MICHIGAN STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
RULES, REGULATIONS and POLICIES

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Section 1: General

Rule 1.1: Establishment

The following Rules, Regulations and Policies are the standing rules of MSYSA. MSYSA is a member of US Youth Soccer, which is a member of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). USSF is the national association member for the United States of the international organization for soccer called FIFA or the Federation Internationale de Football Association.

Rule 1.2: Amendments

The rules, regulations and policies of this Association as now established and as hereafter amended may be altered, repealed or new rules, regulations and policies may be adopted in lieu thereof by a majority of the board of directors then in office and present at the meeting of the board of directors, subject to membership approval at the AGM or at a special meeting. These rules, regulations and policies shall take effect on that July 31st that occurs immediately after the amendment is approved by the membership, unless specified in the motion when to take effect.

Rule 1.3: Members Organization's Prerogatives to Set Rules

Leagues may deem fit to enact rules and regulations more stringent than those included herein, but in no case may their rules and regulations be less stringent. However, no member organization may limit those privileges granted to players by the USSF, the US Youth Soccer, or the MSYSA.

Rule 1.4: Pleas of Ignorance

A plea of ignorance to the bylaws and these rules, regulations and policies is not sufficient, and violators may expect appropriate action by the board of directors of this Association.

Rule 1.5: Matters not provided for

Any matters not provided for in these rules shall be determined by the MSYSA board of directors and decisions so made shall be subject to the approval of the member organizations at the AGM or at a special meeting.

Section 2: Administration

Rule 2.1: Officers' Expenses

The Officers of the Association, as such, shall not be compensated for the performance of services for the Association, but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred on behalf of the Association, including but not limited to expenses for attendance at meetings of the board of directors.

Rule 2.2: Restrictions on Officers

If a business in which an officer of this Association has any interest and wishes to participate in the bidding process to provide goods or services to this Association, such business must do so by sealed competitive bid. All such bids are to be opened at the same time and place, and such officer may not participate in the decision to award the bid.

Rule 2.3: Other Administrators

The board of directors may establish other administrative positions by contract if there is remuneration or by appointment for positions without remuneration. All positions shall have written statements of duties and responsibilities. Contracts shall also specify the duration of such commitments and remuneration agreed upon.

Rule 2.4: Notice of Meetings

A. If notice of a meeting is mailed, the notices shall be directed to each member entitled to notices at its address as it appears on the affiliation form on file with MSYSA unless it shall have filed with the recording secretary a written request that notices be mailed to some other address, in which case it shall be mailed to the address designated in the request.

B. Each member organization shall name its authorized representative(s) on the affiliation form.

Rule 2.5: Budget

The annual budget for the fiscal year will include categories for the Olympic Development Program, Coaching Education Program, State Cup Competition, Recreational Program, Michigan State Premier Soccer Program, and all other State operating programs. There will be separately proposed budgets for the next fiscal year for the Olympic Development Program, State Cup Competition, Recreational and State Operating Programs.

Rule 2.6: Fees and Fines

The board of directors, subject to member organizations approval at an AGM or a special meeting, may assess fees or require bonds for administrative functions undertaken on behalf of its member organizations or levee fines in specific disciplinary actions. Member organizations shall be assessed a fine, the amount to be determined by the board of directors, for each unexcused absence of a meeting.

Rule 2.7: Member Organization Responsibilities

A. **Failure.** A member organization who fails to fulfill its responsibilities, including paying current MSYSA fees, registering MSYSA players/coaches/team officials/teams with MSYSA online registration system, and ensuring their administrators, member organizations, clubs, and teams comply with the provisions of the MSYSA Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, rules, regulations and policies, may result in the member being placed in bad standing by the MSYSA board of directors. A member in bad standing will have no voice or vote(s) at any meeting including, special, delegates, or annual general meetings of this Association.

B. **Bylaws Available to Individuals.** Member organizations shall make available to their member teams and clubs copies of these bylaws, rules and regulations, and other MSYSA approved policies, as well as copies of any other rules pertaining to and adopted by the member organization.

Rule 2.8: Risk Management

The MSYSA will establish a Risk Management Policy and shall maintain a Risk Management Program to ensure the safety of its members. The Risk Management Program will meet certain minimum criteria established by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). The program will include the use of an employee/volunteer disclosure statement for all volunteers, employees, coaches and program administrators who are involved with any approved or sponsored program of MSYSA or of an affirmed member organization.

Rule 2.9: Insurance

A. **Player's Medical Insurance.** All players registered with the Association shall be required to file medical insurance claims with their primary insurance company prior to filing medical claims with the State Association.

B. **Public Liability Insurance.** All officers of the Association and member organization officials of the Association, noted on each member organization's affiliation paperwork and/or MSYSA's online registration system affiliation process, shall be protected against general liability claims by MSYSA's insurance carrier for performing acts and duties related to the work of the Association. MSYSA assumes the costs of general liability, and all deductibles associated with general liability coverage, to ensure the protection of its officers and member organization officials.

C. **Report of Insurance Claims.** All injuries from MSYSA or US Youth Soccer activities must be reported, in writing, to both the member organization and MSYSA within 7 days. MSYSA carries secondary medical coverage. All claims are required to first be made through each member's primary insurance carrier prior to being submitted to MSYSA. Any claims not submitted to MSYSA within 30 days will be denied.

D. **General Liability Insurance.** All member organizations shall provide MSYSA a list of fields used for games and practices with the owner and the addresses by a specified date and time as determined by the MSYSA board of directors.

Rule 2.10: Non-Member Organizations; Territorial Affiliations

A. **Unaffiliated Organizations.** Any affiliated team or member organization, which plays games or otherwise does business with an organization not affiliated with the USSF or US Youth Soccer, shall face disciplinary action up to and including suspension as determined by the board of directors. MSYSA will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with the USSF's articles bylaws, policies, and requirements.

B. **Affiliation Changes.** Teams near the territorial limits of the Association may, if the board of director's consents, affiliate with other recognized associations, but thereafter may not change affiliations without the consent of the board of directors of this Association. A team may not change affiliated member organizations without the written agreement of both member organizations and the written approval of the MSYSA board of directors.

Rule 2.11: Seasonal Year; Seal; Notices

A. **Seasonal Year.** The seasonal year of this Association shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31 of the following calendar year.

B. **Corporate Seal.** The board of directors may provide a suitable corporate seal for use by the Corporation.

C. **Notices.** Any notice required by statute or by the bylaws to be given to the members, to the directors, or to any officers of the Association, unless another requirement is provided herein or in any statute, shall be sufficient if given by depositing it in a United States Post Office box or receptacle in a sealed, postpaid wrapper, addressed to the member, trustee or officer at his last address as that appears on the records of the Association, and the notice shall be deemed to have been given at the time of the mailing.

Rule 2.12: Miscellaneous

A. **Activities.**

1. Except for employees or authorized contractors and subcontractors, no private individual, corporation, contributor, or member of this Association may be granted or paid any income or interest from the assets or funds of this Association.

2. No part of the activities, assets, or funds of this Association shall be committed to the dissemination of propaganda or the attempting to influence legislation or other political action. The Association shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign or publish or distribute any statement or spend any funds on behalf of any candidate for public office.

3. The accomplishment of its purpose and exercise of its powers by the Association shall be in conformity with the requirements of the Nonprofit Corporation Act, Mich. Comp. Laws Sect. 450.2108(2), (Mich. Stat. Ann. Sect. 21.197 (108)(2).

4. MSYSA shall maintain its tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code.

B. **Gifts.** The board of directors, the president, or any person expressly so authorized by the board of directors may accept gifts on behalf of the Association for the general purposes of the Association, but no conditional contribution, gift, bequest or devise and no contribution, gift, bequest or devise for a purpose more restricted than the general purposes of the Association shall be finally accepted without prior approval of the board of directors.

C. **Investments.** The Association shall have the right to retain all or any part of any securities or other property acquired by it and to invest and reinvest any funds held in it, according to the judgment of the board of directors, without being restricted as to the class of investments to be made, provided that no action shall be taken on behalf of the Association if that action is a prohibited transaction or would result in denial of tax exemption under Section 503 or 504 of the Internal Revenue Code or the Regulations there under as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

Rule 2.13: Administrative Operations

The Administrative Operations of MSYSA is outlined in the Administrative Operations Manual located at the MSYSA State Office. Changes will be made by the executive director and the president, approved by the board of directors.

Rule 2.14: Professional Status

A. **Definition.** Any player signing a "letter of intent," a professional contract, or playing with a professional team without the permission of the board of directors shall be declared a professional.

B. **Play with Professionals.** Only the board of directors along with the Michigan High School Athletic Association may grant a youth amateur permission to play in benefit or exhibition games where professional players are involved.

C. **Loss of Youth Status.** No player who has signed a "letter of intent," a contract, or played in any game where professional players are involved without the permission of the board of directors will be permitted to be reinstated to a youth amateur status.

Rule 2.15: Tournament Games, Inter District Play, All-Star Games, and International Games

The authority for approval and/or operational control, including dates and times of games that are to be played for these competitions, when played or sponsored by an affiliated team(s) or member organization(s), shall be vested with the board of directors of this Association. Any team formed solely for the purpose of participating in tournaments only (tournament-only), will receive MSYSA sanctioning. Tournament-only teams may register directly with MSYSA.

Rule 2.16: Permission to Travel

Teams that wish to travel out of Michigan to play games must request permission from the MSYSA in accordance with procedures detailed in the US Youth Soccer Travel and Tournament Manual. The board of directors may establish additional requirements.

Rule 2.17: Permission to Host Foreign and Interstate Teams

Teams that wish to host teams from another state or another country must request permission from the MSYSA in accordance with procedures detailed in the US Youth Soccer Travel and Tournament Manual. The board of directors may establish additional requirements.

Rule 2.18: Permission to Host a Tournament

A. **MSYSA Sanctioned Tournaments.** Member organizations that wish to host a tournament and have that tournament sanctioned by MSYSA must request permission from the MSYSA in accordance with the policies and procedures established by MSYSA, US Youth Soccer, and US Soccer. The board of directors may establish additional requirements. Member organizations that wish to host a sanctioned tournament shall be protected against general liability claims by MSYSA's insurance carrier for performing acts and duties relating to the work of the Association. The board of directors may establish additional requirements.

B. **MSYSA Hosted Tournaments**. MSYSA may host a tournament in accordance with the policies and procedures established by US Youth Soccer and US Socc er. The board of directors may establish rules and additional requirements.

Rule 2.19: Michigan State Premier Soccer Program (MSPSP)

The board of directors may establish a statewide premier program, which shall have a member organization constitution and bylaws, playing rules and regulations. Changes to these governing and policy statements shall be presented to and accepted by the board of directors and approved by a vote of the member organizations at an AGM or a special meeting called for this purpose. Any subsequent changes to the playing rules and regulations proposed by the MSPSP board of directors must receive approval from the MSYSA board of directors before they are effective. The statewide program shall be known as the Michigan State Premier Soccer Program (MSPSP) and shall be a program of the MSYSA and shall be subject to the authority of the MSYSA. The MSPSP shall be considered a member of this Association and shall have a representative at all meetings of the board of directors, or as called for by bylaws, or at other meetings at the request of the MSYSA board of directors. However, at the annual general meeting of member organizations and whenever a vote is requested, the MSPSP shall have its weighted votes apportioned to the Leagues sponsoring teams to the MSPSP, and it shall have one vote only. In general cases, the MSPSP established pursuant to this article shall be responsible for its own affairs. However, the MSPSP may only accept teams sponsored by the members.

Rule 2.20: Olympic Development Program (ODP)

The MSYSA shall participate in the USSF and US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program. Any player domiciled in the State of Michigan shall be eligible to tryout for the ODP pursuant to requirements and procedures that will be published annually by the MSYSA.

Section 3: Registration

Rule 3.1: Individuals or Teams

A new team or individual may be assigned to a member organization within its district by the MSYSA board of directors. Registration is done through a member organization of MSYSA for individual players or teams via the MSYSA online registration system.

Rule 3.2: Age Limit and Competitive Level Definitions

A. **Youth Player.** The term "youth player" shall mean an amateur player who has not attained his or her nineteenth (19th) birthday before the first day of August preceding the Seasonal Year in which he or she applies for registration.

B. **Attaining Age Limit.** Players attaining the limited age for any age group on or after August 1 will be eligible to play for the full seasonal year.

C. **Age Groups.** All member organizations, unless otherwise sanctioned by the board of directors, shall divide play among teams as listed below. Member organizations may utilize two (2) year age groups for age groups U14 and below, multi year age group for U15 and above rather than single year age groups without specific board of director's approval. Age divisions shall consist of players who on the first day of August preceding the current seasonal year, are:

Under 19 years	Under 14 years	Under 9 years
Under 18 years	Under 13 years	Under 8 years
Under 17 years	Under 12 years	Under 7 years
Under 16 years	Under 11 years	Under 6 years
Under 15 years	Under 10 years	Under 5 years
		Under 4 years

D. **Authority to Contest Age.** Any player may be called upon to prove his legal age by the board of director's, by a district commissioner, by their member organization, or by a majority vote of the teams in any given member organization.

E. **Legal Proof of Age.** A birth certificate, passport, drivers license, board of health records, certificate of naturalization, or alien registration card shall be sufficient for proof of age, except in those competitions which specifically state otherwise.

F. Competition Level. One of the following levels must be specified for player/coaches/team officials/team when a player/team registration is submitted by the MSYSA member via the MSYSA online registration system.

a. **In-House Recreation:** Players ages 4 thru 7/coach/team official registered on teams formed in a manner described here; Must prohibit the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any similar process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability. The club or league administering In-house participants accepts any eligible youths ages 4 thru 7. In-house provides a system with a fair or balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating. In-house players participate and play in their administering league's pre-defined geographic or community area and do not travel to other communities for games.

b. **Recreation:** A player/coach/team official registered on teams formed in a manner described here; Recreation Leagues must have an open sign-up period, which does not exclude any player except based on age or gender outside of the program scope, missing registration deadline or lives outside of a league's pre-defined geographical or community area. Recreation Leagues attempt to balance the teams using a method they publicize in advance, such as teams formed using a draft, random distribution, neighborhood or school area groupings, etc. In the event, too many players register, the only methods allowed are 'first come, first served' or a blind draw in determining who is not provided a spot.

c. **Select:** A player/coach/team official registered on any team formed from a selection or try-out criteria, or a player/coach/team official on a team in an MSYSA affiliated league that designates itself as a Select League or a particular division as a Select Division. Select designation applies regardless of player age, selection/try-out criteria and team travel distances.

d. **Premier:** A player/coach/team official registered on any team playing in the MSPSP league. Any league having a self-titled premier division or elite division.

e. **Elite:** A player/coach/team official registered on any team playing in MRL & National League

f. **TopSoccer:** A player/coach/team official registered on any team formed specifically for players with disabilities (mental or physical) are placed on teams with other players according to ability, not age.

g. **Soccer Across America:** A player/coach/team official registered on any teams formed with the purpose of making soccer available to lower-income children in underserved communities.

Rule 3.3: Maintaining Youth Eligibility

A. Any youth player regardless of age may be permitted to play an unlimited number of senior games without losing youth eligibility if the Youth Participation Forms are approved by MSYSA.

B. Any youth playing for a senior club without MSYSA approval shall be declared ineligible for youth games.

C. Any youth team using an ineligible player shall forfeit all games in which that player took part under the forfeiture provisions of Rule 4.10: Ineligible or Improperly Registered Player.

D. **Reinstated Player.** A reinstated player shall mean a player who has been reinstated to an amateur youth status.

Rule 3.4: Player Registration, Member Organization Entry, and Team Affiliation Requirements

A. **Proper Registration Procedure.**

1. All players are required to submit a properly completed member organization player registration form or by the MSYSA online registration system. The submittal of a member organization player registration form signed by his/her parent or guardian (if the player is under 18 years of age) or by the MSYSA online registration system electronically signed by his/her parent or guardian (if the player is under 18 years of age),and MSYSA player fees binds that player to that team for the seasonal year unless granted a release. (see "Rule 3.6: Player Release, Transfer, Dual Registration")

2. Each team/club shall be required to submit to the appropriate member organization officer various forms as may be required for the operation of the organization and pay all dues, fees, or fines that may be levied by the member organization or Association. Also, each team/club is responsible for sending proper member organization affiliation forms and fees directly to the person responsible in its member organization.

3. Each member organization shall be responsible for ensuring proper registration of the players and teams, proper accounting of fiscal transactions and accurate reporting via the MSYSA online registration system to the MSYSA board of directors.

4. A registered player shall be committed to a team for a full seasonal year. The player may participate on other teams within the team's organization dependent on the MSYSA member affiliate registration rules. Once registered and in the absence of mitigating circumstances, a player must remain with the same team until the completion of the spring session for the member organization in which his team participates. Any attempt to induce a player to change teams for either the current or the following seasonal year prior to the end of the seasonal year shall be poaching in violation of "Rule3.7". During the time during which a team has suspended member organization play, players and club or team officers or representatives may freely discuss new affiliation for the following seasonal year.

5. Tryouts for all MSYSA players for the fall and/or spring season of the seasonal year may not be held before Saturday, June 14, 2014. For high school age boys teams playing only in the spring session, tryouts may be held from Saturday, June 14, 2014 until the start of high school practice and after the high school season ends in the fall. Leagues, clubs or teams affiliated through member organizations having tryouts prior to Saturday, June 14, 2014 and/or charging any type of fee for tryouts are not eligible for any MSYSA sponsored events.

6. Registered players on high school age girl's teams who play only during the fall season with MSYSA affiliated member organizations are expected to play in tournaments and cup games with the team to which they are rostered through June 30 of the seasonal year or until granted a proper transfer or release.

7. If a fall season girls team disbands or suspends play for the spring season because a majority of the team is playing high school spring sports, those players wishing to play on a MSYSA affiliated team in the spring season shall not be considered transfer players.

8. All tryouts for teams for the MSPSP must be announced in the Michigan Soccer Publication.

B. **Date of Registration.** A player is registered the moment the player and his/her parent or guardian (if the player is under 18 years of age) signs the member organization player registration form or submits and electronically signs the online registration, and has submitted MSYSA player fees to a responsible team/club/ member organization official.

C. **Registration and Transfer Cut-off Dates.** The board of directors may set cut-off dates for player transfer for each playing season or seasonal year. If changing from previous season, transfer and registration dates will be announced at the annual general meeting of the MSYSA. The board of directors shall have the authority to accept player registration after these dates and such late registration shall be subject to a fee as approved by the board of directors.

Rule 3.5: Roster Limit

A. No Select and Premier roster may exceed the maximum roster limit for the specific age levels except as noted below:

Playing Format	Age Level	Roster Maximum	Roster Minimum
4v4	U5-U6	8	4
6v6	U7-U8	11	6
6v6	U9-U10	11	6
8v8	U11-U12	14	7
11v11	U13-U15	22	7
11v11	U16-U19	22	7

B. When the Academy model is utilized, roster maximum may exceed the numbers noted in the chart above.

C. Tournaments run by MSYSA, sanctioned by MSYSA, or recognized by MSYSA as an official US Youth Soccer tournament (National Championship Series) may allow teams in the U13-U19 age groups to have tournament rosters with a maximum of 22 players.

D. MSYSA shall allow teams participating in the Midwest Regional League or National League to register the number of players as permitted by those leagues.

E. For all age groups allowing a 22 player roster, the game roster shall have a maximum of eighteen (18) players and a minimum of seven (7) players.

Rule 3.6: Player Release, Transfer, Dual Registration

These rules apply to Select and Premier competitive levels and for transactions by member organizations.

A. **Player Release.**

1. **Voluntary Release** means the removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of the player or parent/guardian. A parent/player must approve the voluntary release. **A voluntary** release will be granted if:

   a. A parent/player request to be released.

   b. The player moves to a new address, a distance which in the opinion of the board of directors, would make it impractical for him/her to continue with the original team or,

   c. There are mitigating circumstances, which in the opinion of the board of directors justify a release.

2. **Involuntary Release** means the removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of team authorities. An **involuntary** release will be granted only if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons:

   a. The original team suspends operations for the remainder of the seasonal year or;

   b. The player has violated rules of this Association and has been suspended for a period greater than five (5) games or,

   c. The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the seasonal year or,

   d. The player moves to a new address, a distance that in the opinion of the board of directors would make it impractical for him to continue with the original team and has demonstrated an inability to continue in participation on the soccer team.

e. There are mitigating circumstances, which in the opinion of the board of directors justify a release.

In any of the above cases, where a player seeks a voluntary release or a member organization official seeks to involuntarily release a player, a member organization Player Release Form must be completed by the player/his/her parent or guardian (if the player is under 18 years of age) and/or a member organization official and have the appropriate signatures. Player/parent signatures are not required for involuntary release. The member organization must validate the request before player release approved.
Once a player is released from a team he/she is eligible to apply for a player transfer. **However, obtaining a player release does not guarantee the player a roster spot on another MSYSA team, nor is player transfer guaranteed.**

No player release form or fee is required to be submitted to MSYSA.

B. **Player Transfers.**

1. A player may apply for a player transfer once they have been granted a player release.

2. **All** player transfers must be approved by the player's existing team member organization and new team member organization before MSYSA member organizations will consider approving the transfer. Application for a player transfer must be made to the MSYSA member organization on their required member Player Transfer form. It is the responsibility of the new team member's organization to verify the player has been released from the existing team and is eligible for a transfer.

3. Required and optional signatures on the member organization transfer form are dependent on member organization transfer process.

4. The new team must have a spot on their roster to accept the transfer player.

5. During any seasonal year a team may have no more than five (5) transfer players on their roster in order to be eligible to participate in MSYSA State Cup.

6. All transfers must be in compliance with the member organization's transfer rules, policies, procedures or bylaws.

7. Player transfers will only be processed during the month of January by affiliated leagues. Player transfers will not be processed during any other period expect for extraordinary circumstances as directed by Rule 3.6 B9.

8. No player transfer form or fee is required to be submitted to MSYSA. Identifying transferred players is required when submitting MSYSA State Cup roster.

9. The league from which a player is transferred may charge the new team a player transfer fee. Under extraordinary circumstances, such as the dissolution of a team or player's family moves a significant distance so that remaining with their team is a major hardship, the transfer fee may be waived. Player transfers within a club are not subject to this recommendation. It is expected the league will return a significant portion of the transfer fee to the player's prior club.

C. **Dual Rostering.**

A player may register with up to two teams per seasonal year. Permission to allow or not allow dual registered players is the MSYSA member organization jurisdiction.

1. The member organization dual registration form (if applicable) must be completed with appropriate signatures before the MSYSA member organization will consider approving the dual registration.

2. A player may not play for more than one team in the same competition (meaning MSYSA sanctioned tournament, MSYSA State Cup, MSYSA member organization league division, etc.). A player must play on the primary team in the MSYSA State Cup.

3. In all cases of dual rostering involving a Midwest Regional League team (MRL), the MRL team must be the primary team.

4. In all cases of dual rostering involving a Michigan State Premier Soccer Program (MSPSP) team and a non-MRL team, the MSPSP team must be designated as the primary team.

5. In all other cases, the team with which a player first registers must be designated as the primary team and the other team must be designated as the secondary team. MSYSA member organization may change the primary and secondary designation if appropriate after the initial team registration.

6. An individual player may NOT dual roster on a MRL team and a MSPSP team. A team that plays in both the MRL and MSPSP must have identical rosters.

7. If the coaches of the two teams disagree on the designation of the primary team, the player may not play until the registration issue has been resolved by the MSYSA member organization.

8. A dual rostered player shall be issued two US Youth Soccer passcards, one for each team.

9. Any player who registers for a team without informing the responsible team official and member organization official that they already registered with another team shall forfeit all games for this team for the time period that the player has not obtained the approval for dual registration from MSYSA member organization.

10. Dual registrations will not be permitted by MSYSA during the months of May, June, October and November, unless a hardship case exists and approval is provided by MSYSA.

11. No Player dual registration form or fee is required to be submitted to MSYSA.

Rule 3.7: Poaching

Poaching is considered a significant offense by this Association and any league, club, or individual found to have committed a poaching violation shall be subject to a significant sanction as determined by the MSYSA board of directors. Such sanctions may include a financial penalty of $2,000 or more, loss of coaching privileges for a year, and ineligibility to participate in MSYSA authorized events including MSYSA's State Cup Tournament, the Mid-West Regional League or any other appropriate sanction. Any club, team, or league which through its responsible officers or representatives,

A. Attempts at any time prior to the approved tryout start date of any seasonal year to induce a registered player (or their parent or their guardian) of any team, or any team as a whole, club, or league under the jurisdiction of this Association to leave their current affiliation before the end of the current seasonal year will be considered a poaching violation.
B. Attempts at any time prior to the approved tryout start date of any seasonal year to induce a registered player (or their parent or their guardian) of any team, or any team as a whole, club, or league under the jurisdiction of this Association to leave their current affiliation for the following seasonal year will be considered a poaching violation.
C. Teams or clubs requesting to change MSYSA leagues during the seasonal year must obtain written permission of the president of their present league before that move is permitted.
D. In those instances in which a coach moves from one club to another separate and distinct club at the end of the seasonal year, the coach may not coach players of the same gender and succeeding age group for that seasonal year. In addition, the coach may not serve as a rostered team official or non-rostered trainer for the same gender and succeeding age group for that seasonal year. For example, if a U11 boys coach moves to another club, the coach may not coach a U12 boy's team the following seasonal year. These prohibitions shall last one seasonal year. If a coach moves from one club to another separate and distinct club during the seasonal year, the prohibitions shall be enforced for the remainder of that seasonal year and the following seasonal year. This rule does not apply under the following:

    a. The coach's club dissolves.
    b. The coach moves 100 miles making the commute to the coach's existing club impractical.
    c. The appropriate prior club representative, the club president or DOC, agrees in writing to the coach's move to a different club.

E. For purposes of this rule, contact is not limited to personnel contact, but will include contact by phone, text, emails, face book and all other social media. Responsible representatives include but are not limited to parents of team members, trainers, team managers, club or league board members, and club or league directors of coaching. The

appropriate response by the responsible representative to player initiated contact is to provide requested information. Any recommendation for the player to attend training, tryouts or any other team, club or league soccer event by the representative would be inappropriate and considered an attempt to induce a player to leave their present soccer organization. A club or league advertising on their own website is not considered poaching. Attendance by the player at such events when initiated by the player or player's parents will not be considered poaching.

F. In those instances in which allegations of poaching involve only member clubs of a MSYSA member league, it is recommended the MSYSA member league conduct the initial hearing. If the findings of that hearing are appealed, the appeal is to be forwarded to the Poaching and Illegal Recruitment Committee for their review. Allegations involving clubs not associated with a common league should be sent directly to the Poaching and Illegal Recruitment Committee for review.

Section 4: Rules of Play

Rule 4.1: Rules of Play

Rules of play for youth shall be the "Laws of the Game," as published by FIFA. Modifications, as permitted for local associations and youth soccer, shall be published. All contests sanctioned by this Association shall abide by the "Laws of the Game," and the modifications as published by this Association.

Rule 4.2: Modifications

Players U5 to U12 shall play by the Modified Rules for Small Sided Games as published by US Youth Soccer unless otherwise approved by the Board of Directors.

Rule 4.3: Field of Play

A. General conditions. The field of play shall be reasonably flat, grassy fields, free from structures which may endanger the players. The field must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line. The home team will be responsible for the condition of the grounds, the proper field markings and proper equipment. **Nets and corner flags are recommended. Goals are required to be properly installed. Moveable goals must be anchored. The game will not be permitted to start if the movable goals are not anchored.** (Refer to documents: U.S. Consumers Product Safety Commission Guidelines For Movable Goal Safety available on our website at www.michiganyouthsoccer.org or at U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's web site at http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/5118.pdf).

B. Dimensions. The following indicates field dimensions by age group.

Age	Field Size	Length	Width
U13- U19	Required	100-130 yards	50-100 yards
U11-U12	Recommended	70-78 yards	45-55 yards
U9-U10	Recommended	45-60 yards	35-45 yards
U7-U8	Recommended	25-35 yards	20-30 yards

Rule 4.4: Length of Games and Size of Ball

The length of games and the ball size shall be as follows:

Age	Length of Game	Over Time Periods	Ball Size	Half Time Periods
U17-U19	2 – 45 minute halves	2 – 15 minute halves	Size 5	5 to 10 minutes
U15-U16	2 – 40 minute halves	2 – 15 minute halves	Size 5	5 to 10 minutes
U13-U14	2 – 35 minute halves	2 – 10 minute halves	Size 5	5 to 10 minutes
U11-U12	2 – 30 minute halves	2 – 10 minute halves	Size 4	5 to 10 minutes
U9-U10	2 – 25 minute halves	None	Size 4	5 to 10 minutes
U7-U8	4 – 12 minute quarters	None	Size 3	2 minutes between quarters, 5 minute halves
U5-U6	4 – 8 minute quarters	None	Size 3	2 minutes between quarters, 5 minute halves

Rule 4.5: Substitutions

The number of substitutions shall be unlimited unless competition under MSYSA jurisdiction determines otherwise. Substitutes may not enter the field of play until receiving a signal to do so from the referee and must do so at the half line. Substitutions may be made by either team at the following times:

A. Prior to a throw-in, with the following exception: If the team taking the throw-in does not substitute then substitution is prohibited.

B. Prior to a goal kick.

C. After a goal is scored.

D. After an injury, when the referee stops play.

E. At half time.

F. After a Caution (a Yellow card), the carded player(s) may be substituted, and if substituted, the opposing team may substitute a like number of players.

Rule 4.6: Player Equipment

Player equipment shall consist of a jersey or shirt, shorts, stockings, footwear and shin guards. Shin guards are mandatory. Shin guards are covered entirely by the stocking, are made of suitable material, and shall be properly sized to provide a reasonable degree of protection.

Rule 4.7: Uniforms

With the exception of the goalkeepers, opposing teams shall be differentiated from each other. Goalkeepers must wear colors that differentiate them from the field players.

Rule 4.8: Home Team Responsibilities

A. If both teams wear uniforms that are of the same or similar colors, the home team must effect a change to colors that are distinct from those of the opponent if requested by the referee.

B. The home team shall be responsible for the condition of the grounds, the proper field markings, and proper equipment. Goal nets and corner flags are recommended.

C. The home team shall be responsible for providing a game ball.

D. In the event the referee declares the condition of the grounds improper, the game is to be rescheduled. The home team will pay the referee fees for the cancelled game.

Rule 4.9: Player Passcards

A. If required all players shall present to the referee their player passcards before the start of the game.

B. All passes are to be returned to the player or coach after the referee has completed the team check in.

C. Should a player misplace their card, the player shall be permitted to play in the game. However, the player shall be open to "**Challenge**" by the coach of the opposing team.

1. If a coach desires to challenge, the coach shall notify the referee and the opposing coach that the player is under "Challenge" (not to be confused with Protest) prior to the start of the game.

2. The player(s) being challenged shall give their name, signature, and date of birth to the referee, who shall note this information on his "Game Report." The referee shall make this information available to the coach making the challenge at the conclusion of the game.

3. The challenging coach shall then contact the member organization registrar or MSYSA for verification that the challenged player(s) is properly registered within 72 hours.

4. If the registrar's records show the player is properly registered, the matter is finished. If the player is not properly registered, the forfeiture provisions of Rule 4.10 Ineligible or Improperly Registered Player apply.

Rule 4.10: Ineligible or Improperly Registered Player

A. Any team playing a player, who is ineligible, whether accidentally, intentionally, or otherwise, shall forfeit the game(s) in which that player takes part and may face further disciplinary action by the member organization and/or the board of directors, depending upon the nature of the violation.

B. In case of forfeiture, the score shall stand 1-0 against the forfeiting team, unless the member organization or competition has a different forfeiture score.

Rule 4.11: Coaching from the Sidelines

Coaching from the sidelines, giving directions to one's own team on points of strategy and position, is permitted provided:

A. No mechanical devices are used;

B. Tone of voice is informative and not a harangue;

C. No coach or substitute or player is to be anywhere except on the sidelines between the top of the penalty area and the half field mark during the game.

Rule 4.12: Team Benches

Teams shall take opposite sidelines for their benches. Home teams have choice of preferred sidelines. Parents and spectators must take the same sidelines as their respective team, unless the facility prevents otherwise. It will be the responsibility of each team's officials (coach, assistant coach or manager) to educate and see that their fans or spectators behave in a proper and respectful manner.

Rule 4.13: Misconduct

Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained herein and as published by the USSF, including cautions, ejections, and standard suspensions. Any coach or team official shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual(s) who violate these rules and who in the opinion of the disciplinary authority, is a supporter of that team.

Section 5: Discipline Policies

Rule 5.1: Responsibility for Discipline

A. **General Cases.** In general cases, the member organizations shall be responsible for governing those persons associated within their operation, and shall establish procedures to that effect. However, it is the duty of all member organization officers, coaches, referees and assistant referees to report immediately any infraction of "*Misconduct Toward Game Officials"* and "*Misconduct of Game Officials"* (see appendix).

B. **Member organization Discipline and Appeal Procedures**. Member organizations shall provide procedures for discipline, protest and appeals for their affiliated members. All grievances involving the right to participate and compete in activities sponsored by the USSF and the MSYSA and its members may be appealed to the USSF's appeal committee that shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify, or reverse a decision. All hearings shall comply with USSF Bylaw 701 and USSF Policy 701-1 (see appendix).

C. **Line of Authority.** Should any person, team or member organization want to appeal any decision, the line of authority shall be from the member organization to the MSYSA discipline and appeals committee, to the line of authority as specified by United States Soccer Federation.

Rule 5.2: Discipline and Appeal Filing Procedure

A. **Types of Discipline and Appeals**. The MSYSA discipline and appeals committee shall only hear appeals from decisions of lower authority, cases concerning referee assault, or matters referred by the board of directors.

B. **Line of Authority.** The line of authority for an appeal is:

1. Member organization;

2. MSYSA discipline and appeals committee;

3. The line of authority as specified by the United States Soccer Federation.

C. **Grounds for Appeal**. Appeals must be in writing, either on forms specified by the MSYSA or providing the information requested on such forms, and describe in detail the grounds for the appeal.

D. **Appeal Fee and Time Limit.** The written appeal must be mailed within ten (10) days of the receipt of a written decision from a lower authority and must be accompanied by all supporting documents and by the $250.00 fee in the form of a money order or cashier's check.

E. **Loss or Return of Fee**. The appeal fee paid by the prevailing party will be returned; however, the fee shall not be returned if the appeal is denied.

F. **Decline to Hear Appeal.** Authorities responsible for hearing appeals may decline a hearing if:

1. The appeal does not pertain to the original protest or the decision of a lower authority;

2. The appeal is filed by a party other than the original parties to the protest/appeal.

G. **Timeliness of Response**. At all levels of the appeals process, if a decision is not reached within thirty (30) days of receipt of the written appeal, the party filing the appeal may submit the appeal to the next higher level and the appeal fee submitted will be applied to the next level.

H. **Status of Decisions.** All decisions at all levels of the appeal process shall stand and be in full force and effect until changed by a higher authority.

I. **Ultimate State-level Authority**. Decisions of the MSYSA discipline and appeals committee shall be binding unless the decisions are overturned by a higher authority. Failure to abide by decisions of the committee shall be grounds for disciplinary action by the MSYSA board of directors.

Rule 5.3: Disciplinary Rulings, and Minimum Punishments (All Sections listed below are minimums)

A. **Minimum Penalties.** A member organization may adopt more stringent penalties, which will prevail, but in no event may penalties be less than those listed.

B. **Player Fighting.** A player guilty of fighting before, during or after games shall receive a two-game (2) suspension.

C. **Player Profanity.** A player guilty of using profanity, either by word or sign, against another player, coach, spectator, or any member organization official shall receive a minimum two-game (2) suspension.

D. **Player Threats.** A player guilty of making threatening gestures against another player, coach, spectator, or any member organization official shall receive a minimum two-game (2) suspension. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as “I’ll get you after the game” or “You won’t get out of here in one piece” shall be deemed referee abuse. **(See Appendix USSF Policy 531-9).**

E. **Player Striking Official.** A player guilty of pushing or striking any coach, or any member organization official shall receive a minimum one-year (1) suspension.

F. **Misconduct toward a Referee.** Any player, coach, manager, or official committing some misconduct as defined by USSF Policy 531-9 shall be dealt with in accordance with that policy. Reporting procedures are included in the policy.

1. Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting on bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee’s property or equipment.

2. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: Using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee’s property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; or verbally threatening a referee.

3. Referee assault involves physical contact with the referee, or the referee’s uniform or personal property.

G. **Coach Threats.** Coaches or team officials who make threatening gestures or use threatening language to other players, coaches, or any member organization officials shall be disciplined according to the following schedule:

First Time:	Minimum two-game (2) suspension.
Second Time:	The offender shall appear before the MSYSA board of directors and be suspended for a minimum of four (4) games.
Third Time:	The offender will be suspended for not less than one (1) year.

H. **Misconduct of Spectators.** Any other individual who may be reasonably construed to be associated with a team, such as relatives and supporters, shall also be subject to the jurisdiction of this Association.

1. Assault or abuse of a referee by a spectator. If an individual who supports a team abuses or assaults a referee, such action shall be deemed loss of control by the coach and other team officials. Upon receipt of a report of an assault or abuse of a referee by a spectator, the chairperson of the discipline and appeals committee, or their designate, will form an ad hoc committee composed of the chairperson (or their designate) and two (2) individuals on the MSYSA board of directors who are not members of the member organization(s) involved in the case. The chairperson will perform a preliminary investigation and disclose the results of the investigation to the ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee will determine if there is enough evidence to sustain a charge of assault or abuse. If not, no action will be taken. If there is enough evidence, a letter will be forwarded to the team informing them of the requirement to post a cash bond up to $1,000 with the MSYSA. After receiving written notification of the requirement for a bond, the team shall have forty-eight (48) hours to post the bond with MSYSA. Failure to remit that bond to this Association shall place that team temporarily under suspension and not in good standing. Any games missed or games played after the forty-eight (48) hour period but prior to the posting of said bond will be considered forfeit.

2. The matter will be referred to the discipline and appeals committee for a complete investigation and hearing. Said hearing will be conducted with the same procedures established for hearings conducted for assaults of referees by players, coaches or other team officials. After hearing all the evidence the discipline and appeals committee may return the bond if the charges prove untrue; may continue the bond for a period of time not less than one (1) year; may increase the amount of the bond to a maximum of twice the amount of the original bond; or may reduce the amount of the bond; depending on the severity of the offense.

3. If a second such offense occurs involving any supporter of the same team within a period of two (2) years, the amount of the bond shall be doubled. The original bond, if still in effect, will be forfeited.

4. If a third such offense occurs involving any supporter of the same team, the team shall be suspended from all competition under the auspices of the MSYSA. Provisions will be made to prevent the reforming of the same team members with a new team name.

5. The MSYSA shall return the bond at the end of the period determined by the discipline and appeals committee.

I. **Misconduct of Game Officials.** In case of misconduct by referees or other game officials, *USSF Policy 531-10* shall apply, including reporting procedures (See Appendix).

APPENDIX

The content of this Appendix is not meant to be rules that may be amended by the MSYSA. The information provided herein is for reference and any changes by USSF will be effective immediately upon any subsequent amendments by USSF and this Appendix will be updated as quickly as possible.

USSF Policy 531-9 – Misconduct Toward Game Officials

Section 1. General

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

Section 2. Rule Application

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

Section 3. Terms and References

As used in this policy –

1. "Referee" includes the following:
    a. All currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees, 4th officials or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match.
    b. Any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee (under Rule 3040).
    c. Any club assistant referee.

2. "Hearing" means a meeting of at least three neutral members, one of which is designated or elected to serve as Chairperson. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to guidelines established by the Organization Member.
3. (a)(i) Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.
    (ii) For purposes of this policy, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.
    (b) Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.
4. (a)Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.
    (b) Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee that implies or threatens physical harm; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee.

Section 4. Jurisdiction and Hearings

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

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

Section 5. Penalties and Suspensions

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

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

Section 6. Appeals

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

Section 7. Procedure for Reporting Assault and Abuse

A. Procedures for reporting of referee assault and/or abuse shall be developed and disseminated by the National Referee Committee to all Federation registered referees.
B. Referees shall transmit a written report of the alleged assault or abuse, or both, within 48 hours of the incident (unless there is a valid reason for later reporting) to the designee of the Organization Member and the State Referee Administrator. For tournaments or special events, the referee shall transmit a written report to the tournament director on the day of the incident and to his home state SRA within 10 days of the incident.

USSF Policy 531-10 – Misconduct of Game Officials

Section 1. Terms and References

A. "Game Officials" includes the following:
   1. All currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees, 4th officials or others appointed to assist in officiating in a match.
   2. Any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee (See section 2 of Policy 531-8).
   3. Any club assistant referee.
   4. Any referee development program person performing any official function at a match

B. "Referee Development Program Person" includes any referee, referee administrator, referee assessor, referee instructor, referee assignor, or other person serving in such capacity in a line or supervisory position, including members of any referee committee appointed by the Federation, its Divisions, Affiliates or Associates, a State Association, or a competition, tournament or other appropriate authority.
C. "Hearing" means a meeting of at least five members, one of which is designated or elected to serve as a Chairperson. The Chairperson of a hearing shall not vote except to break a tie vote. Such members, including the Chairperson, shall not be the State Referee Administrator, the State Director of Referee Instruction, the State Director of Referee Assessment, a Federation National or FIFA Referee, or any other member of the State Referee Administration.
D. "State Association" shall be that State Association through which the game official is registered or referee development is appointed. Where a state has both Amateur or Youth National State Associations, the reference shall

mean that State Association which has legal authority within its state to administer the registration of the referee or the appointment of the referee development program person charged.

Section 2. Procedures

A. Misconduct at a Match

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

B. Misconduct Away from a Match

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

C. Any allegation of misconduct or of conflict of interest by a game official as described by subsection (A) of this section, or of unethical conduct, misuse or abuse of authority or conflict of interest as described by subsection (B) of this section, shall be made in writing to the State Referee Administrator or to the State Association(s) or Organization Member that shall report all such allegations including any allegations against the State Referee Administrator, to the State Association(s) or Organization Members through which the accused game official if registered or through which the accused referee development program person is appointed.
D. Upon receipt by the appropriate Organization Member of a verified written complaint, a hearing shall be conducted within 30 days from verification pursuant to guidelines established by the Organization Member having jurisdiction as provided by subsection (A) or (B) of this section. The guidelines may include referring the complaint to the State Referee Committee for the hearing. The hearings and appeal process shall provide for adequate due process for the accused person including proper notice of charges, the right to bring witnesses in defense, and the right to confront and to cross-examine the accusers.
E. The Chairperson of the hearing committee shall transmit the findings of the committee in writing to all parties concerned including the accused and the accusers and to the State Association(s) or Organization Member within seven days of the hearing.
F. Any party subject to penalties shall receive, at the time of notification of the decision, a notice of the rights of appeal and a copy of the procedures and deadline dates required for such an appeal to be properly considered. Time for filing an appeal shall start with the date official receipt of the decision by the party making the appeal.

Section 3. Penalties

A. The severity of the penalty imposed upon an individual shall be determined by the decision-making body having jurisdiction.
B. Penalties may be among the following:
    1. Letter of reprimand;
    2. A fine;
    3. Suspension from all active participation in the Federation for a fixed period of time;
    4. Any combination of clauses (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection; and
    5. Dismissal from the Federation.

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

Section 4. Appeals

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

Bylaw 701. HEARING PROCEDURES

In all hearings conducted under these bylaws, the parties shall be accorded:

1. notice of the specific charge or alleged violations in writing and possible consequences if the charges are found to be true;
2. reasonable time between receipt of the notice of charges and the hearing within which to prepare a defense;
3. the right to have the hearing conducted at a time and place so as to make it practicable for the person charged to attend;
4. a hearing before a disinterested and impartial body of fact-finders;
5. the right to be assisted in the presentation of one's case at the building;
6. the right to call witness and present oral and written evidence and argument;
7. the right to confront witness, including the right to provide the identity of the witness in advance of the hearing;
8. the right to have a record made of the hearing if desired;
9. a written decision, with reasons for the decision, based solely on the evidence of the record, issued in a timely fashion;
10. notice of any substantive and material action of the hearing panel in the course of the proceeding; and
11. quality concerning communications and no ex parte communication is permitted between a party and any person involved in making its decision or procedural determination except to provide explanations involving procedures to be followed.

Policy701-1 Hearing Procedures

This policy provides the minimum rights that each party would have at a hearing with respect to the right to assistance in presenting one's case at a hearing, as must be allowed under Federation Bylaw 701(5). These minimum rights apply to hearings conducted by State Associations and their members or other hearing body. A copy of these minimum rights should be delivered to the parties with the notice of the hearing.

(A) Each party at a hearing shall have the right to have an individual present at the hearing to assist the party in presenting the party's case. Such individual may, but shall not be required to be, an attorney.

(B) If the State Association or member of the State Association ("Complainant") is represented by another individual at any hearing and the hearing panel allows that individual to speak, question the parties and /or witnesses, or grant that individual any other rights, then it shall afford all other parties, or the individual representing the party, including an attorney, the same rights during the course of the hearing as is allowed to the individual representing the Complainant.

(C) If an attorney is present at a hearing to assist a part in presenting the party's case, it shall be clear at the commencement of any such hearing that the hearing shall proceed in accordance with the State Association's hearing rules and procedures. All Federal, State or local Rules of Evidence or Civil Procedure shall not be applicable.

(D) A State Association may provide, as part of its hearing rules and procedures, that an individual assisting a party may be allowed to speak on behalf of the party, make requests or ask questions at the hearing.

(E) Regardless of whether the State Association allows the individual assisting the party the rights to speak, make requests or ask questions, as noted in Paragraph D above, an individual assisting the party in presenting the party's case shall have the right to be physically present in the hearing room, and so as not to interfere with the hearing procedure, it is also recommended that the individual be seated close to the party(either behind or next to the party) so that the party may seek assistance when desired during the course of the hearing.

(F) During the course of the hearing, the party may confer briefly with the individual who is assisting before making a statement or request or prior to responding to a question. The panel conducting the hearing may limit the frequency and duration of the conferences so as not to unduly interfere with the proceeding.

(G) If there is confusion or concern, the party may request a recess to confer with the individual assisting the party. Such a request should be granted unless the number of requests by the party becomes unreasonable or the length of a requested recess is deemed by the hearing panel to be unreasonable.

(H) An individual assisting a party may prepare written material for the party and collect documents for the party. However, the party must submit or present the material and documents as material and documents of the party, and not of the individual assisting. The party has complete responsibility for those materials and documents and is subject to questioning about them.

(I) Nothing contained in this policy shall prevent a State Association from allowing greater rights to assistance than those set forth in Paragraphs A-H above. For example, a State Association may, but shall not be obligate to, allow more than one individual to assist a party at any given time.

(J) The rights, either mandatory or permissible under this policy, shall be consistently applied, and State Association should not arbitrarily allow or disallow the rights set forth above to those individuals assisting a party in the presentation or defense of the party's case.

GLOSSARY

For the purpose of interpretation, these definitions are offered but are not meant as rules themselves.

1. **Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)** Soccer's world governing body is the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), which is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. The delegates of the association of France, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland signed the articles of foundation. In 1905 the English Football Association enrolled in FIFA along with Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

   FIFA is comprised of each country's national soccer associations and is responsible for promoting and organizing the game of soccer throughout the world. FIFA also determines the basic playing "Laws of the Game." Those laws are available from the Federation in a special booklet. Today more than 150 million people throughout the world play soccer and in a given year up to 1 million referees officiate more than 20 million matches. FIFA governs all aspects of the game.

2. **United States Soccer Federation, Inc (USSF)** United States Soccer Federation , Inc (USSF) is the national governing body for all levels of soccer in the United States. It was formed in 1913 and affiliated with FIFA the following year. U.S. Soccer is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as provided in the Amateur Sports Act of 1978. The constitution, rules, policies, and procedures of the Federation have evolved over a period of time to govern the game of soccer and protect the interests of all participants, players, officials, administrators, clubs, member organizations, national states associations, and the Federation. Therefore, they must be accepted and observed by all members of the Federation until changed in accordance with the procedure provided.

3. **United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (USYSA; U.S. Youth Soccer)** United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (USYSA; US Youth Soccer) is the largest member of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). US Youth Soccer is a non-profit and educational organization whose mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of America's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition. Beginning in 1974, US Youth Soccer has always been recognized as a leader in youth sports organizations. Through a democratic structure, the membership of US Youth Soccer is able to provide uniform rules and guidelines. These guidelines facilitate intra-state, inter-state and international play. The national administration of US Youth Soccer is conducted by a nine member board of directors consisting of a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, treasurer, four regional directors, and a member at large. Each of these board members are elected into office by delegates from the 55 member State Associations. A tenth position that of past president is held by the past president for a single term of two years. The US Youth Soccer membership is divided into four regions, each with a director elected to the board of directors. The regions are essentially East (Region I), Midwest (Region II), South (Region III) and West (Region IV). Each State Association has a board of directors, elected by delegates from their member organizations, clubs or teams.

4. **"National State Association"** means an affiliated member association of US Youth Soccer representing all clubs, member organizations, teams, players, coaches, and administrators, within the territory assigned to the National State Association by the USSF National Council. The administrative body within the territory determined by the National Council to carry out the Federation's programs for amateur youth or amateur adult players or both.

5. "**Amateur Sports Act**" means the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code).

6. **"Appeal"** means a procedure to be followed which provides that such matters be resolved on as low an organizational level as possible. This process is for disputes outside the decisions made by a referee on the field during the course of a match.

7. **"MSYSA"** means Michigan State Youth Soccer Association which is a National State Association.

8. **"board of directors" or "Board"** means the board of directors of MSYSA

9. **"Club"** means an organization providing soccer to youth players that is either a direct member of MSYSA or that registers players with MSYSA through an affiliated member. At no time shall an affiliated member who functions as a "scheduling league" also be considered a "club". In the case where a club sets up one or more satellite clubs in the state, those satellite clubs may only be considered part of the main club for the purposes of the National Championship Series if all the following criteria are met: 1. The main club and satellite club have the same Board of Directors 2. The main club and satellite club have the same Tax ID number 3. The main club and satellite club are in the same MSYSA District as determined by the MSYSA Board of Directors.

10. **"District"** means a geographical subdivision of the State of Michigan

11. **"League" or "member organization"** a structured group of 4 or more teams joined for the purpose inter-team play under a common set of administrative rules.

12. **"League team"** means a team that participates in regularly scheduled member organization play.

13. **"Protest"** means a complaint about field or referee qualifications prior to the start of a game, or the misapplication of rules or procedures during a game.
14. **"Standing Rules"** means rules, regulations and policies of Michigan State Youth Soccer Association.

15. **"Team"** means a group of soccer players playing on the same side in soccer games.

16. "**Youth player**" means an individual who has not reached 19 years of age prior to August 1 immediately before the start of any seasonal year. A player who reaches 19 years of age during a seasonal year is allowed to complete that seasonal year. A player who reaches 19 years of age during August of one (1) seasonal year shall be allowed to complete all of the next seasonal year.

17. **"USOC"** means the United States Olympic Committee that is the corporation established under the Amateur Sports Act to oversee all amateur athletic activity in the United States.