA, USSF, USYSA and/or AYSA.
2. In any case, a substitute will not enter the field of play until the referee has given him a signal to so.
3. Players may be substituted at the following times:
  - a. Prior to a throw-in in your favor;
  - b. Prior to a goal kick by either team;
  - c. After a goal by either team;

- d. After an injury, when the referee stops play, by either team;
- e. At half time;
- f. When the referee stops play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted prior to the restart of the game.

**3:04:08 Referee' s Game Responsibilities**

1. A Referee Report Card must be filed for every game played.
2. Prior to the game, the referee will make sure that each player' s equipment is in proper order.
3. The referee will verify the identity of the player with his/her player pass and Team Roster. The referee will collect the passes of those players who are to participate in the game. The referee must allow no player into the game for whom he/she has no pass or whose name does not appear on the Team Roster.
4. Referees may, at any time, be called upon by the proper authority to explain their reports.

**3:04:9 Game Report** The home team is responsible for communicating with the proper authority in charge of the competition, immediately following the game (or within a reasonable time) and notifying said authority of the outcome. This procedure will also apply to forfeited games.

**3:04:10 Delaying the Start of the Game**

- . Any team delaying the start of a scheduled game by more than fifteen (15) minutes, without the sanction of the proper authority, will forfeit the game to the opponent by a score of 3 - 0.
- . In the event both teams do not show up for a scheduled game, and the referee rules the ground playable, then both teams will be assessed with a loss.
- . Referees responsible for a late start of a game may be disciplined by the proper authority.

**3:04:11 Referee' s Authority** The referee' s judgment with regard to the physical condition of the field and its acceptance for play, to the actual happenings and occurrences related to the conduct of the game, and those prerogatives granted to him/her by the "Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA will not be challenged.

**3:04:12 Ejection** Only coaches who are ejected from the game are to leave the field before the game will continue. If a coach is ejected, either the team' s club Director of Coaching or an adult properly rostered on the team must take over the coaching responsibilities before the game can continue. The referee should issue the proper red card paperwork and submit it to the AYSA office.

**3:04:13 MISCONDUCT POINTS:** (Approved July 20, 2003) The ASA Board of Directors or the State League Committee (SLC) shall retain records of misconduct, for Division I & II teams only, that occur during the playing season. Each team will be will be awarded misconduct points for every ejection, with an ejection worth 2 points. Any team receiving 8 points during a given season will automatically be reviewed by the ASA Disciplinary Committee to determine if further action is required.

**Article V. - Punitive Measures**

**3:05:01 Minimum Disciplinary Measures**

1. For the commission of the violations noted herein, certain minimum disciplinary actions are to be imposed, they are the following:
2. Red Card Ejection:
  - a. **Minimum one (1)** game suspension from participation in the next regularly scheduled league, tournament, and /or State Cup game for a red card ejection.
  - b. **Minimum two (2)** game suspension from participation in the next regularly scheduled league or State Cup game for players determined to be guilty of:
    - (i) Insulting or molesting the referee (s);
    - (ii) Attempting to fight or striking at another person;
  - c. **Minimum three (3)** game suspension from participation in the next regularly scheduled league or State Cup game for players determined to be guilty of physically pushing, striking, or spitting on or at any other player either before, during, or immediately after a game;
  - d. **Minimum one (1) year** suspension for:
    - (i) Any act of physical violence or personal attack upon official linesmen, coaches, or club, league, or

organization officials;

- (ii) Any act of physical violence or personal attack upon a referee, his equipment, or property (including his vehicle) and the threat of assault by raising a clenched fist or hand holding any object that could be used as a weapon or by verbally threatening a referee, or any member of his family;
  - **Physical Violence and Personal Attack** - Will include, but not be limited to, such things as hitting, kicking, pushing, slapping, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing a referee's personal equipment such as red or yellow cards, notebook, or whistle, or knocking any such items out of his/her hand; and the act of throwing any object at a referee, such as rocks, dirt, a stick, pipe, can, shoe, or throwing or spewing any beverage at or on a referee, or in his/her vehicle;
  - **Verbal Threat** - Remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm and therefore cannot be ignored or overlooked by any official concerned with his/her own or his/her family's personal safety.

**3:05:02 Increase of Penalties** The above penalties are intended as guidelines, however, in extreme situations or in cases of repetition by the same individual, the Disciplinary Committee of ASA may increase the penalties imposed.

**3:05:03 Who Is Subject To Suspensions**

Coaches and other team officials, such as assistant coaches, team managers, parents, spectators, etc., are also subject to the same penalties as players.

**Article VI. - Protest and Appeals Procedure**

**3:06:01 Protestable Actions** Only violations of the Constitution and Bylaws of ASA, and the Rules & Regulations of AYSA, misapplication of the "Laws of the Game" (except that judgment calls made during a game by the referee cannot be protested), or violations of League or Organizational Rules & Regulations, provided the latter are within the framework of the Constitution and Bylaws of ASA, and the Rules & Regulations of AYSA, will be proper subjects to be considered for action.

**3:06:02 Jurisdiction** In all league or member organization matters, the management within each district will provide procedures for protests and hearing of an appeal and not until that procedure has been completed and an adverse decision rendered on the matter in question will it be forwarded to the Protest and Appeals Committee of ASA. Upon rendering a decision, the member organization or league will forward a copy of its evidence, findings, and decision to the office of AYSA for future reference. All pertinent data must be forwarded within fourteen (14) days of the league or member organization's decision.

**3:06:03 Communication of Appeal** Should any person, team, or organization desire to appeal any adverse decision, the communication will be from the organization having jurisdiction to the District Commissioner; from the District Commissioner to the ASA Protest & Appeals Committee; and from the ASA Protest & Appeals Committee to the ASA Board of Directors.

**3:06:04 Next Higher Authority**

1. Should any hearing body choose not to hear a protest or appeal, that body may, if they desire, refer the matter directly to the next higher authority.
2. Upon receipt of any adverse decision, appeal may be made to the next higher authority.

**3:06:05 Protest or Appeal Administration**

1. Protests or Appeals are to be in writing and delivered to the District Commissioner within seven (7) calendar days (Sundays Holidays excluded) following the date of the disciplinary decision being protested or appealed.
2. The proper fee must accompany the written protest or appeal;
  - a. The protest or appeal fee (as of December 10, 2006) will be established at two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for items arising before the ASA Protest and Appeals Committee.
  - b. The protest or appeals fee will be returned if the protest or appeal is upheld. This fee will be retained if the protest or appeal is denied, unless a higher authority overrules the Protest and Appeals Committee.
3. The Protest and Appeals Committee of ASA will consider all pertinent information arising out of an appeal of a league or member organization disciplinary action.

4. The decision of the Protest and Appeals Committee of ASA will be conveyed, in writing, to the party initiating the appeal and a copy of the decision along with all pertinent information and findings will be filed with ASA and the involved league or member organization.

### **3:06:06 Appeal to the Board of ASA**

1. Any decision rendered by the Protest and Appeals Committee of ASA may be appealed to the full Board of Directors of ASA.
2. Such appeal must be postmarked or delivered within forty-eight (48) hours to the office of ASA after receipt of the decision of the Protest and Appeals Committee of ASA being appealed.
3. No additional fee will be required at this point.
4. ASA will set a date, with the concurrence of the President of ASA, for the hearing of the appeal to the Board of Directors of ASA. Such date will be within forty-five (45) days of the date of the decision rendered by the Protest and Appeals Committee of ASA.
5. At the hearing by the Board of Directors of ASA, the Chairman of the Protest and Appeals Committee of ASA, **or their designee**, will present the findings of the Committee to the Board of Directors of ASA. The parties involved will have the opportunity to present their case.
6. The decision of the Board of Directors of ASA will be conveyed, in writing, within seven (7) days of the decision.

**3:06:07 Litigation Prohibition** No State Association, District Commissioner, Official, League, Member Organization, Team, Referee, Player, Parent, or Representative thereof, may invoke the aid of the courts of any State of the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within the body of organized soccer (i.e. State Soccer Associations).

### **Article VII. – Kohl’s Cup Rules & Organization**

- . See the Rules for the “*Kohl’s Cup*” as approved by the Board.

### **Article VIII. – Governor’s Cup Rules & Organization**

- . See the Rules for these tournaments as approved by the Board of ASA on web site:  
[www.alabamayouthsoccer.org](http://www.alabamayouthsoccer.org)

### **Article IX. – Division II State Cup Rules and Organization**

- . See the Rules for this tournament as approved by the Board of ASA on web site:  
[www.alabamayouthsoccer.org](http://www.alabamayouthsoccer.org)

### **Article X. – Division I State Cup Rules and Organization**

- . See the Rules for this tournament as approved by the Board of ASA on web site:  
[www.alabamayouthsoccer.org](http://www.alabamayouthsoccer.org)

### **Article XI. – State League Operation Rules**

#### **3: 11:01 State League Committee (SLC)**

1. Prior to the start of each state-league season, the State League Committee (SLC) shall meet and using “Intent to Play” forms submitted by the teams assign each team to a division within its appropriate age-level.
2. The SLC shall assign teams based on information supplied by the coach or manager on the “Intent to Play” form. If the coach or manager does not provide the data, it is not the SLC’s obligation to seek out information. If no data is provided, a team could be placed in a lower rather than higher division.
3. The President of ASA shall appoint the Chairman of the State League Committee (SLC). Jointly the Chairman and the State Director of Coaching shall appoint the members of the SLC from a pool of Directors of Coaching, Club Coaches, State Select Staff and local and State Administrators.
4. Prior to the start of each state-league season, the State League Committee shall:
  - a. Advise each club registrar in writing of the division to which each team in that club has been assigned for the forth-coming state-league season. It is the club registrar’s duty to communicate the information about state-league assignment to each team in the club.

- b. A team, which disagrees with its state-league placement, may request, at no charge, that the State League Committee review its decision. The decision of the State League Committee **is then** final and non-appealable.
5. The State League Committee shall meet at such other times as appropriate for efficient and just league operations.

### **3:11:02 State League Division Structures**

1. **Division I.** Division I will provide a highly competitive league environment for players who desire to play at the highest levels within the state of Alabama regardless of match locals. The following age groups may be offered: U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17, U-18, & U-19. Prior to the start of each state-league season, the State League Committee shall meet and determine which age groups will be offered for that year. All teams will play home and away matches in a set schedule as determined by the State League Committee. Prior to the start of each state-league season the State League Committee shall determine the number of home and away matches for each age group offered. Participating teams will provide for and pay all field use fees (rental, maintenance fees and field preparation costs) for all “home” games. Teams are encouraged to participate in State Cup, Regionally and Nationally renowned tournaments and State level festivals.
2. **Division II.** Division II will provide a competitive league environment for players who desire to play at a high level within the state of Alabama and if number of teams permit, within the Northern or Southern part of the state. The following age groups may be offered: U-11, U-12, U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17, U-18, & U-19. Prior to the start of each state-league season, the SLC shall meet and determine which age groups will be offered for that year. All teams will play home and away matches in a set schedule as determined by the State League Committee. Prior to the start of each state-league season the State League Committee shall determine the number of home and away matches for each age group offered. Participating teams will provide for and pay all field use fees (rental, maintenance fees and field preparation costs) for all “home” games. Teams are encouraged to participate in DII State Cup.
3. **Division III.** Division III will provide a league environment for players who desire to play at a level higher than in-house recreation within their ODP District. The following age groups will be offered: U-10, U-11, U-12, U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17, U-18, & U-19. For this Division either the State League Committee or the Local League Administrative Organization will administer the league. Prior to the start of each league season, the State League Committee or the Local League Administrative Organization shall meet and determine which age groups will be offered for that year. All teams will play home and away matches in a set schedule as determined by the State League Committee or the Local League Administrative Organization. Prior to the start of each league season the State League Committee or the Local League Administrative Organization shall determine the number of home and away matches for each age group offered. Participating teams will provide for and pay all field use fees (rental, maintenance fees and field preparation costs) for all “home” games. Teams are encouraged to participate in Governors Cup.
4. **Division IV.** Division IV will provide a league environment for players who desire to play at the in-house recreation level. AYSA suggests that the following age groups are offered in accordance with USSF Policy Statements: U6, U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18, U19. However, the following age groups may be offered if there is a need to split up the groups into single age groups: U-7, U-9, U-11, U-13, U-15, & U-17. Local Clubs will administrate their In-house leagues. Teams are encouraged to participate in the any State sponsored tournament within their division bracket.

### **3:11:03 Definitions Of Terms**

**FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (FIFA)** - The world governing organization for soccer, headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland is the highest authority for administration of international playing rules, international competitions, and technical and educational development programs. FIFA is sub-administered through six continental associations; Africa, Asia, CONCACAF (North America, Central America and Caribbean), Europe, Oceania and South America.

**UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION (U S Soccer) (U S Soccer Federation) (USSF)** - The national governing organization for soccer in the United States, headquartered in Chicago, Ill. U S Soccer is affiliated with FIFA and is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee.

**UNITED STATES AMATEUR SOCCER ASSOCIATION (USASA)** - A National Association of the Federation and a member of the Adult Council, headquartered in North Bergen, NJ.

**ALABAMA STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION (ASSA)** – The organization that is the State Association Member of the Federation for the Adults in Alabama and is also a member of USASA.

**UNITED STATES YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION - (US Youth Soccer) (USYSA)** - A National Association of the Federation and a member of the Youth Council, headquartered in Richardson, TX.

**ALABAMA SOCCER ASSOCIATION (ASA)** – The state association for the Youth Soccer, Amateur Soccer, and the USSF Soccer Referees in Alabama.

**ALABAMA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (AYSA)** - A division of ASA which administers the Alabama youth soccer programs.

**UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (USOC)** – The national governing body for selecting and developing Olympic athletes and teams for Olympic competitions.

**YOUTH SOCCER** - All programs, events, competitions, clubs, associations, etc. for players who are under the age of 19 as of August 1 of the previous seasonal year.

**ADULT (SENIOR) SOCCER** - All programs, events, competitions, clubs, associations, etc. for players whose age exceeds the limits for youth soccer.

**AFFILIATION** - The process of associating as members of the successive associations administering soccer programs for U S Soccer, USASA, and/or USYSA. The Alabama affiliates of U S Soccer (ASSA and ASA) are responsible for governing all affiliated soccer programs in the state and for collecting and forwarding national registration fees for all players registered with the leagues/clubs/teams under their jurisdiction.

**AGE DIVISION** - U S Soccer’s method of organizing competition by grouping players by their birth date. The youngest age division in which a team may play is determined by the age of the oldest player on the team as of August 1 of the previous seasonal year.

**ASSOCIATION/CLUB** - The basic organization for the administration of youth soccer programs and for the registration and development of players and teams in Alabama.

**DISTRICT** - Geographical area established to administer league play.

**COACH OF RECORD** – must be head coach, assistant and/or manager designated on the team’s official state roster.

**FOUL AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE** - Verbal abuse or threats including racial or ethnic slurs whether or not directed to one or more individuals.

**LEAGUE** - A structured group formed to provide play between teams under a common set of administrative and competitive rules.

**LEAGUE, IN-HOUSE (Division IV)** - A league composed solely of developmental teams.

**LEAGUE, INTER-LEAGUE (Division III)** - A league formed each season as needed, composed of developmental teams from 2 or more clubs.

**LEAGUE, INTERIM (Intramural)** - A temporary state league composed of teams formed with AYSA registered players who are of high school age but are not playing on a high school soccer team.

**LEAGUE, STATE** - A league composed of advanced teams participating at higher levels of competition. The league is divided into divisions known as Division I, Division II.

**MINI SOCCER** - A game where each team is limited to 3 or 4 players on the field of play.

**NATIONAL COACHING PROGRAM** - A program developed and administered by USSF/USASA/USYSA for training coaches at all levels of soccer in the United States. The program also provides national licensing and registration of advanced coaches as well as guidelines for training and licensing of entry-level coaches.

**PARTICIPANT** - Any player, coach, manager, or any other person associated with a team.

**RECRUITING** - The process of attracting players to join a team.

**RECRUITING, IMPROPER (Poaching)** - Any attempt to attract players to join a team using any method, which violates AYSA recruitment rules.

**ROSTER FREEZE DATE** - date as defined by ASA Board each season after which no player changes may be made to any team roster regardless of division.

**SANCTION** - The authorization extended by USSF or one of its affiliates to conduct an official competition and/or travel out of state and/or out of country.

**SEASON, LEAGUE** - The period of time designated for scheduled competitions of a league.

**SEASONAL YEAR** - Established by U S Soccer, it extends from September 1 of a given calendar year through August 31 of the following calendar year.

**SMALL SIDED GAME** - A game where each team is limited to fewer than 11 players.

**STATE SELECT or ODP** - A program developed and administered by U S Soccer and its affiliates to identify and develop players for participation on state, regional and national teams.

**SPECTATOR** - Any person present at a youth soccer event who is not a participant or official. Spectators are

subject to all AYSA Rules and Procedures applicable to participants.

**TEAM, ADVANCED** - A team composed of players selected by a tryout process. Its members may or may not be from a defined geographic area. The team plays in state league.

**TEAM, COED** - A team composed of male and female players.

**TEAM, DEVELOPMENTAL** - A team composed of players not selected by a tryout process. Generally formed within defined geographical (neighborhood) areas. Emphasis is on participation by all players and on mini soccer or other small-sided games for younger players. Except for special circumstances, such as disciplinary matters or illness, each member of a team plays at least 50% of each game.

**TEAM, INTERIM (Intramural team)** - A temporary team composed of AYSA registered players who are of high school age but are not playing on a high school team. Player participation on an interim team during the High School Season does not constitute a violation of USYSA/AYSA transfer rules, nor does it count against the add/drop/transfer record of the player's primary team.

### **3:11:04 General Provisions**

1. **CLUB RULES:** Clubs may adopt rules and procedures that differ from these rules for purposes of in-house team play unless specifically prohibited by the AYSA or USYSA rules, procedures and bylaws.
2. **COED TEAM:** A coed team shall be considered a male team for placement in any league or other sanctioned competition.

### **3:11:05 Age Limits**

1. **TEAM AGE GROUPS:** All leagues and all sanctioned competitions, unless otherwise approved in advance by AYSA, shall divide play among their teams by the Age Groups in Article 3:03:02-2 in the Rules & Regulations.
2. **PLAYING UP TWO YEARS:** A player whose birthday falls within the dates outlined in the chart may play up two years when approved by the Club.
3. **PLAYING UP MORE THAN TWO YEARS:** A player whose birthday falls within the dates outlined in the chart may play up more than two years when approved by the AYSA State Director of Coaching "and execution of ASA Release and Hold Harmless Agreement." Refer to 3:12:15 Club Pass System for exception to this rule.)
4. **PLAYING DOWN:** A player whose birthday falls within the dates outlined in the chart may not play down one or more years unless approved by AYSA. Only players with handicapping conditions may "play down." In such cases the player will play at the most appropriate physical/social level, with the approval of the State Director of Coaching.
5. **PROOF OF AGE:** Players must verify their date of birth as called for in Article 3:11:11 of the Rules & Regulations.

### **3:11:06 Tryouts for Division I and Division II (Approved 3/28/04)**

1. Tryouts for ASA affiliated member teams may be conducted anytime during the ASA designated tryout period. Tryouts being conducted prior to the start of the tryout window are an illegal recruitment violation for each team conducting an early tryout.
2. Players must complete a letter of commitment and/or player registration form to indicate their decision to play for a specific team.
3. The period of player commitment is defined as the time from the date the registration is correctly executed to the day prior to the start of the tryout period for the next seasonal year.
4. Open recruitment can occur during the tryout period.
5. Letters of commitment and player registration cannot be executed prior to the tryout period.
6. New team formations comprised of players not previously registered and rostered to another team can occur at any time during the seasonal year.
7. Tryout Advertise: General tryout advertisement may occur beginning February 1<sup>st</sup> for the upcoming tryout period. Tryout advertisement may contain:
  - a. Team and or Club Name, age group(s) and association affiliation
  - b. Geographical area served
  - c. Dates, times, and location
  - d. Coach or contact person's name and phone numbers
  - e. What to bring (i.e. water, ball, shin guards, etc)
  - f. Club/Team fact sheet/information
  - g. Coaches' resumes/bios
8. Distribution of tryout advertisement:

- a. Advertisement is defined as but not limited to, any notification of tryouts on television, radio, and periodical, newspaper articles, notices posted in public places, flyers, mass mailers, or circulars.
- b. Flyer/mailers can be sent to individual players, but can only have a specific name on the outside of the envelope. All information in the envelope must conform to the above rules, and may not be addressed to any specific player. Beyond the address envelope, there may be no personalized information for the receiving player.

### **3:11:07 Registration Requirements**

#### **1. DIVISION I & II**

- a. **PLAYER:** Each player to be registered with AYSA for State League competition shall be entered into the registration database by his or her club. Each player shall have a current USYSA pass with current photograph attached thereto, approved by the State Registrar and laminated.
- b. **COACH:** Each coach, assistant coach, manager and Director of Coaching participating in State League competition shall be registered with AYSA in the registration database and shall have a current USYSA pass with current photograph affixed thereto, approved by the State Registrar and laminated. No team may participate in a scheduled match without a coach of record. The coach of record must be named on the roster and have the appropriate Coach's pass. Rosters may name a Head Coach, Assistant Coach, and Manager. If neither is able to attend the match, the club's Director of Coaching may substitute in their role. The Director of Coaching must have the required Coaching pass.
- c. **TEAM:** Each club will submit to AYSA a Team Roster for each team playing in State League competition, which shall consist of no fewer than 11 or more than 18 players **for U16 and below. U17 and above teams may roster no fewer than 11 players and no more than 22 players.** A coed team will be considered a male team for placement in any league or other sanctioned competition. The State Registrar must approve this roster for the appropriate seasonal year by the deadline dates established by AYSA. No team may play in an older division without the approval of the SLC. Use the "Request to Play Up" form, available from the state office, to apply for permission for a team to play up.

#### **2. DIVISION III**

- a. **PLAYER:** Each player to be registered with AYSA for Division III competition shall be entered into the registration database by his or her club. Each player shall have a current USYSA pass with current photograph attached thereto, approved by the State Registrar **and laminated.**
- b. **COACH:** Each coach and assistant coach participating in Division III competition shall be registered with AYSA in the registration database and shall have a current USYSA pass with current photograph affixed thereto, approved by the State Registrar, **and laminated.**
- c. **TEAM REGISTRATION:** Each team must have a club registrar approved roster. This roster must be presented to the referee at each Division III competition. If the team does not bring its roster to its game, the referee may refuse to let the team participate in the match.
- d. **REFEREES:** USSF certified referees should be assigned to Division III matches. In addition, each team shall provide a club linesman who is knowledgeable regarding the Laws of the Game and any AYSA modifications thereto, especially pertaining to linesman duties.
- e. **TEAM FORMATIONS:** Each club shall monitor its own Division III team formation process and report its team formation process to the SLC annually in writing, when fall registration is submitted. The formation of all-star inter-league and intermediate teams is prohibited.
- f. **BEGINNING AGE GROUPS:** Division III play starts at the **U09** age group.
- g. **PARTICIPATION:** A recreational team cannot participate in an AYSA sponsored tournament if the team is not registered by the appropriate dates in the fall and spring as set by AYSA.
- h. **ROSTER FREEZES:** Clubs are responsible for keeping the roster changes of their developmental teams, so that the tournament roster is current at the time the roster is frozen for tournament play.

#### **3. DIVISION IV**

- a. **PLAYER:** Each player is to be registered with AYSA and entered into the registration database by his or her club.
- b. **COACH:** Each coach participating in Division IV shall be registered with AYSA and entered into the registration database.

### **3:11:08 GAME REQUIREMENTS**

#### **1. DIVISION I AND II**

- a. **The current State League Guidelines will supercede these rules in the case of any conflicts between the two documents.**
  - b. A set schedule of matches for Division I and II teams will be administered by the SLC. Games across age rackets will be scheduled at the discretion of the SLC.
  - c. **TERMINATED GAMES:** If a game is terminated because of weather or other environmental considerations, AYSA shall judge it a completed game if 10 minutes of the second half elapsed before the game was terminated. If the match was of lesser duration, then it shall be replayed.
  - d. **MAKE-UP GAMES:** For Division I and II all weather related make-up games must be played (and reported to AYSA) before the end of the regular season (unless the game needing to be played falls on the final playing date and then it must be played within 7 days of the end of the season.) In Division III all make-up games must be played within four weekends of the last regularly scheduled game of the league season. If one or more games remain incomplete for weekends after the date of the last regularly scheduled game, then only the games completed shall be used to determine the team's standings. Arrangements for make-up games should be settled within two weeks of the cancellation.
  - e. **RESCHEDULING GAMES:** Rescheduling of set games must be identified 14 days before the original announced date. The SLC must be notified and approve all changes in advance. The home team shall contact the opposing team within 10 days of the date of the cancelled game and shall offer 3 reasonable make-up dates and times. The visiting team shall have 48 hours from the contact to either accept one of the three dates or offer 3 alternative dates and times to the home team. If no agreement is then reached within 24 hours, both teams shall submit their positions in writing to the SLC, who shall decide the disposition of the game. For Division III, scheduling make-up games is the responsibility of the opposing coaches. If after three good faith efforts to reschedule the match, the opposing coach refuses to cooperate with attempts to make up the game, then the coach trying in good faith to play the game shall be awarded the victory by forfeit. Prior to each season, a rescheduling fee will be set by the SLC and is due by the team(s) requesting the change 2 business days preceding the rescheduled match.
  - f. **FINES & FORFEITURES:** Teams found not honoring the set league schedule and/or make-up game will be fined their performance bond for the first offense. Re-entry into the league will require replacement of the entire performance bond. A second infraction may result in another fine and an automatic denial for entry into the State Championship tournament.
  - g. **COACH MUST BE PRESENT:** No team may participate in a scheduled match without a coach of record. The Coach of Record must be named on the teams roster and have the appropriate coaches pass. Rosters may name a Head Coach and an Assistant. If neither is able to attend the match the club's Director of Coaching may substitute in their role. The Director of Coaching must have the required coaching pass.
  - h. **REFEREES AUTHORITY:** The Referee's judgment with regard to the physical condition of the field and its acceptance for play, to the actual happenings and occurrences related to the conduct of the game, and those prerogatives granted to him/her by the "Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA will not be challenged. See Article 3:04:11.
  - i. **EJECTION PROCEDURE:** See Article 3:04:12.
2. **DIVISION III (See Local League Rules)**

### **3:11:09 Adding, Dropping, Releasing and Transferring State League Players**

1. **NO DOUBLE ROSTERING:** A player may play for only 1 team in any competition sponsored by AYSA. A Division I or II player may be double rostered on **an Intra-club** DIII team. There shall be no doubling rostering of players within Division I & II.
2. **NATIONAL RULES PREFERENCE:** Rules governing rosters and players for competitions leading to the U S Youth Soccer National Championships supersede Alabama rules outlined in this section.
3. **PLAYER BOUND TO A TEAM:** See Article 3:02:05.
4. **MOVING PLAYERS, TEAM-TO-TEAM:** From week to week, a club may not move players between its teams except as noted in #9 below.
5. **ADDING PLAYERS:** A club may add an unlimited number of currently unregistered players to its rosters up to a limit **as defined in Article 3:04:05 in any given season.**
6. **DROPPING PLAYERS:**
  - a. Dropping a player against his or her will from a team is prohibited unless the coaches' show cause and the ASA Board of Directors approve the action.
  - b. A player remains on the roster until the ASA Board of Directors or the State League Committee approves the action, dropping them from the roster, in writing.

- c. A player may drop from the team with whom they have appropriately executed a letter of commitment/registration anytime during the seasonal year.
- 7. **PLAYER RELEASE:** All requests for release of a player from a team shall be submitted to AYSA in writing, on the appropriate form, and shall contain the following:
  - a. Signature of the player.
  - b. Signature of a parent or guardian of the player if the player is under 18 years of age.
  - c. Signature of the releasing coach or **team manager, the Director of Coaching, and the club registrar** or a letter of authorization from the Board of Directors of the releasing club.
  - d. A player remains on the roster until the State Registrar, releasing them from the roster, in writing.
- 8. **FAILURE TO RELEASE:** In the event the releasing coach, the club coach or the Board of Directors of the releasing club fails to sign the appropriate form, the coach's/club's failure to sign may be protested to ASA's Protest and Appeals Committee. The following, while not exclusive, are valid reasons for not releasing a player during the seasonal year:
  - a. When the player individually or as part of a group of players requesting release would leave the releasing team with an insufficient number of healthy players to field an 11-player team.
  - b. When the player was illegally recruited as determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
  - c. When the player is indebted to the releasing team and/or club (money, uniforms, other tangible goods)
  - d. Any failure of the releasing coach, the club coach, or the Board of Directors of the releasing club to sign the appropriate form, which failure the Protest & Appeals Committee determines to be lacking in good faith or substantial justification, shall be grounds for disciplinary action against the releasing coach, the club coach, and/or the club Board of Directors.
- 9. **INTER-CLUB TRANSFERS:** **An Inter-Club** transfer of a player shall be defined as adding a currently USYSA registered player **who is rostered to a club**, or as returning a currently dropped player **from a club to a roster of another club. US Youth Soccer National Championship series policies has a 5 player transfer limit for teams taking part in State, Regional and National Championship competition.**
  - a. A player **may not** transfer **between clubs** from the date they sign a written commitment form and December 15 of the same seasonal year unless one of the following applies:
    - (i) The player's family moves to another geographical area more than 50 miles from his/her original residence.
    - (ii) The team on which the player is currently rostered disbands.
  - b. A player **may not** transfer **between clubs from** January 15 **through** June 1 of the same seasonal year unless one of the following applies:
    - (i) The team on which the player is currently rostered disbands.
    - (ii) The player's family moves to another geographical area more than 50 miles from his/her original residence.
  - c. A player **may** transfer **between clubs** during the period December 15 of one year through January 15 of the succeeding year assuming the player is free of all financial obligations to the team/club the player is leaving and one of the following applies:
    - (i) The player's family moves to another geographical area more than 50 miles from his/her original residence.
    - (ii) The team on which the player is currently rostered disbands.
    - (iii) The player is getting limited playing time. The parent/player making the request will be required to attend a hearing of the ASA Board if there is an objection from the releasing coach.
    - (iv) The Coach or Director of Coaching of the old (releasing team) signs/approves the release of the player.
  - d. The player may appeal to an appointed ASA Committee /or ASA Board requesting a transfer due to extenuating circumstances, if the above criteria do not apply. An additional **\$250 fee (as of Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 2006)** must accompany each appeal request for transfer.
  - e. The December 15<sup>th</sup> to January 15<sup>th</sup> window is **not an open recruitment period** and the recruitment policies are still in place.
    - (i) Players must initiate any contact between a player and new team during this window. Once this has been established, communication between the coach/team/club and the player is NOT illegal recruitment. Contact during this period in the form of training/playing must adhere to point (ii).
    - (ii) A player must execute a transfer or receive the coach's/director of coaching's approval for any participation with another team during this window.
  - f. **All policies for state cup, regional, and national play must be adhered to and have authority over these policies. These include, but not limited to: roster freeze dates and player transfer limits for teams.**

10. **INTRA-CLUB TRANSFERS: An Intra-Club transfer shall be defined as adding a currently USYSA registered player from one team to another team or returning a currently dropped player to a roster within the same club. US Youth Soccer National Championship series policies has a 5 player transfer limit for teams taking part in State, Regional and National Championship competition**
  - a. **Intra-club transfers are allowed at any time during the seasonal year.**
  - b. **All policies for state cup, regional, and national play must be adhered to and have authority over these policies. These include, but not limited to: roster freeze dates and player transfer limits for teams**
11. **PLAYER MOVEMENTS THAT ARE NOT TRANSFERS: A USYSA registered player moving from an in-house developmental program to a state league team after the approval of the roster of the state league team shall not be considered to be a transfer.**
12. **TRANSFER FEE: A state transfer request, properly filled out, must accompany the transfer request.**
  - a. **Inter-club transfer fee is \$50.00 for each Division I and II player moved or transferred.**
  - b. **Intra-club transfer fee is \$25.00 for each Division I and II player moved or transferred.**

**3:11:10 GUEST PLAYING (approved 3/38/04)**

1. The following process is mandatory in order to have a player currently rostered to another team participate in *any capacity* with another team. Participation includes tournaments, scrimmages, league play, practices, trips, camps, or any other activity that the team is a participant.
  - a. The head coach desiring the participation of a player must direct a request in writing, phone call, or e-mail to the head coach of the team that the player is currently rostered, or to the director of coaching of the players club. This applies to guest players from outside the team's club/association.
  - b. The individual contacted must grant approval for such participation prior to the player partaking in any event or activity.
  - c. If the player's current coach or director of coaching does not grant approval for the player to participate in the event or activity, then that player is not permitted to participate.
2. Non-compliance with the guest playing provision be a coach concerning players outside of their club/association shall be deemed both unethical and a *violation of the recruitment policy*.
3. A player that participates in any event or activity as a guest player without the permission of their current coach or director of coaching shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions outlined in this policy as a guideline.

**3:11:11 CLUB PASS SYSTEM (Revision approved 1/15/05)**

1. **Purpose:** To all clubs and teams greater flexibility in their ability to develop players. This is an established mode for youth development for the majority of the world. This will allow for:
  - a. Top-level players to be challenged in older, more competitive environments.
  - b. Mobility of players from B to A teams and vice versa which will assist in the development of the entire player when teams are missing players for various reasons they can pull players from other teams in their club to allow for appropriate numbers for a match. This should help smaller clubs that are low are player numbers.
    - Club Pass System will allow for players to compete as registered and rostered players in given competitions outside of the team the player is rostered on but within the club the player is registered to.
2. **The Club Pass system is available to Division I, Division II and Division III. It is the responsibility of the local Division III league as to whether or not they implement this system for Division III. The Division III Leagues can determine the use of game day rosters as long as they follow the Club Pass Guidelines as stated in this section, 3:11:11.**
3. **Registration/ Rostering of teams and players**
  - a. Teams and players will roster and register their teams in the same manner as before. This will be there standard and permanent roster. This will also be the roster that will be used for State Cup competitions. Changes to this roster will be subject to the same rules as in previous years and subject to all State and National cup rules. This includes transfers and transfers limits of 5. Only 1 player card will be issued to each player. Exception is for rostered secondary players that will be issued 2 player passes.
4. **Movement of players using the club pass system**
  - a. Division 1 and 2 teams may receive players implementing the club pass system. They may receive players from Division 1,2, or 3 teams from within their club.
  - b. Division 3 teams, **if their league implements this system** may receive players for any matches using this system.

- c. It is highly recommended that coaches communicate about the temporary movement of players and that it is coordinated through club directors. This will be deemed an internal club issue and not a state issue. This movement is also not a violation of the illegal recruitment rules as it is within a club.
  - d. **State Cup Competition:** The state cup competitions will not implement any aspect of the club pass system.
5. **Activities and logistics for the Club Pass System –**
- a. Division III teams should refer to their local Division III league rules for implementation of this system. The local league rules may be more stringent than the state league rules but may not be less stringent.
  - b. **STATE LEAGUE GAMES:** Division I & II teams should provide the following at all State League matches:
    - (i) Provide a game day roster (**maximum number of players as defined in Article 3:04:05**) of all players the team is using for the game
    - (ii) Show players current player pass for all the players the team is using for the game.
    - (iii) All players and their player passes must be from the same club.
    - (iv) It is the responsibility of the Division I teams to ensure they meet all National Rules on “team eligibility” such as but not limited to the following rules:
      - The team must compete in at least a 4-team approved league during the current seasonal year in its state association or, with its state association’s permission in another states association. The league must consist of a minimum of 1 game against each of 3 different teams participating in the league
      - The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and National Championships competitions by maintaining a minimum of 11 players common to the rosters of both competitions.
  - c. **FRIENDLIES & SCRIMAGES:** For these games the teams should show the following:
    - (i) Show players current player pass for all players the team is using in the game
    - (ii) All players and their player passes must be from the same club.
  - d. **TOURNAMENT PLAY:** The club pass system would be allowed for rostering a temporary team for entry in a tournament. The club would be responsible for:
    - (i) Providing a “tournament roster” of the team entering the tournament.
    - (ii) Provide a “tournament roster” to the state office 3 weeks prior to the tournament. There will be an expedite fee for not meeting the 3 week deadline.
    - (iii) AYSA will verify player eligibility and sanction roster for the tournament. On the roster will be a statement notifying all parties that all player with player cards from within a club are eligible to participate on any team within the club meeting age requirements.
    - (iv) Players may only play for one team for the duration of the tournament. This is a requirement of sanctioned tournaments as well.
  - e. **PLAYING TIME LIMITS** for players using the club pass system and competing on multiple teams:
    - (i) For State league competitions, there will be playing time limits for a player. The overuse of a player is detrimental and is against the rationale behind the club pass system. The playing time limits will be defined as playing on a given day.
      - Restrictions: A player may only play 3 halves of soccer between the two teams. If a player’s primary team is scheduled for two games on a given day then a player may play 4 halves of soccer. (the same amount of soccer all players would be allowed in this scenario).
    - (ii) Teams and coaches violating the above restrictions would be subject to a disciplinary hearing and would risk losing their ability to receive players using the club pass system.
  - f. **PLAYER RED CARD EJECTION**
    - (i) If a Division III player receives a red card playing with his primary Division III team receives a red card ejection he/she must sit out their next Division III match.
    - (ii) If a Division III player receives a red card ejection while playing with a Division I or II team they will sit out 1 game with the guest team (Division I and II) and 1 game with their primary Division III game.

**3:11:12 Recruitment of Players for Division I, II, and III Teams (Approved 3/28/04)**

1. Recruitment of registered competitive players is only permitted during the designed tryout period as defined by ASA.
2. **ILLEGAL RECRUITING**
  - a. Recruitment of a player that has appropriately executed a letter of commitment or has registered with a competitive team is illegal.
  - b. Recruiting or attempting to recruit any player or player’s parents or guardians with offers of material goods, gifts, free trips, scholarships or similar benefits are illegal recruiting. Nothing herein shall prohibit teams or

- clubs from helping players with fees and equipment when documented financial need exists. Each club shall report at the time of registration with ASA, the number of players on full and partial scholarships.
- c. Illegal recruiting is defined as *any intentional act whereby an individual contacts a player, outside of their competitive club, that has appropriately executed a letter of commitment or registered with another competitive team and invites that player to join his or her team without the current team's coach's/Director of Coaching's permission.* Illegal recruitment may include: personal contact, initiating of phone calls, invitations to training/games/team activities, and actual participation in training/games/team activities.
  - d. Any direct contact or intentional communication by an individual to entice a player to leave a team with whom the player has appropriately executed a letter of commitment/registration is also deemed unethical and a violation of the recruitment policy.
3. **CAMP/CLINIC EXCEPTION POLICY**
- a. It is recognized that a number of coaches administer soccer camps and clinics outside of their club commitments. These camps and clinics will be allowed and excluded from illegal recruitment violations if the camps and clinic programs meet the following criteria:
    - (i) Publicized to the general public via mass marketing means.
    - (ii) Individual players are not specifically targeted. Only addresses and address labels can have individualized information. All information must not be specific to an individual player.
    - (iii) No contact/ enticement / information concerning any club/ transferring / recruitment are allowed during the camp/ clinic. *Follow point #4 below.*
    - (iv) Staff cannot wear club attire during the camp/ clinic. Club information cannot be disseminated during the camp/ clinic.
4. **PERSONAL INSTRUCTION / INDIVIDUAL SOCCER LESSONS.**
- a. It is recognized coaches may also personally instruct players from outside clubs. Personal instruction/ individual soccer lessons will be allowed and excluded from illegal recruitment violations if the coach/ instructions meet the following criteria:
    - (i) If marketing, publicized to the general public via mass marketing means.
    - (ii) Individual players are not specifically targeted. All information must not be specific to an individual player.
    - (iii) Players/ parents must make the initial contact to the personal instructor concerning the personal instruction/ individual soccer lessons.
    - (iv) No contact/ enticement / information concerning any club/ transferring / recruitment are allowed during the personal instruction.
    - (v) Personal instructor cannot wear club attire during the camp/ clinic. Club information cannot be disseminated during the personal instruction.
5. The recruitment policies apply to coaches, managers, board members, and any officers of the club. These policies are to be enforced concerning matters of recruitment of players from outside of their club/ association. Issues of recruitment of players within an organization are to be handled internally by their board, director of coaching, president, etc.
6. **FILING OF GRIEVANCES** should be sent to the ASA state office and reviewed by the discipline committee. A \$250 bond must be sent to ASA to hear a grievance. The bond will be returned if the grievance is upheld. Members of the committee have the right to reclude themselves from a grievance.
7. **MINIMUM DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS/SANCTIONS FOR ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT:**
- a. **1st Offense** – A minimum three (3) months ASA suspension; club to be fined \$100.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the hearing including copying charges, postage, etc.
  - b. **2nd Offense** – A Minimum nine (9) months ASA suspension; club to be fined \$500.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the hearing including copying charges, postage, etc.
  - c. **3rd Offense** – A minimum twelve (12) months ASA suspension; club to be fined \$1,000.00 plus any costs associated with the holding of the hearing including copying charges, postage, etc.

### **3:11:13 Misconduct Procedures**

1. **WHO IS COVERED:** All participants and spectators in AYSA activities shall be subject to all misconduct rules contained herein, regardless of whether they have passes and regardless of whether the referee displayed a yellow or red card. The proper authority may investigate misconduct, which is not noted in a referee's any individual reports game report but which in writing to the AYSA State office.
2. **INELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT:** A participant whose pass has been retained or who has been notified of suspension shall be ineligible to participate in any AYSA sanctioned game until the pass is returned to the team

- representative or the suspension satisfied. Said individual is suspended from all events including USSF Sanctioned tournaments and ODP events.
3. **FORFEIT BECAUSE OF AN INELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT:** Any individual who participates in a game while ineligible shall be subject to further disciplinary action. Any team, which permits an ineligible player, an overage player, or a non-rostered player to participate in a game, shall forfeit all games in which that player participated and the team representative and or club shall be subject to further disciplinary action.
  4. **TEAM CONTROL OF PARTICIPANTS:** If an individual engages in prolonged harassment of officials, or abusive disagreement or interference with officials, the team representative may be asked to control the individual. If the team representative has no control over the individual or situation, the team representative shall not be penalized. Instead, the referee shall take other appropriate action.
  5. **REFEREE SUSPENSION OF MATCH:** The referee may suspend play when necessary due to spectator or participant interference until the individual(s) creating the disturbance leaves the playing area to a minimum of 100 yards from the field. Said individual(s) shall remain silent for the duration of the game and take no further part in the game. Failure of (an) individual(s) to comply with the referee's request within 2 minutes may result in the referee's terminating the game. Such incident may result in forfeiture of the game as well as further disciplinary action.
  6. **TEAM REFUSAL TO PLAY:** Any team representative whose team refuses to take the field without cause, refuses to travel to an assigned game site without cause or quits a game prior to its completion shall be reported in writing by the referee. The team representative and the team shall be subject to a disciplinary hearing.
  7. **REFUSAL TO GIVE REFEREE NAMES:** Any participant or spectator who refuses to give his or her correct name to the referee while being cautioned sent off or otherwise disciplined shall be subject to additional disciplinary action.

### **3:11:14 Disciplinary Procedures and Penalties**

1. **DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE:** The Youth Disciplinary Committee shall consist of AYSA vice president of youth, district commissioners and any other members of the Board and/or SLC members as appointed from time to time by the AYSA VP of youth.
2. **REPORTS IN WRITING:** Any violation of Bylaws or Rules and Procedures of AYSA shall be reported in writing to AYSA within 14 days of the incident.
3. **AUTHORITY:** The DC of the SLC shall have the discretionary power to establish the penalties applied to participants and spectators. The DC is authorized to set specific periods and conditions of probation and to establish penalties for probation violations.
4. **HEARING PROCEDURES:** A participant or spectator charged with misconduct shall have the right to:
  - a. Notice of the specific charges or alleged violations in writing and possible consequences if the charges are found to be true
  - b. Have a hearing on the charges within a reasonable time from the receipt by AYSA of a written report of alleged misconduct.
  - c. Receive advance notice of the charges and of the date, time, and place of the hearing.
  - d. Attend the hearing in person.
  - e. The right to be assisted in the presentation of one's case at the hearing.
  - f. The right to call witnesses and present oral and written evidence and argument.
  - g. The right to confront witnesses, including the right to be provided the identity of witnesses in advance of the hearing.
  - h. The right to have a written copy of the taped record made of the hearing if desired. The written copy will be prepared at the expense of the party requesting the written copy and thereafter, any other party may also receive a copy at a cost to be determined by the DC of the SLC.
  - i. Receive written notification of the committee's findings, conclusions, actions, and his or her appeal rights and also of the procedure for filing an appeal and of the time within which an appeal may be filed.
  - j. Appeal any decisions to the ASA Protest and Appeals Committee, and beyond, in accordance with ASA and USYSA Rules and Procedures.
  - k. After both sides have presented all testimony, the DC of the SLC shall retire to executive session to deliberate and decide. The decision shall represent the considered judgment of the majority of the voting DC members who heard the evidence presented at the hearing.
5. **CARRYOVER OF EJECTIONS:** All Red Card Ejections and Suspensions, from any match, carry over to the next regularly scheduled match. The match must have been scheduled before the Red Card was issued. You cannot schedule a match to "wipe out" a Red Card Suspension after-the-fact. Ejections issued during league

- play carry over into state championships and visa versa.
6. **DIVISION I EJECTIONS:** In Div. I League matches only, all suspensions must be served in Div. I League matches and State Cup.
  7. **START SUSPENSIONS:** Any suspension stated in these rules shall commence with the next sanctioned game in which the suspended individual would otherwise be eligible to participate. In any game, whether in state or out-of-state that a participant is "sitting out", it is the responsibility of the coach or team representative to inform the referee of the name of the individual not participating. It is also the responsibility of the coach or team representative to provide written evidence for the "sitting out" which satisfies AYSA as to its authenticity. It is not the ultimate responsibility of the referee to report a player's or coach's "sit out". Any participant other than a player who wishes credit for sitting out must be more than 100 yards from the field of play.
  8. **APPEALED SUSPENSION:** In the event of an unsuccessful appeal of participant's suspension, the full penalty shall begin with the next sanctioned game in which the participant would otherwise be eligible to participate. The duration of the suspension shall not be diminished by the passage of time consumed by the failed appeal.
  9. **MISCONDUCT OUTSIDE OF ALABAMA:** PARTICIPANTS whose misconduct outside of Alabama is reported to AYSA shall be subject to AYSA discipline as though the offense had occurred in Alabama. The written or verbal report must be received by AYSA within 90 days of the date of the misconduct, in order for the participant to be subject to AYSA discipline.
  10. **RED CARD SUSPENSIONS:** When sent off the field of play and shown the red card for infringement of the "Laws of the Game", players and substitutes shall be disciplined by further games suspensions as follows:
    - a. **Serious foul play:**
      - (i) Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: intentionally impeding an opponent denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity or denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by handling the ball. **ALL AGE GROUPS-Suspend for minimum of one (1) game.**
      - (ii) Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: tripping, holding, unlawfully charging or pushing an opponent denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity. When a player, in a violent or dangerous manner intentionally trips, holds, pushes, charges, or tackles an opponent from behind the penalty shall be: **ALL AGE GROUPS –Suspend for a minimum of two (2) games.**
    - b. **Foul and Abusive language**
      - (i) Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: uttered in frustration and in the referee's opinion, loud enough to be heard. **ALL AGE GROUPS –Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.**
      - (ii) Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: words or actions directed towards any person. **ALL AGE GROUPS –Suspend for a minimum of two (2) games.**
    - c. **Second cautionable offense** after having received a caution in the same match. **ALL AGE GROUPS – Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.**
    - d. **Violent Conduct**
      - (i) Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: spitting or other unseemly act on or at another person, striking or attempting to strike another player, team official or spectator, or unlawfully entering the field of play during an altercation. These acts may occur before, during, or immediately after a match. **ALL AGE GROUPS – Suspend for a minimum of three (3) games.**
      - (ii) Actions toward a referee, linesperson, fourth official or other "Official". (See definition of "Referee" and "Official" below)
        - Any act of physical violence or personal attack upon referees, linesmen, forth officials, coaches, or club, league, or organization "officials";
        - Any act of physical violence or personal attack upon a referee or official, his equipment, or property (including his vehicle) and the threat of assault by raising a clenched fist or hand holding any object that could be used as a weapon or by verbally threatening a referee, or any member of his family;
        - Physical Violence and Personal Attack - Will include, but not be limited to, such things as hitting, kicking, pushing, slapping, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing a referee's personal equipment such as red or yellow cards, notebook, or whistle, or knocking any such items out of his/her hand; and the act of throwing any object at a referee, such as rocks, dirt, a stick, pipe, can, shoe, or throwing or spewing any beverage at or on a referee, or in his/her vehicle;
        - Verbal Threat - Remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm and therefore cannot be ignored or overlooked by any official concerned with his/her own or his/her family's personal safety.

**ALL AGE GROUPS - Suspend for a minimum of one (1) year, unless serious injuries are inflicted then the minimum suspension period will be at least five (5) years.**

**e. Miscellaneous**

- (i) Any player, substitute or coach who refuses the referee's request for their name, or gives a false name, while the referee is gathering data to report an infringement of the "Laws of the Game", involving them, shall have a minimum of one game added to the suspension that would normally be levied by the Disciplinary Committee.
  - (ii) Actions listed above are to be regarded as minimum suspensions. The DC of the SLC may increase the penalties imposed.
  - (iii) In specific situations the Disciplinary Committee may place an individual on probation in addition to the suspension. The probationary period is to be served immediately following the suspension period and is intended to monitor an individual's degree of reformation. Should an individual on probation be sent off the field of play and shown the red card during the probationary period the matter shall be referred to the DC committee for evaluation.
11. **INCREASE OF PENALTIES:** Reports of a participant's violent conduct or serious foul play shall be reviewed by the ASA Executive Director or Chair of the SLC, who may recommend that the incident be the subject of a Disciplinary hearing by the DC.
  12. **REFEREE & OFFICIALS DEFINITIONS:** "Referee" shall refer only to referees, linesmen, fourth officials, and others duly appointed to assist in officiating a match. "Officials" shall refer to all officers, employees or appointees of AYSA/USYSA/USSF or affiliated organizations as well as all volunteers working in an official capacity within these organizations and all visiting dignitaries at a sanctioned event.
  13. **REFEREE ABUSE & ASSAULT:** All allegations of Abuse or Assault upon a "Referee" shall be immediately referred to the Disciplinary Committee of ASA.
  14. **OFFICIALS ABUSE & ASSAULT:** The terms "abuse" and "assault" as applied to "Officials" shall include but not be limited to any of the following:
    - a. Abuse – verbal abuse or threat; obscene gestures; threatening attitude directed at an official or his or her property, or similar offensive action.
    - b. Assault –the act (or attempt) of striking, kicking, tripping, holding, restraining or otherwise physically accosting; the act of taking or attempting to take any item from an official such as a red or yellow card, pass or flag; directing any object at an official whether harmful, e.g., a rock; or harmless, e.g., water, or similar offensive action.
    - c. **PENALTY FOR ABUSE OR ASSAULT OF AN "OFFICIAL":** The minimum suspension period for abuse or assault of an "Official" shall be at least three (3) scheduled matches. The DC may provide a longer period of suspension when circumstances warrant.
  15. **FOUR (4) SUSPENSIONS IN ONE YEAR:** Any participant who is suspended for a total of four (4) games during any 365 day period shall be automatically suspended for an additional four (4) games and shall automatically be placed on probation for a period of six (6) months. This rule does not apply as a result of a disciplinary hearing.
  16. **MISCONDUCT DURING PROBATION:** During a participant's probation period the accumulation of three stand-alone cautions or one send off shall require the participant to appear before the DC.

**Article XII. - Districts**

**3:10:01 Districts**

- a. The Board of Governors of AYSA or the Executive Committee may create and/or modify geographical subdivisions within the territory. These sub-divisions will be known as "Districts". Each District may be further sub-divided into two or more Sub-Districts.

**3:10:02 Current Districts** There are currently five (5) Districts in The Association comprised of the following counties:

1. **North District** Blount, Cherokee, Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, Winston
2. **North Central District** Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Fayette, Jefferson, Lamar, Pickens, Randolph, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega, Tuscaloosa, Walker
3. **South Central District** Autauga, Bibb, Bullock, Chambers, Chilton, Coosa, Dallas, Elmore, Greene, Hale,

- Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Montgomery, Perry, Russell, Tallapoosa
4. **South District** Barbour, Butler, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Pike, Sumter
  5. **South West District** Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, Washington, Wilcox

### **Article XIII. - Membership**

#### **3:13:01 Application Requirements**

1. See Section 2:02:05 of the Bylaws.
2. The Board of ASA may set additional requirements as necessary.

#### **3:13:02 Member Fees**

1. As established by the Board of ASA.

#### **3:13:03 List of Officers & Directors**

1. All Member Organizations must keep a list of their officers, directors, employees, etc. current with ASA. This list must be updated at least once per year.
2. ASA will provide liability insurance for the officers and directors as shown in the above lists.

#### **3:13:04 Risk Management - Register All Youth Workers**

1. As established by the Board of ASA.

### **Article XIV. - Board of Directors, Executive Committee, & Employees**

#### **3:14:01 Duties of Officers**

1. **President:** The President will conduct all meetings of the Board or the Executive Committee and will cast a vote only in case of a tie. The President will appoint at the beginning of each seasonal year, or as needed, and subject to the approval of the Board, the Standing Committees and /or the Committee Chairmen and members-at-Large. The President will serve as a member of such committees.
2. **First Vice-President:** In the absence of the President, the First Vice-President will preside at meetings of the Board or the Executive Committee. The First Vice-President will serve as Parliamentarian, chair the Internal Affairs and the Protest & Appeals / Disciplinary Committees.
3. **Second Vice-President:** In the absence of the President and the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President will preside at the meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee. Other responsibilities as determined by the Board.
4. **Secretary:** The Secretary will keep an accurate record of all meetings, handle all correspondence, process all insurance claims forms submitted by affiliated member organizations, process all Applications for Travel Forms, give notice of meetings, and maintain the files of ASA. The Secretary will also chair the Credentials Committee.
5. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer will give a receipt for all monies, which will be deposited in a recognized bank in the name of ASA. All accounts will be paid by ASA check and will bear two (2) signatures which will be the Treasurer ' s and/or the President ' s, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, or Secretary. The receipt book and vouchers will be produced when required by the Board or Executive Committee, properly balanced according to the bankbook or statement, whichever is up to date. The Treasurer will be responsible also for the preparing of any and all papers pursuant to the Articles of Incorporation and Tax Exemption status of ASA. The Treasurer will be bondable by a reputable Bonding Agency.
6. **Registrar:** The Registrar will administer all rules and regulations pertaining to player registration guidelines as set forth by USYSA/USSF. He/she will maintain records and report on the number of player registrations, approve all player transfers, adds and drops, respond to all routine correspondence to the Association pertaining to registration matters and serve as the registrar for all ASA sponsored tournaments.

#### **3:14:02 Duties of District Commissioners**

1. The duties and authority of the District Commissioners will include the following:
2. The District Commissioner will be thoroughly familiar with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules & Regulations of ASA and the Insurance Programs (when appropriate) for youth soccer, so as to be in a position to interpret it. Where uncertain of ASA position, the commissioner will obtain a ruling from the President of ASA.
3. Report, in writing, to the Board of ASA concerning progress, etc. in the commissioner ' s district prior to the

- AGM meeting each year.
4. Be present at all meetings of ASA unless otherwise excused.
  5. Be present at the AGM meeting of all member organizations or leagues within the commissioner=s district to advise, when requested, on the procedures for the election of member organization or league officers and the proper procedures for the administration of the member organization=s or league=s business.
  6. Verify with the Registrar of Member Organizations or Leagues within the District to insure that all teams are properly registered.
  7. Assist Cup Chairman and ODP Administrators in handling Cup Games, Select Team Games, and Inter-District Competitions in their district.
  8. Supervise public relations in the district in coordination with the Chairman of Public Relations/Sponsorship Committee.
  9. Promote adult interest in the youth soccer program and recruit desirable persons to assist in the development of the game.
  10. The District Commissioner will appoint the Sub-District Commissioner and the Board of Directors of ASA must approve or disapprove of the appointment at the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of ASA or the appointment will stand as if approved. The commissioner may designate assistant (s) to aid in the performance of district duties.
  11. The commissioner may appoint a representative to represent him/her at meetings of the Board in the event of their absence. The commissioner will submit a list of their assistants to the ASA office.

### **3:14:03 Duties of Sub-District Commissioners**

To assist the District Commissioner, in the area of the district to which they are appointed, as determined by the District Commissioner. The Sub-District Commissioner will serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors of ASA.

### **3:14:04 Duties of Standing Committees**

Standing Committees may be added, combined, terminated, or have their duties modified by the President upon approval of the Board, by the Board, or the Executive Committee.

1. **Appeals and Disciplinary Committee:** Will be responsible for considering and acting on appeals from decisions rendered by affiliated bodies or appeals referred to them by the Board of Directors of ASA. Developing an annual report for the Board to include suggestions for possible changes.
2. **State Tournaments (Division I, Division II and Governor's Cup):** Will be responsible for establishing the rules and regulations for each of the state sponsored tournaments and cups consistent with the rules of USSF. The Board must approve all rules and regulations. Developing an annual report for the Board, this includes a detailed financial report and recommendations for possible changes.
3. **Olympic Develop (ODP) Administration:** Will be responsible for supervising the financial aspects of all Olympic Development programs, including the scheduling of games, training camps, etc. Establishing, evaluating, and adopting the policies and procedures established by the National Olympic Development Committee. Establishing standards relating to fiscal, managerial, and other considerations to ensure integrity of the program. Maintaining records of players participating in ODP. Developing an annual report for the Board, this includes a detailed financial report and recommendations for possible changes.
4. **Publicity and Promotions Committee:** Will be responsible for seeking sponsorship for all or part of any ASA sponsored program that is identified by the Board. See that all ASA sponsored programs and/or events receive proper and adequate publicity. Be responsible for supplying needed information regarding the USYSA/ASA programs to developing areas in the State as it requested. Developing an annual report for the Board, this includes a detailed financial report and recommendations for possible changes.
5. **Rules and Regulations Committee:** Will be responsible for reviewing all proposals involving any amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules & Regulations and give due and careful consideration to it before submitting said proposals to the Board with their recommendations. Ensuring that each applicant for membership submits copies of their constitution, bylaws, and rules & regulations for approval. Any subsequent changes, additions, or amendments must be submitted to the Rules and Regulations Committee. Examining all applications for membership in the Association and making recommendations to the Board. Also, ensuring that all Constitutions, Bylaws, and Rules & Regulations of submitting organizations abide by the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules & Regulations of ASA. Developing an annual report for the Board, this includes recommendations for possible changes.

NOTE: the State League Operating Committee may be responsible for one or more of these committee divisions as determined by the President and/or the Board.

**3:14:05 Duties of the Office Manager**

As established by the Board of ASA

**3:14:06 Duties of Executive Secretary**

As established by the Board of ASA.

**3:14:07 Duties of Coaching Director**

As established by the Board of ASA.

**3:14:08 Operations of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee**

1. Ex-Officio members may be appointed to the Board of Directors or any committee by the President and may meet with the Board or Committee as the President determines. These Ex-Officio members will not have a vote but may enter into discussions.
2. President will appoint tellers for each election
3. The Board of Directors or the Executive Committee will have the right and the authority to suspend, bar completely, fine, or otherwise discipline any player, coach, assistant coach, team manager, team assistant, parent, spectator, club, league, member organization, or other organization.
4. The Board of ASA or the Executive Committee will:
  - (i) Interpret and enforce the Constitution, Bylaws, and the Rules & Regulations;
  - (ii) Approve registered teams and affiliated leagues;
  - (iii) Approve all International Youth Games with registered teams and /or select teams;
  - (iv) Approve any Inter-State play;
  - (v) Approve the formation and operation of all Youth Cup Games, Governor 's Cup Games, American Festival or Games, or the Classic Division Program;
  - (vi) From time to time make temporary rules or regulations for specific cases or occasions not provided for in the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules & Regulations, but which are deemed necessary to carry out the objectives of ASA;
  - (vii) Review and approve the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Rules & Regulations of leagues and member organizations to insure that they are consistent with the ASA Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules & Regulations.

**Article XV. - Miscellaneous**

**3:15:01 Senior Trail Games**

1. A youth player shall be permitted to play an unlimited number of amateur (adult) games with USASA affiliated teams without losing youth eligibility, providing that the youth player:
  - a. obtains written permission from his or her youth coach or team representative;
  - b. receives written eligibility clearance from ASA.
2. ASSA or another appropriate USSF affiliate has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play amateur games and is responsible for establishing the procedures under which amateur game participation is implemented.
3. If there is a conflict between an amateur (adult) game and a youth game, the youth game shall take precedence.
4. Any player who has signed a "letter of intent" or a professional contract or who has played in a game with professional players or a professional team, without prior written approval of the ASA Board of Directors, shall lose all privileges of youth amateur status. A request for reinstatement shall be considered by the ASA BOD.
5. Youth Team Playing in Adult League: A youth team, with the written permission and mutual consent of both the youth and Amateur National State Association, may play in an amateur sanctioned league and not lose its eligibility to compete in National Youth competitions. If the youth team's players are required to sign an amateur form, the team shall retain its youth eligibility. The youth team will be required to play under the rules of ASA concerning registration, roster rules, transfer rules and any additional rules needed for eligibility for Snickers National Youth competition. The ASA Snicker's US Youth National Championship committee will

decide whether a youth team's playing in an amateur league disqualifies the youth team from entering the Snicker's US Youth National Championship, on a team-by-team basis.

### **3:15:02 Playing With Professional Players**

1. Any player signing a Letter of Intent, a professional contract, or playing with a professional team without the permission of the Board of Directors of ASA will be declared a professional player and will lose all privileges of youth amateur status.
2. The Board of Directors of ASA may grant youth amateur players permission to play in benefit or exhibition games only, where professional players are involved. This permission must be requested in writing.

### **3:15:03 Alcoholic Beverage, Drug and Firearm Prohibition**

1. ALCOHOL & DRUG PROHIBITION: The possession, consumption or use of any alcoholic beverage, drug of abuse, or controlled substance at the field area by any player, coach, referee, team official or spectator prior to, during or after the playing of any ASA activity is prohibited.
2. FIREARM PROHIBITION: The possession or use of any firearm at the field area by any player, coach, referee, team official or spectator prior to, during or after the playing of any ASA activity is prohibited.
3. Any individual associated with AYSA who violates these prohibitions shall be subject to disciplinary action by ASA. The disciplinary action may include fines, suspensions, or other penalties as determined by the ASA Disciplinary Committee.

### **3:15:04 Matters Not Provided For**

1. Any matters not provided for in these rules will be determined by the Board of Directors of ASA or the Executive Committee of ASA.

### **3:15:05 Amendments**

1. The ASA office will maintain the official set of the Rules & Regulations for ASA.
2. These Rules and Regulations may be changed or amended by a majority vote of a properly constituted meeting of the General Membership, Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee of ASA.
3. Any changes will be communicated to all member organizations and members of the Board of Directors.

## **Article XVI. Kidsafe Program**

### **3:16:01 General**

1. Alabama Soccer Association has adopted a Kidsafe program. This program is designed to promote the welfare of youth players and to protect coaches, program administrators and the organization. It is the intent of USYSA and its affiliated organizations to exclude from participation in ASA activities all persons who have been convicted of crimes of violence or crimes against persons. Further, it is the intent of ASA to exclude any one convicted of any other violation of the law that the ASA Risk Management Committee deems detrimental to the health and safety of the players. ASA strongly encourages every affiliate to appoint a Risk Management Coordinator for their organization. All Volunteer Disclosure Statements and background check results will be kept in secure confidential file in the state office.

### **3:16:02 Administrators**

1. Every person wishing to apply for a position as a program administrator with Alabama Soccer Association or an affiliate ***must complete a Volunteer Disclosure Statement***. Program administrators include state, district, league and club officers, and program directors, team managers, and athletic/medical trainers. These forms should be filled out every two years and will be kept on file in the state office. The club registrar should collect these forms and send them in with their club registration papers. An US Youth Soccer Member pass will not be issued until forms are received in the state office.
2. **Procedures**
  - Administrators should fill out a Volunteer Disclosure Statement form and forward it the club registrar or directly to the state office.
  - The State Risk Management Coordinator will review the statement.
  - If the statement yields a problem area for the individual, the State Risk Management Coordinator will contact the individual for additional information and a background check will be performed.

- If the check yields a problem area for the individual, the State Risk Management Coordinator will contact the individual for additional information as it pertains to the evaluation criteria listed below.
- If an individual is suspended, the State Risk Management Coordinator must inform the individual and the president of the club, league or affiliate suspension has been imposed. The State Risk Management Coordinator shall also notify US YOUTH SOCCER of the suspension for inclusion on the US YOUTH SOCCER Disciplinary and Risk Management Action Report.
- If an individual is suspended he/she will be given information about their appeal rights and procedures.

### **3:16:03 Director of Coaching, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Trainers and Team Managers**

1. Every person wishing to apply for a position as a coach, **assistant coach, trainer, manager or Director of Coaching** with Alabama Soccer Association or an affiliate must consent to a background check. Coaches include all head coaches, assistant coaches and team/player trainers. A background check will be performed every two years and results will be kept at the state office. An US Youth Soccer Member Pass will not be issued to coaches until this check has been performed and results are satisfactory. In the event that the result is returned with an unsatisfactory result, the club president and coach will be informed.
2. **Procedures**
  - **Director of Coaching, Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers** should log on to the Alabama Soccer Association web site, [www.alabamayouthsoccer.org](http://www.alabamayouthsoccer.org).
  - Click on “Kidsafe Program”
  - Click on “Volunteer Background Check”.
  - Fill out the form. You must click on the “I Agree” button at the bottom of the form to have the background check performed.
  - Log off
  - Results will be available to the state office the following morning.
  - The State Risk Management Coordinator will review the results.
  - If the check yields a problem area for the individual, the State Risk Management Coordinator will contact the individual for additional information as it pertains to the evaluation criteria listed below.
  - If an individual is suspended, the State Risk Management Coordinator must inform the individual and the president of the club, league or affiliate suspension has been imposed. The State Risk Management Coordinator shall also notify US YOUTH SOCCER of the suspension for inclusion on the US YOUTH SOCCER Disciplinary and Risk Management Action Report.
  - If an individual is suspended he/she will be given information about their appeal rights and procedures.

### **3:16:04 Responsibilities**

1. **State Risk Management Coordinator**
  - Ensure all disclosure forms are received, filed, and kept confidential.
  - Ensure all background checks are completed.
  - Investigate any complaints of abuse and report any findings to their Club/Associations President, if action is needed.
  - Ensure that all matters involving a disqualification shall be kept on file for a minimum of three (3) years.
  - Distribute on a periodic basis appropriate education material regarding the ASA Risk Management Program.
2. **ASA Director of Coaching**
  - Ensure all ASA ODP coaches complete the online background check form.
  - Ensure ODP Administrators complete and forward to the state office the Volunteer Disclosure form.
  - Serve as a liaison to the state Risk Management Coordinator for the ODP coaches and administrators.

### **3:16:05 Evaluation Criteria**

1. Some of the factors considered for denial of certification include:
  - The number and nature of the offense(s)
  - Age of the offense or sentence
  - Age of the offender at the time of the offense(s)

- Rehabilitative achievements of the offender which indicates that the behavior is unlikely to reoccur
- Any other factor that Alabama Soccer Association Risk Management Coordinator may deem appropriate.

### **3:16:06 Defendant Involved in Litigation**

1. In the event a person participating in a US YOUTH SOCCER program or in any State or local association program, becomes involved as a defendant in litigation detrimental to the welfare of youth players, The Risk Management Coordinator shall advise the alleged offender, in writing, that he/she is suspended from all activity with the soccer organization until the case is resolved per USSF/US YOUTH SOCCER Rule 4043. The alleged offender will also be advised of his/her appeal rights.

### **3:16:07 Appeal Procedure**

1. Any individual may appeal any adverse decision by following these procedures. No state association, District Commissioner, Official, League, Member Organization, team, referee, Player, Parent, or Representative thereof, may invoke the aid of the courts of any State of the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within the body of organized soccer (i.e. State Soccer Association).
  - Appeals are to be in writing and delivered to the Risk Management Coordinator within seven (7) calendar days (Sundays and Holidays excluded) following the date of the decision being appealed.
  - The proper fee must accompany the written appeal:
    - The appeal fee will be established at **Two Hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) effective Dec. 10 2006**
    - The appeal fee will be returned if the appeal is upheld. The appeal fee is be retained if the appeal is denied
  - The Risk Management Coordinator will forward all pertinent information on the appeal to the Risk Management Appeals Committee (ASA President, ASA Vice President Youth, ASA Director of Coaching, ASA State Referee Administrator and the President of the affected club).
  - A meeting must be convened within 10 days of receipt of appeal.
  - The decision of the Risk Management Appeal Committee of ASA will be conveyed, in writing, to the individual initiating the appeal and a copy of the decision along with all pertinent information and findings will be filed with ASA. This must be done within ten (10) days of appeal committee meeting.
2. The appeal of the suspension to the risk management appeals committee is presumed to be correct. The burden of proof applicable to this review is **substantial evidence**. The appealing party must prove by **substantial evidence** that the suspension is incorrect.
3. **Substantial evidence** is defined as "evidence of such weight and quality that fair-minded persons in the exercise of impartial judgment can reasonably infer the existence of the fact sought to be proved".

### **3:16:08 Abuse Complaint Procedure**

1. The following procedure should be followed to report individuals who may have abused their authority.
  - Complaints against individuals who are alleged to have abused their authority by committing sexual and/or physical abuse are to be reported to the local club/league President and/or the local Risk Management Coordinator.
  - Upon receipt of a complaint, the local Risk Management Coordinator will inform the state Risk Management Coordinator of the complaint and request a background check be conducted if there has not been one obtained within the last 12 months.
  - If an abuse charge is formally lodged against an individual, the said individual may be suspended until the case is resolved (USSF/USYSA Rule 4043). At this point the local Risk Management Coordinator must inform the individual of their status and right in writing.
  - Each complaint will be reviewed by the local Risk Management Coordinator to determine the appropriate action.
  - Upon reaching a decision, the individual must be informed and provided information on the appeal process in writing.
  - The state Risk Management Coordinator must be informed in writing as of the action taken on the complaint.
2. In the event your club/league does not have a Risk Coordinator, complaints should be sent to the state Risk Management Coordinator at the following address.  
Risk Management Coordinator

Alabama Youth Soccer Association  
19220 W.Hwy 280  
Birmingham, AL 35242  
Phone: 205-991-9770

## **End of the Rules & Regulations of the Alabama Youth Soccer Association**