

BAY AREA YOUTH SOCCER
ASSOCIATION

REGISTRARS' HANDBOOK 2026-27 SEASON



BAYSA

BAY AREA YOUTH SOCCER

www.baysa.

HANDBOOK INDEX

	<u>Page</u>
GENERAL INFORMATION	5
Registrar Duties and Responsibilities	5
Communications	5
Resources	5
Age Groups	6
"Under Designations"	6
Team Roster Sizes	7
REGISTRATION POLICIES & DEADLINES	8
Late Registration	8
Late Fees and Refunds	8
Collection of Fees	8
Play-ups	8
Closing Registration Dates for Fall and Spring	9
Data Reporting and Maintenance	9
Incorrect Registration Entry	9
Age Verification	10
REGISTRATION (PLAYER)	11
100% Rule – USSF	11
Rule 209 – USYS – Ineligible Player	11
Registration Timelines	11
Eligible Player	12
SafeSport for 18 year old athletes	12
AGE DIVISIONS	14
Playing Up	14
Playing Down	14
When Do U10 Players Become 11U Eligible	15
TEAM ROSTERS	16
COMPETITION LEVELS & TEAM FORMATION	16
Playing Time	16
Levels of Play Offered by South Texas	17
Tryouts and Observations	18
ROSTERING PLAYERS TO TEAMS	19
Primary Team Definition	19
Creating and Naming Teams	19

PLAYER ADD/RELEASE/TRANSFER	20
Add New Player	20
Release	20
Abandonment Option	20
Transfer	21
Online Transfer Procedure	22
Transfer/Releases – U8 and Younger Players	23
Deadline or 2-Week Rule	23
ID Cards for Transferred Players	23
Resource: Release/Transfer Form	23
 PLAYER AND ADULT PASS/ID CARD	 24
Play Pass/ID Card	24
Printed Cards	25
Virtual Cards	25
ID Cards for Summer Tournament	25
FIFA and US Soccer ID Numbers	25
Adult Participation Pass	26
 CLUB PASS	 27
How to add a club pass	28
 ADULT REGISTRATION	 29
Eligible Adult	29
Adult ID Card	29
Fixed Requirements and Risk Management	30
 MULTIPLE ROSTERING & TOURNAMENT TEAMS	 31
Primary, League, and Tournament Teams	31
Guest Players	32
 OUT-OF-STATE PLAY	 32
Interstate Permission Form	32
 INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCE	 33
 GUEST PLAYER REQUIREMENTS	 38
 APPLICATION FOR TRAVEL	 38
 SOCCER ACROSS AMERICA	 39
 TOP SOCCER	 39

CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE	39
PLAYER GRANTS	40
MEDICAL INSURANCE CLAIMS	40
STYSA POLICIES	41
Concussion Procedures and Protocol	41
STYSA Policy on Heading	43
Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017	44
STYSA Policy on 10U Teams	46
STYSA Policy on Alcohol and Tobacco Products	46
Advertising/Sponsorship	46
Player/Team Gear Logo Policy	46
STYSA Policy on Unmanned Aircrafts	47
STYSA Open Carry Policy	48
STYSA Inclement Weather Policy	48
Severe Storms	48
Thunder and Lightning	49
STYSA Age Verification Protocol	49
FORMS (located on STYSA website www.stxsoccer.org)	
Agreement of Confidentiality	
STYSA Player Transfer/Release Form	
Concussion Notification	
Interstate Permission Form	
International Clearance – Form P12 5-11)	
International Clearance – First Registrator Form	
International Clearance Form	

GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRAR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Club registrars will be responsible for:

- Act as the primary point of contact for registration questions from parents and coaches
- Establish club deadlines to facilitate timely reports to BAYSA and state
- Conduct club registration and manage club data for players, coaches, and teams in compliance with club, association and state rules and policies
- Manage registration for all adults who participate in the program and ensure coaches have completed required training and background checks
- Verify player age documentation (birth certificates) and ensuring compliance
- Assist treasurer with tracking and verifying registration numbers for STYSA reports on or about October 1, November 1, April 15, and July 31
- Facilitate information on teams to club schedulers and officers, as requested
- Notify BAYSA registrar by Tuesday weekly of any adds/transfers/releases after teams are approved. Please attach forms.
- Uphold and ensure the security and confidentiality of registration records and information

BAYSA Registrar will be responsible for:

- Organize and implement the annual registration of players and adults
- Reconcile player registrations and prepare a player count report for the BAYSA treasurer, due to the state on or around October 1, November 1, April 15, and July 31.
- Handle and file player transfers, releases, and adds after rosters are approved
- Report to the BAYSA Executive Board and general membership on general registration progress, issues, and deadlines
- Solve general problems and concerns regarding registration matters and review any database discrepancies
- Communicate with BAYSA board members on registration matters and interface with D&P Chair on registration, when necessary
- Communicate general registration information (deadlines, registration-related information) to club registrars and other club officers as needed

COMMUNICATIONS

BAYSA Registrar → Club Registrars → Club Officers,
Coaches, Parents

RESOURCES:

www.baysa.org	(BAYSA website)
www.stxsoccer.org	(South Texas website)
GotSport State Help Center	Systemgotsport.com

<u>Registrar</u>	Shirley McGraw
	Email: Shirleysoccer@gmail.com

BAYSA REGISTRARS QUICK REFERENCE

Changes to the Age Groups for Fall Season 2026. Starting with the 2026-27 season, US Youth Soccer, AYSO, and US Club Soccer are **shifting age groups** from a calendar year (Jan 1–Dec 31) **to an August 1–July 31 cycle to align with school years.** The table above defines the 2026/27 Age Chart.

Born	2026-27	2027-28
August 1, 2007 – July 31, 2008	U19	
August 1, 2008 – July 31, 2009	U18	U19
August 1, 2009 – July 31, 2010	U17	U18
August 1, 2010 – July 31, 2011	U16	U17
August 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012	U15	U16
August 1, 2012 – July 31, 2013	U14	U15
August 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014	U13	U14
August 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015	U12	U13
August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016	U11	U12
August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017	U10	U11
August 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018	U9	U10
August 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019	U8	U9
August 1, 2019 – July 31, 2020	U7	U8
August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021	U6	U7
August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022	U5	U6
August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023		U5

“Under Designations”. With the school year age format, it will be common to see Under 8 written as U8 rather than 8U. Whether a local league places the "U" before or after the number, the letter stands for “under” and both are acceptable.

Team Roster Sizes. Team sizes and formats are as follows. These recommended roster sizes follow USYS guidelines but are not mandatory. For 13U-19U, larger rosters benefit most competitive teams, but you may keep them at 18 or fewer for development.

Age Group	Max Roster	Min Roster	Format	Division	Notes
13U-19U	22	7	11-aside	1,2,S2,3	18 in uniform at any game
11U/12U	16	6	Small-sided 9v9	1, 2, 3, S2,	
10U/9U	12	6	Small sided 7v7	4, 4-Academy	
8U/7U	Open	4	Small sided 4v4	4, 4-Academy	
6U/5U/4U	Open	4	Small sided 4v4	4	
Soccer Across America	18		Regular		

REGISTRATION POLICIES AND DEADLINES

Late Registrations. Registration requests can be submitted year-round. Clubs should clearly publish policies for late or special registrations. Players may register anytime from August 1 to July 31 but must do so through a club. Clubs may close registration, but deadlines and policies regarding player registration, guest players, late registrations, and tournament teams must be advertised and defined. Independent teams are encouraged to register with South Texas, provided they do so through an established club.

Late Fees and Refunds. Clubs should establish and prominently display policies regarding late registration fees and refund procedures on their websites and in official publications. Many organizations do not provide refunds once uniforms and ID cards have been distributed, while others either charge a nominal administrative fee or offer a full refund. Additionally, certain leagues or clubs may assess a fee for reissuing lost or damaged cards, handling transfers, etc. Ultimately, the determination of these policies rests with each individual club.

Collection of Fees. The collection of fees and charges is managed by the club, and all written policies should be posted on the website and accessible to members. **Players cannot be removed from a team due to unpaid debts.**

Play-ups. Play-up policies are set by the home club. **The state nor BAYSA have play-up rules.** To allow greater flexibility in forming teams, clubs should review how teams are built and, especially in recreational soccer, choose the approach that enables the most children to play. Each club should have written procedures in place regarding play-ups. Some clubs choose to review each request based on its merits while others establish strict limitations based on the date of birth of the player. It is also helpful and a best practice to have parents or guardians complete and sign a play-up form to keep on record. If play-ups are requested for more than four years, you will need to request assistance from the state registrar to roster the player.

Acknowledgement Example: I, (player's parent/legal guardian), in consideration for my child's voluntary participation in organized soccer, do hereby willfully acknowledge that my signature below attests to my understanding and agreement that practicing or playing up on a team with an older age group OR against a team with older year age group players. I understand there is an increased risk of injury to the player due to practicing or playing with and against older players who may be bigger, faster, stronger, and more skilled, and specifically, an increased risk of head injury, concussion, fractures, sprains, neck and spinal injuries and strains, and ligament and tendon injuries.

Closing Registration Dates. In establishing closing registration dates, the club should keep the following requirements in mind.

Fall season - Rosters are "named" or "frozen" as of final fall registration date on the South Texas Youth Soccer Association website for all teams participating in league competition that may result in the team's advancing to Fall Championships. Historically, this is November 1. In order for a player to be eligible to participate with the team, the player must have been registered and rostered to the team so that the player participates in **at least two regularly-scheduled, regular-season games**. If the team's schedule will be complete in early November, the local deadline may have to be set in October in order that the player is able to meet the two-game requirement. (Rule 3.12.4)

For **Spring Cup Competitions**, specific dates are set (refer to competitions on STYSA website). All rosters are "named" or "frozen" as of the final roster deadline for that specific competition. Players eligible for these teams must be properly registered through the association in order to appear on the final roster prior to the deadline. The STYSA competition department notifies associations and clubs through the website and email blasts usually in early January.

Data Reporting and Maintenance. Player/adult data for member associations/clubs can be accessed through GotSport as soon as it is entered or updated.

Incorrect Registration Entry. Players registered or entered incorrectly (an example would be a US Club player entered in a US Youth Soccer event by mistake) **will be invoiced as a South Texas Youth Soccer Association player and charged the South Texas Youth Soccer Association player fee for that age/play level**. To correct the roster, the player must complete a release form and have it processed.

Age Verification. Regardless of the age-verification method used, remind parents to provide a certified copy of the child's birth certificate or passport. A club or association official must verify the player's date of birth by reviewing an original acceptable proof-of-age document listed below. After verification, the date of birth may be accepted in the database. The club registrar must verify and lock the date in GotSport. To verify in GotSport, check the box next to the player's name and select "verify". As a best practice, upload a copy of the age-verification document to the document area of the player's GotSport account.

The following documents are acceptable for verifying the date of birth (STYSA Rule 3.2.8):

- Birth Certificate (**certified or verified copy only; a scanned or Xerox copy is not acceptable**; it must have the certification seal from the county clerk's office.
- A Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card or the equivalent Department of Defense form issued by the uniformed services of the United States (Form DD1173).
- Birth Registration issued by the appropriate government agency or Board of Health Records.
- Passport.
- Alien Registration Card issued by the US Government.
- Certificate issued by Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age.
- Current Driver's License.
- Unexpired federal, state, or local government identification card.
- Certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by appropriate government agency.
-

IMPORTANT. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates are NOT acceptable proof of date of birth.

Clubs may periodically audit and recertify birth dates as a best practice in maintaining databases and ensuring fair play. Coaches and parents should be aware that it may be necessary in a current season or in a future seasonal year for an association or club to request a review of an original form of acceptable birth verification documents for re-verification purposes. The best time to do the re-verification is after cup play and at the beginning of registration for the next seasonal year.

For inter-club or inter-association age verification requests, the requestor must submit an age verification request form (found on the STYSA webpage) to STYSA Membership Services. All age verification requests must be received from an eligible adult or registered coach as defined in Section 3 of the STYSA Administrative Handbook. All mandatory fields on the age verification request form must be filled out for the request to be processed.

REGISTRATION

Confidentiality Statement. All registrars and data entry operators should sign a **confidentiality statement** form found online.

- All rosters, player cards, and the adult participation passes will be produced from and managed within the GotSport platform.
- Clubs who decide not to use the GotSport system will be required to upload their player registration information. For competitive players and teams, data **must be uploaded on or before August 1**. For recreational players and teams, information must be uploaded before the fall season begins.
- Once uploaded, **all updates such as transfers or releases must be processed in the GotSport platform. Paper documentation of transfers / releases is required in the transfer portal.**

• **100% Registration Rule (USSF Policy 212-1 – Participation in Affiliated Organizations).** “Every participant in every affiliated organization must be registered with at least one organization member. A participant may be registered with more than one organization member.” This is often referred to as the 100% rule, and the policy referred to when inquiring about **dual registration in US Youth Soccer and US Club.**

• **USYS Rule 209 - Ineligible Player – Game Forfeit.** USYS Rule 209 states a team shall forfeit each game of the team in which: (1) an unregistered player was with the team at the game in a uniform; or (2) a player was improperly entered on the team’s roster.

Registration Timelines

Registration Period: August 1 through July 31 annually

Seasonal Year – September 1 through August 31 annually

School-Year Birth Format – August 1 through July 31 (to determine player’s age for registration)

Eligible player is a player who is properly registered and rostered to a team and is not suspended (Rule 3.1.5).

- the club/association registrar has in their possession registration of the type normally used by that local club/association,
- the date of birth has been verified,
- the applicable member registration fees have been collected,
- the player's (if a minor) parent or guardian has given permission, and
- the applicable member registration fees have been received,
- the player (if 18 years old) has completed the SafeSport training. (Rule 3.2.7.1)

- **SafeSport for 18 year old Athletes.** The US Soccer Federation mandated that all athletes, 18 years or older, are required to complete the Safe Sport training. GotSport notifies the registrant when Safe Sport training is needed, since anyone turning 18 during the registration year will need to complete the training before they may be initially rostered to a team.

- A player must be properly registered and rostered prior to the appropriate deadline for the competition in which the team is participating. **Player information for registration to include but not limited to legal name as appears on birth certificate, date of birth, physical mailing address, telephone number, email address, parent or legal guardian information.**

Fall Season – rosters for all teams eligible for possible advancement to district playoffs are frozen as of final fall registration date on the South Texas Youth Soccer Association website. (Rule 3.2.6.2). All players must participate in at least two regularly scheduled, regular season games in order to be eligible. (Rule 3.12.4)

Spring Cup – players must be registered and rostered to the team prior to the final roster deadline for the specific competition as communicated to members by the South Texas Youth Soccer Association competition department. This is usually accomplished through the website and email blasts.

- **Player information must be accurate and current. Clubs may not enter "ghost parents" or use the club address for a player or transpose letters in the name to create duplicate accounts.**

- Collection of fees and other charges is a club matter, and a written policy should be available to members. **You cannot remove a player from a team because of outstanding debt.**

- A player must be rostered to a team to have a card printed. Registrars may create generic tournament teams in GotSport (tournament season) to handle special cases. Player will pay regular season fees respective to time of year and play level when registration occurs.

- **A player may register at any time.** Official deadlines for reporting registration to the state are October 1 (initial fall), November 1 (final fall), April 15 (spring), July 31 (summer).

- Players who participate in the STYSA ODP program and who are not registered through a STYSA Member Association may direct register with STYSA. (Rule 3.2.4)

- **Players should be registered at the time they participate in tryouts.** Most clubs collect the full registration fee only after selections have been made and team assignments identified.

- **Players have only one ID number per seasonal year.** If a player is transferring to another club or team, registrar must use the assigned ID number and not enter player as a new player. The paper player transfer form should be completed and submitted to the registrar and the online registration form should be completed. To avoid player duplication, do not import players from another association/club until the player is released from the club he/she is coming from. Likewise, there is no provision to import teams.
- **Player Bound to Team.** A player rostered to a primary team is bound to the team to which he /she is first rostered from August 1 until July 31 unless the player requests and obtains a transfer or release. (Rule 3.5) A **primary team** is any team that is in competition for participation in Fall Championships, US Youth Soccer National Championships, President's Cup, Director's Cup, or South Texas Cup. A registered player does not have to be rostered to primary team. (Rule 3.1.15)
- **Date of Rostering.** The date of a player's rostering shall be no earlier than August 1 of the current registration period and is determined by assignment to a team or player's first participation, other than as a guest player, in any competition (excluding tryouts and scrimmages leading to team formation) sanctioned by South Texas Youth Soccer Association or its member associations. (Rule 3.4) In the GotSport platform, however, team rosters can be generated before August 1 so that registrars and club officials can verify players.
- A player must register in the state in which they reside with their parent / guardian or attend school. (Rule 3.2.1). Within the state, a player may register with the club or league of their choice. (Rule 3.2.2)
- Although local clubs or associations may hold separate registrations for fall and spring seasons, **players are registered with the state only once per seasonal year.** Once information for a player is submitted to the state, the player is considered registered for the entire registration period and seasonal year.
- A player residing outside the boundaries of South Texas must obtain permission from their state of residence and the state in which they wish to register prior to being allowed to register. (See Out-of-State Permission). A player from another state wishing to guest play with a South Texas team or a South Texas player wishing to guest play with a team from another state must obtain the appropriate permission from the state with which they are registered and the state with which they wish to play prior to participation. (See Interstate Permission) (Rule 3.2.3)
- Notarized medical forms are not required for league play or playoffs and are no longer required by US Youth Soccer for tournaments.

AGE DIVISIONS

Age Groups		
19 years of age under	13 years of age under	7 years of age under
18 years of age under	12 years of age under	6 years of age under
17 years of age under	11 years of age under	5 years of age under
16 years of age under	10 years of age under	4 years of age under
15 years of age under	9 years of age under	
14 years of age under	8 years of age under	

(Reference Rule 3.3.1)

Teams are normally formed so that players are placed on the youngest team for which they qualify. Age groups are determined by the player's school-year age (Rule 3.3.1). Please refer to the age eligibility chart at the front of this manual. **Age followed by "U" means that age and younger, e.g., 10U means 10 years of age and under.**

Playing Up

Allowing a player to participate on an older team is a local club decision. Each club should have in place written guidelines for handling requests to "play-up". **South Texas Youth Soccer Association nor Bay Area Youth Soccer Association have play-up rules or restrictions.**

Example: I, (player's parent/legal guardian), in consideration for my child's voluntary participation in organized soccer, do hereby willfully acknowledge that my signature below attests to my understanding and agreement that practicing or playing up on a team with an older age group OR against a team with older year age group players. I understand there is an increased risk of injury to the player due to practicing or playing with and against older players who may be bigger, faster, stronger, and more skilled, and specifically, an increased risk of head injury, concussion, fractures, sprains, neck and spinal injuries and strains, and ligament and tendon injuries.

Playing Down. No player may be allowed to play on a team in a younger age division (see exception). Having a player on a roster that is beyond the age limit for that age group will result in an ineligible player, and games in which such a player participated will be considered a forfeit. (See USYS Rule 209).

Exception to Playing Down: For recreational players (**Division III and Division IV**), a medical exception may be granted. If a medical condition exists (substantiated in writing by a licensed physician with no family relationship to the player) that will prohibit or severely hinder a player from playing in his /her own age group, they player may seek special approval from the state association to allow the player to participate in a younger age group. The medical recommendation must be made by a physician (MD or DO); PA's, NP's, DPT's are not considered physicians in the state of Texas. All requests must be submitted to the State Registrar or Executive Director and will be heard by the South Texas Youth Soccer Association Executive Committee prior to the player's first game. **Any team with a medically exempt player is**

eligible for in-house play only. (Rule 6.1.0b). Play-down approvals remain valid for the current seasonal year only and do not carry over to the next year.

When do U10 Players become Eligible for U11?

Each year, there are questions regarding whether U10 teams are allowed to play up to U11 in the Spring. The answer is no. US Youth Soccer mandates that U10 teams play small-sided for the entire seasonal year. Realizing that this age group will be moving up to U11 the following fall, US Youth Soccer allows each state association to establish the date upon which U10 teams may begin preparing for entry into the U11 age group. South Texas Youth Soccer Association adopted the following policy: **Players eligible to participate on newly-formed U11 teams may begin practicing and participating in tryouts, tournaments, scrimmages and friendly games on May 1 or the day after the end of each association's spring season, whichever is later.**

TEAM ROSTERS

A roster is a form used for listing the players assigned to that team. All coaches should be provided with a copy of their roster at the beginning of the seasonal year prior to their first game. The coach should verify that all of the players on the team are shown and, if not, contact the club registrar to make the necessary adjustments before at the beginning of the season. This may prevent eligibility problems later in the season. Also, a coach should have in his/her possession an official roster for their team at all times.

South Texas Youth Soccer Association team numbers are randomly assigned by the GotSport registration program at the time when the team is created in the system.

COMPETITION LEVELS/FORMATION OF TEAMS

South Texas Youth Soccer Association has in place a Team Formation Requirement (South Texas Youth Soccer Association Administrative Handbook Rule 3.9) which defines the various levels of play and the manner in which these teams should be formed. Your member association you're your club should have a similar structure for forming teams that is in compliance with these procedures. For recreational players, a system of rostering players should be used to establish a balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating. For team roster size limitations, please refer to table at the beginning of this document.

Playing Time

Division	Playing Time Requirements	Exceptions
4U-12U	50%	Due to illness or disciplinary reasons (coach must inform opposing coach and game official and note on game card that player will not be playing)
Division II, Division III, and Academy 4	50%	Due to illness or disciplinary reasons (coach must inform opposing coach and game official and note on game card that player will not be playing)
Division I, Super II	No minimum playing time for each registered player	

In Division II, Super II, Division III, 11U/12U development programs as well as Division 4, coaches must make every effort to play each registered player that is present at least one-half of the game unless unable to do so due to player's illness or injury or for disciplinary reasons. In the event that a player is present but will not be playing, the coach must inform the referee and the opposing coach as to the reason that player will not participate. In Division I, there is no

minimum, playing time for registered players. Again, for Division IV, players must play one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline. (Rules 6.1.2)

Levels of Play Offered by South Texas

It is the mission of South Texas Youth Soccer Association to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of the youth of South Texas by offering an environment that makes soccer fun and instills a lifelong passion for the game in its players and their families.

To accomplish this goal, South Texas Youth Soccer Association provides the following levels of play designed to fulfill the needs of players age 4 through 19 of various skill levels. The description below are resourced from the STX Competitive Level Guide (2026).

Level	Player Profile	Competitive Focus	Training Frequency	Training Structure	Support	Leagues & Spring Cup Participation
Division 1 <i>Highest Competitive</i>	Highly developed technical ability, strong tactical understanding, high physical capacity, consistent competitive mentality	Perform at the highest level of league and cup competition, including state and regional events and showcases	3+ sessions per week	Periodized, game-based training integrating advanced technical execution, complex tactical principles, and high physical demands	Strength & conditioning, video analysis, specialized coaching (e.g., goalkeepers)	EDPL Platinum & Div. 1 Brackets, WDDOA Platinum & Prime Brackets State Cup, Presidents Cup
Super 2 <i>Intermediate Competitive</i>	Solid technical foundation, developing tactical understanding, adequate physical capacity, growing competitive mentality	Compete consistently in league play with selective tournament participation	2 sessions per week	Periodized, game-based training integrating solid technical execution, developing tactical principles, and moderate physical demands	Occasional fitness work and video analysis; optional specialized or guest coaching	EDPL Super 2 Brackets, WDDOA Challenger & Alpha Brackets Presidents Cup, Directors Cup
Division 2 <i>Entry-Level Competitive</i>	Emerging technical ability, basic tactical understanding, developing physical capacity, introductory competitive mentality	Player development over results; introduction to competitive structures and match demands with limited tournament exposure	1–2 sessions per week	Periodized, game-based training integrating emerging technical execution, basic tactical concepts, and age-appropriate physical demands	Coach-led sessions with minimal specialized coaching	EDPL Division 2 Bracket, Member Association Division 2 Leagues Directors Cup, South Texas Cup
Division 3 <i>Recreational</i>	Foundational technical ability, limited tactical understanding, general physical capacity, participation-focused mentality	Enjoyment, confidence building, social connection, and basic skill acquisition	1 session per week or pre-game practice	Periodized, game-based training integrating foundational technical actions, simple tactical ideas, and general physical activity demands	Volunteer coaches; informal structure	Member Association Division 3 Leagues and H-Town Soccer League (Operated by TSG) South Texas Cup

In addition, South Texas also offers recreational soccer to the following age/play level groups.

Division IV - Recreational –10U and younger players

Children learn the basics of soccer through positive, fun training sessions that include short demonstrations and lots of participation. The primary goal of this play level is fun and the opportunity to play. There is a requirement that coaches make every effort to play each player at least 50% of each game.

Division IV – Academy/Recreational Plus –7U through 10U players

The Academy Program is designed to allow trainers to teach individual skills to 7U, 8U, 9U and 10U players in a team training format. Clubs must be pre-approved through an application process to offer this level of play.

Tryouts and Observations

Team formation should be a fair and unbiased process to assign and roster players. Check appropriate roster sizes for different age and play levels.

- Observations (Recreational). Every child that signs up to play soccer is assigned to a team; no one is turned away due to skills. A limit can be placed on the number of children who are accepted for a season, and recreational registration should be noted on a first-come, first-served basis. Players must be accepted in the order of registration date and time. Anything else would be considered a form of a tryout because it might imply the club is accepting only those who are "good" for the team. Once signed up, each child can be skills tested and evaluated to determine team assignment. Clubs should have a policy on recreational team formation in their rules or bylaws.
- Recreation versus Recreational Plus Leagues and Teams. Per USYS Rule 101, Sec 3, (16 and 17, a recreation league is (a) prohibited from using tryouts, invitation, recruiting or any similar process to roster players, (b) (clubs) accepts players as eligible youths, (c) rosters players with a fair or balance distribution of playing talent among all teams, and (c) abides by the 50% rule. A recreational plus league is prohibited from using tryouts, invitation, recruiting or any similar profess to roster players and accepts players as eligible youth; however, the definition does not include (c) and (d). Recreational plus teams must play in recreational plus league including tournament with other recreational plus teams, e.g., they cannot compete against theoretical recreation teams. It is recommended that U9 and U10 academy players play in recreational plus leagues (Rule 3.1.19).
- Tryouts (Competitive). The organization uses skills testing to determine who makes the team. Some players may be denied a place on the team.
- Paid Professional Training. Division IV players or teams may participate in individual skills training from a paid professional through a club sponsored Skills Training Program. U9 and/or U10 teams formed to play Division IV may participate in club sponsored Academy program. All other teams formed to play Division IV are prohibited from receiving team training from a paid professional, except as provided above. (Rule 3.9.1.4)
- Academy is not a play level, but a certified program which uses a defined and approved curriculum and qualified staff to teach individual skills to players registered as U10 and younger. (Rule 3.1.16).

ROSTERING PLAYERS TO TEAMS

Rostering is the assignment of players to a team. Players may be rostered to a team at any time during the registration period (August 1 through July 31).

Once a player is rostered to a primary team, they are bound to that team for the entire Seasonal year (September 1 through August 31) unless they request and receive a transfer/release. (Rule 3.5).

Each team must have one coach rostered to the team in order to generate a team.

Player information must be marked verified by the registrar before player can be rostered to a team. GotSport will manage registrations daily and lock all verified players.

A player becomes rostered to a team when they are:

- Registered player officially assigned to a team by the league / registrar
- If not officially assigned to a team, the first team with which they participate. other than a guest player, in any competition (excluding tryouts and scrimmages sanctioned by South Texas Youth Soccer Association or its member associations) (Rule 3.4)

Primary team: Any team that is in competition for participation in Fall Championships, US Youth Soccer National Championships, President's Cup, Director's Cup, or South Texas Cup. A registered player does not have to be rostered to a primary team (i.e., U6). (Rule 3.1.15)

Many clubs hold separate fall and spring registrations for recreational (local) soccer. Recommendation is to have association registrar do a one-time reset for the recreational team roster at the beginning of the spring season.

Reset Team Toggle. Association registrars have the ability to reset rosters and clubs should strongly consider using this tool for spring team building. Reminder, you can only reset rosters for recreation teams (Division 3 and Division 4). **Team resets typically occur in a later season, such as spring or summer.**

Creating and Naming Teams: Include your primary club name, age identifier, gender, and team name; *Example:* HTX South 10G Surge. In this example, the girls on this team were born in 2010; use the age year not the age division (2010 not U15). When creating a team in the early summer, use the current year; GotSport will automatically "age up" the teams on August 1.

Roster Freeze Date for Competitive Teams. **All competitive teams should be approved and locked on or around August 1, and no later than August 10. After that date, all team activity, including adds, transfers, and releases, must be sent to the association registrar. Once a player is rostered to a team, the player is active, so clubs should use discretion when issuing refunds.**

PLAYER ADD/RELEASE/TRANSFER

For transfers and releases, registrars must have signed paperwork before performing a change in the database and before a player participates with the team and an ID card is issued. Most associations have change forms that are submitted to the association registrar weekly to update rosters by weekend matches.

ADD or New Player (Rule 3.1.1)

An "Add" is considered a new player (one not registered with any club, league or association during the current seasonal year).

RELEASE (Rules 3.1.24, 3.6)

A player may request release from a team at any time during the seasonal year. A release is accomplished by completing the first two sections of the Release / Transfer paper form including the signature of the player, the parent and the registrars of the club and association. **Although the form requests a reason, this is no longer required. There is no requirement for the releasing coach to sign the form.** Release forms are required to remove players from the roster of a Primary Team.

- **If a released player decides to return to his original team or any other primary team within a seasonal year, it is considered a transfer.**
- **Be cautious when releasing a player from a team subject to 50%+1 eligibility rule.**

Once a player is rostered to a team, a coach, manager or registrar cannot involuntarily release a player unless the situation meets one of the following situations and is properly documented:

- the player has violated the rules of USSF, USYSA or South Texas Youth Soccer Association
- the player has moved a distance too far away to make participation practical
- the player is injured too severely to play

A coach or registrar cannot release a player because the coach no longer wants the player on the team or because the player failed to come to practice or games or because the player did not pay his/her trainer fees, nor can the player be moved to a "B" team without the change (transfer) being requested by the player and his/her parent. Payment of the registration fee is required in order for a player to be considered rostered. Training fees are a personal contract between the parent and the club / trainer.

Abandonment Option. If a club would like the State Registrar to consider that a player has abandoned the team, a completed release form accompanied by detailed documentation of attempts to reach the player must be submitted to the state registrar. Each request will be reviewed by the State Registrar who will make a decision whether the player has voluntarily abandoned the team. Player cannot be released until a final decision is made. Request must be made in a timely manner. (Rule 3.6).

TRANSFER (Rule 3.12)

Transfer is the movement of a player from one primary team to another during a seasonal year. **The transfer process is two-fold: paper release/transfer form and online.**

Parents initiate transfers and releases. Parents will need to complete the transfer / release paper form located under publications on the South Texas Youth Soccer Association website, www.stxsoccer.org. Club registrars will probably need to help parents with the process. All paperwork must be complete and in the hands of the association registrar prior to the player participating with the team to which he / she is transferring. **Information must be complete on player transfer form (team numbers, player ID, parent and player signature, dates, etc.)** and must be submitted in timely manner to registrar. The transfer form should be signed by the player, parent, and both the association and club registrar of the releasing and receiving organization. There is no requirement for the releasing coach to sign the form.

A player cannot transfer onto a team until they have been released by their original team. Any player requesting transfer from one team to another must attach a summary of his/her penalty points. Paperwork and online process must be completed before a player moves to a receiving team.

Any player who moves from one primary team to another (club to club or association to association; not internal club movement) after having been rostered to a team is considered a transfer and must complete the appropriate paperwork and online form prior to being added to the new team. A previously rostered player means a player who moves from the team to which the player was initially rostered in one club during the current seasonal year to a team in a different club as defined in Rule 3.8.4. (Rule 3.1.9)

U13 through U19 teams participating in STYSA Fall Championships or Director's Cup may transfer no more than five (5) previously rostered players onto the team during the course of the seasonal year. U11 and U12 teams may transfer no more than three (3) previously rostered players onto the team during the course of the seasonal year. (Rule 3.12.1).

For USYSNC and USYS Presidents' Cup, South Texas Youth Soccer Association adopts the USYS rule pertaining to transfers and rostering for cup play. Information is published on the South Texas Youth Soccer Association website and in the cup communications. (Rule 3.12.2)

Definition of a Transfer (Rule 3.1.10).

- Club to Club (Association to Association) Player Transfer is defined as the movement of a player from a team to which the player was initially rostered in the current seasonal year to a team in a different club. Club to Club player transfers meet the definition of previously rostered player and will count toward the receiving team's maximum transfer limit. To complete a transfer between clubs or associations, please use link below.
- Internal Club Player Transfer is defined as the movement of a player from one team to another team within the same Club. This type of player movement does not meet the definition of previously rostered player and does not count toward the receiving team's maximum transfer limit.

Maximum number of transfers per seasonal year: (Rule 3.12)

- Maximum five transfers per year on teams participating in South Texas Youth Soccer Association Fall Championships or Director's Cup during the course of the seasonal year. (Rule 3.12.1)
- Maximum three transfers per year on small sided teams (11U/12U) during the course of the seasonal year. (Rule 3.12.1)
- For USYSNC and USYS Presidents Cup, South Texas Youth Soccer Association adopts the USYS South Region rule, as amended, pertaining to transfers and rostering for cup play. Rule 3.12.2. Information is published on the South Texas Youth Soccer Association website and in the cup manual.
- Players on competitive teams (Division II, Super2, Division I) must use the transfer / release process on or after August 1 (date rostering begins annually – registration period). **If teams have any doubt in the summer about whether a player will play on a team, they should take players as guests to August tournaments.**
- To be eligible to participating USYSNC, Presidents Cup and Director's Cup, previously rostered players must be transferred to the team by the final roster deadline date in accordance with the communication from the South Texas Youth Soccer competitions department. (Rule 3.12.5)

Online Procedure.

- **To submit an online form:** *Sign into club then go to affiliations and select South Texas Youth Soccer Association then 2026-27 STYSA Transfer form. Complete the form as you would the paper form. There has been no change in the workflow: player, parent or team initiates -> to releasing organization: club registrar then association registrar for release -> to receiving organization: club registrar then association registrar for transfer. GotSport will automatically affix "T" to roster. If opted in, an email acknowledgement will be sent to principal registrars. It still may be a best practice to maintain paper forms for documentation.*

- **To approve an online form: must be approved by releasing club, releasing association, receiving club, receiving association and the state.**

Go to Club Management -> Forms and Requests -> click in form box and select 2026-27 STYSA Transfer Form and search. When the list comes up, click on the ID. The transfer will come up and you click green (approve), red (disapprove), yellow (pending). This has to be done by clubs AND associations. Sometimes the system does not release the player and you will be a "secondary player error message", if so, association registrar needs to go back into the system, go to the team, and release the player. Then send a message to the state registrar that the player transfer should be ready to execute.

Transfer/Releases – U8 and Younger Players

It is recommended that if a player is rostered to an U8 or younger team, parents should send the club registrar an email requesting the release or transfer. Club registrar should send email to association registrar requesting move. There is no charge or limit on number of transfers for the younger teams. Exception: Transfers and releases are not required for Division IV players UNLESS a Division IV player is going to move to play-up to Division II or higher. The same is true of a U10 player who was playing-up in U11 Division II or higher in the fall and decides to play back down to age level in the spring.

Deadlines or 2-Week Rule

Transfers must be completed in time for the team to be in compliance with the rules of the competition. Example: Rosters are frozen for Fall play on the final fall registration date as published on the STYSA website, and players must participate in two regularly-scheduled regular season games. Rosters are frozen for Cup play by the date established and published on the STYSA website. All transfers must be processed in a timely manner in order to comply with the appropriate competition. (Rule 3.12.4)

ID Cards of Transferred Players

The player retains the same ID number even though they may be changing associations or clubs.

Resource: Release/Transfer Form

A copy of the Release / Transfer form can be found in the forms section under publications on the South Texas Youth Soccer Association website ([STYSA Forms and Documents](#))

PLAYER AND ADULT PASS/ID CARD

Any team playing outside their home league (inter-association league play, invitational tournaments, Fall Championship Playoffs, USYSNC, Presidents Cup, Directors Cup, or South Texas Cup), must have a Player or Adult Pass / ID Card. These cards must be prepared in GotSport.

Player Pass/ID Card

All team members should be issued a Player Pass/ID Card. The card verifies that the player is properly registered for the seasonal year in which they are participating. (Rule 3.2.9) Many local leagues playing "in-house" (within their local club only) choose not to issue cards to these teams. This is acceptable as long as the teams are not playing outside their home league. The member player pass is a one-sided card that displays the following information:

- the individual's name (player or coach)
- the player's verified date of birth
- the team name
- the STYSA team code
- the age group in which the team participates
- the seasonal year for which the card is issued
- the signature of the Registrar of the member association or their designee
- a recent photograph of the player

The physical player pass must:

- be generated in the STYSA official registration system
- be properly laminated
- be signed (or hand stamped with a signature stamp) by the local or member association registrar or his / her designee
- include a recent photo of the registrant
- include the STYSA team code

The virtual player pass must:

- be generated in the STYSA official registration system
- be signed by the local or member association registrar or his/her designee,
- include a recent photo of the registrant
- include the STYSA team code.

Any missing element outlined above for the USYS physical or virtual player passes shall render the card invalid and the player shall not be allowed to participate. A non-recreational level player with an improperly prepared player identification card shall not be allowed to participate in a game. (Rule 3.2.9.1)

If an association chooses to print player pass cards for local league teams, recreational plus league teams, tournament teams or guest players, then the cards must include the appropriate level of play as designed in the registrar's manual.

Printed Cards.

Resource for Card Stock. Clubs should purchase card stock from a local office supply store. We no longer use the pre-printed USYS card stock nor colored card stock for adults.

Member Pass. Select the "ID" option to print your cards. Cards should have a photo affixed and laminated. Only the registrar's signature is required on the card (2-24-2013). A player may participate as a Guest Player or be a member of one or more tournament teams by using their regular ID Card. If your club has a Spring season and wishes to reprint cards, that is your choice. However, **only one card per seasonal year per player is required.** (Rule 3.7.e).

ID card belongs to the player. It is a best practice to allow players to use their player ID card for other events, e.g., guest playing at tournaments, etc.

Lamination. Individual cards must be laminated with clear material so the information is clearly visible. Photograph or trading card organizers are not acceptable. Some associations have an embossing stamp that is applied to the card after laminating to prevent tampering. This is acceptable, but not mandatory. It is preferable for cards to be hole punched and placed on a ring in alphabetical order (practice used at regional and national tournaments).

Photograph. A recent photograph of the player or adult (within the last year) should be affixed to the card. It should be a photograph of the full face similar to school or passport photograph, e.g., no glasses, hats, or other items that would obstruct the photograph image. If photos are stored in GotSport, they should be either a **GIF file or JPEG**. For the best results, you will want to use an image that is **not larger than 500K in size**.

Legal Name. It is important that the name, date of birth, and ID number on the Player Pass/ID Card is the same as what appears on the roster and the player's birth certificate. Nicknames should not be used. Should a team qualify to advance in cup competition, cards not matching the roster and not including accurate information will not be acceptable.

Virtual Cards. With use of the online registration programs, associations/clubs are encouraged to utilize virtual cards at local matches. Information on age groups and division levels should be provided. When using virtual cards, all photos must be loaded and teams locked in GotSport, local referee association notified and worked with prior to usage. Best practice is to maintain a laminated set of paper cards on the event they are needed.

ID Cards for Summer Tournaments. The seasonal year runs from September 1 – August 31; therefore, player and adult cards are valid until August 31. It is also acceptable to use the next season's cards at August tournaments, but not mandatory. If you are using ID cards; however, ID cards for the team should all be from the same seasonal year; no mix and match.

FIFA and US Soccer ID Numbers. Beginning in the seasonal year 2018-19, players are assigned a USSF ID number as well as a FIFA Connect number. In order to meet data collection requirements from USSF and FIFA, the following data will be collected and reported to these entities for each player through GotSport: player ID, first name, last name, date of birth, gender, zip, email address, country of birth, country of citizenship, and whether player has played outside US.

Adult Participation Pass

All coaches should be issued the adult participation pass. The adult ID Card and the USYS KidSafe Pass have been incorporated into one card known as the adult participation pass (APP). Team assignment will not be included on the card. Only one card is needed for individuals who coach or volunteer for more than one team. This card confirms that the adult is properly registered for this seasonal year and has cleared the required background check. The card will be printed with the same ID template (USYS) as the team. A recent photo must be affixed, and the card laminated.

Adults should have this card visible at all times when at the soccer fields (Rule 3.2.9.2), especially while on the team sideline. At state sponsored events, no adult will be allowed on the sideline without an adult participation pass. The adult card displays the following information: the individual's name (adult), a recent photograph of the adult similar to passport photo (face portrait – no glasses, hats), and the signature of the Registrar of the member association or their designee.

CLUB PASS

Club Pass Player System (Rule 3.8)

The club player pass system of play is for Division I, Super 2, Division II, Division III and recreational plus levels of play and is designed to maximize the development of the player by allowing players to club pass play on a temporary basis on a team from the same club at the same age group as the player's calendar birth year or a team from the same club in an older age group.

- **The Club Player Pass System applies only if allowed by the organization or organizations governing a particular competition, such as a local league.** The governing organization may impose more restrictive requirements, but at a minimum must meet the following requirements:
- Club pass player must play in the same or older age level as the primary team to which he or she is rostered.
- **A Club pass player may play in no more than two games in a day as a class pass player (2-21-19).**
- Under no circumstances may a club pass player be used that is not properly registered with South Texas Youth Soccer Association.
- Club pass player must play in the same or higher level competition as his or her primary team. Club pass player may play down one level of competition, but in the same age group or true age group in the case of play up, if the player is rehabilitating from a serious injury or illness. A serious injury or illness is defined as an injury or illness that required verifiable medical treatment and required the player to have not participate in games for a period of sixty (60) days or longer
- Individual Penalty Points will accumulate jointly for all games played (separate accumulations by team or competition will not be allowed). Penalty Point suspensions for the player must be served with the player's Primary team and the player is ineligible to play as a club pass player until the suspension has been served. The player, coach (of both the Primary and team(s) for which the player could play as a club pass player), and the coaching director of each club are responsible for monitoring and complying with South Texas Youth Soccer Association's Progressive Disciplinary System.
- A team may have a pool of players available as club pass players not to exceed the per game limit as set forth below. A club pass player appearing in a team's player pool may not be removed during the season of play (fall or spring). A player in the team's pool may play as a club pass player for the team multiple times during the season of play (fall or spring). A player may appear in multiple team(s) pools during a season of play (fall or spring).

13U - 19U teams – four (4) players per game. There shall be no limit to the number of club pass players in a team's pool.

11U – 12U teams – three (3) players per game. There shall be no limit to the number of club pass players in a team's pool.

9U – 10U teams – two (2) players per game. There shall be no limit to the number of club pass players in a team's pool.

- Club. For the purposes of this rule, a club having a similar name with other clubs will be considered to be the same club if the club shares a common Board of Directors and is within the same metropolitan area. If the clubs are outside of the metropolitan area, then a fifty (50) mile radius will be used, combined with a common Board of Directors.
- IMPORTANT: Roster players in the registration event (Example: 2026-27 BAYSA Registration Event) and club pass in the league event (Example: BAYSA Fall 2026).

Difference between executing a club pass vs. player roster in GotSport:

Go to club management -> roster builder

- *To roster a player, select the registration event then select the team. You can filter by name. It will show primary in the corner of the player list this means register player to the team.*
- *To club pass a player, select the league event then select the team. Pass will show in the top right corner with the player names. If you club pass in the registration event, they will not display on the match card.*

ADULT REGISTRATION

All adults must be processed through GotSport platform as this is the official source for background checks. In addition to the required background check every two years, South Texas Youth Soccer Association requires completion of the CDC concussion management module and SafeSport training. SafeSport begins with a 90-minute core course, followed in later years by three 30-minute refresher modules covering sexual misconduct and abuse awareness, mandatory reporting, emotional and physical misconduct and abuse—including bullying, harassment, and hazing. After completing the full cycle of the core course and three refreshers, the applicant begins the cycle again.

Eligible Adult (Rule 3.2.7.2)

- the association/club Registrar has in their possession a registration form of the type normally used by that STYSA Member or information submitted electronically through an on-line registration process;
 - the required fees have been received; and
 - a STYSA background check has been completed and approved.
 - the concussion module training has been successfully completed; and
 - the basic SafeSport training and any subsequent annual course have been
- All adult volunteers and employees (over the age of 17) must successfully complete a background check. (South Texas Youth Soccer Association Rule 3.15.1). It is essential that every adult over 17 years of age whether a coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer, team mom, officer, board member, or any other position, submit the required information and receive approval for background check and clearance. (Rule 3.15.2.1)
 - Youth coaches should create a coach's account and when it goes to background check, contact the STYSA Executive Director to override. If the youth coach is under 17 years of age, it should not prompt SafeSport. After the background check is overridden by the state office, you should be able to attach the person to the team as a coach and print cards.
 - Registered coaches must hold a currently effective coaching license or certificate or obtain one within one year of the initial registration as a coach. (Rule 3.2.10).
 - When forming a team, one individual should be designated as the head coach. All others should be identified as an assistant, manager, trainer or volunteer.

Adult ID Card/USYS KidSafe Card

The adult ID Card and the USYS Kidsafe Pass are one card known as the Adult Participation Pass (APP). This card confirms that the adult is properly registered for this seasonal year and has cleared the required background check. In fact, completion of the requirements is noted on the card. A recent photo should be affixed, and the card laminated. Adults should have this card visible at all times when at the soccer fields, especially while on the team sideline (Rule 3.2.9.2).

Fixed Requirements and Risk Management. Under the fixed-date policy established for adult requirements, all adult requirements expire annually on May 31. After adequate notice, delinquent accounts with missing requirements should be deleted after six weeks (mid-July) and no later than the start of the season. These individuals have access to our data and must complete the required training responsibly.

- Safe Sport. We recommend that everyone who is working with teams complete the SafeSport course early in the summer months since SafeSport accounts expire on May 31. Without this certification, adults cannot be rostered to teams or adult participation passes printed.
- Background Checks. Background checks are valid for two years but expire on May 31 during their final year. If your background check expires this year, you must submit a new one after June 1.
- Heads Up Concussion Module. No changes to the process. Requirement only needs to be taken once, at this time, but is required for an adult to receive their participation pass.

MULTIPLE ROSTERING & TOURNAMENT TEAMS

Players, with the concurrence of their South Texas Youth Soccer Association Member Association Registrar, may be rostered on more than one youth team per US Youth Soccer seasonal year provided the following conditions are met. Multiple rostering does not permit clubs or associations to interchange players at will. Most associations have guidelines on the number of guest players allowed in association play.

- Players can be rostered to only one primary team or academy program at any time during the seasonal year
- The first team to which a player is rostered is the team to which he/she is bound for South Texas Youth Soccer Association Fall Championships, USYSNC, Presidents Cup, Director's Cup or South Texas Cup play. To play on any other team in these competitions, the player must request a release from the primary team and complete a South Texas Youth Soccer Association transfer/release form or utilize a club player pass.
- South Texas Youth Soccer Association places no limit on the number of tournament teams, nor on the number of league teams not participating in competitions leading to Fall Championship or leading to cup play, to which a player is rostered.
- **No player may play with more than one (1) team in the same competition without utilizing a Club Player Pass (e.g., South Texas Youth Soccer Association fall championships is one competition, an invitational tournament is one competition, USYSNC is one competition.) Division I fall play shall be considered the same competition as South Texas Youth Soccer Association fall championships for purpose of this limitation.** (Rule 3.7.d)
- During the seasonal year, a player is required to have only one player pass, even if he/she is a guest player, club pass player, or plays on other league teams. This player pass must be for the primary team for which this player is bound for purpose of South Texas Youth Soccer Association Fall Championships, USYSNC, President's Cup, Director's Cup or South Texas Cup play.

Primary Team - a team in competition for Fall Championships, U S Youth Soccer National Championships, President's Cup, Director's Cup or South Texas Cup. (Rule 3.1.15)

League Team - a team which participates in regularly scheduled league play. This regularly scheduled league play does not necessarily have to be a part of a South Texas Youth Soccer Association sponsored season (i.e., spring leagues). (Rule 3.1.8)

Tournament Team – a team which is put together for the sole purpose of playing in a tournament or other sanctioned non-league competition. (Rule 3.1.30). Tournament teams may be formed only if they are permitted by the Member Association through which the team registers and only in the 11U and older age groups during fall and spring. Tournament teams 10U or younger are not permitted until after May 1.

OUT-OF-STATE PLAY

Out-of-state is defined as outside the boundaries of South Texas Youth Soccer Association. Since "South Texas Youth Soccer Association" covers only the southern part of the state, the northern portion of the state is considered "out-of-state." In order to play in a "state" other than the one in which you reside, permission must be granted by both state associations involved. Whether the individual is wishing to participate in regular league play or simply guest play in a tournament, the appropriate permission must be obtained prior to participation. (Rule 3.2.3)

Interstate Permission Form

The Interstate Permission form addresses the following three different categories. A player should not be registered and added roster until approved.

Interstate Permission – Permission to play in a state other than the state of residence. In some instances, a player may actually live closer to a league with a different state association than the one in which they reside (Example: El Paso to New Mexico; Lufkin to North Texas; Beaumont area to Louisiana). In such situations, the player (or their parent) must obtain permission from both the state in which they reside and the state in which they wish to play before the player is eligible to participate with the other state.

ODP (Declaration) Interstate Permission – In the instance, where a player may live closer to a league that is under a different state association than which they reside; (Example: El Paso to New Mexico; Lufkin to North Texas; Beaumont area to Louisiana). Players can declare ODP participation in one state and still take part in league play in another. In such situations, the player (or their parent) must obtain permission from both the state in which they reside and the state in which they wish to play ODP before the player is eligible to participate with the other state.

Guest Player – If a player wishes to guest play in with a team outside their current home state association they are registered in, the player must obtain permission from both the state in which they reside and the state the team they wish to guest play. In all of these situations, the parent of the player must complete an Interstate Permission form and submit it to the State Office of the state in which the player is currently registered. This form requires basic information about the player (name, address, date of birth, ID Number) and must be signed by the player's parent or guardian. While the form calls for the signature of the coach, this is not a requirement of South Texas (but may be required by any other state association). It will then be sent on to the other state for approval. Once signed by both state associations involved, the player is eligible to participate with the other state association. The parent/guardian who made the request is responsible for providing copies to additional requestors. As indicated, these same scenarios are true for players from other state associations. If a player lives in Waco (which is in North Texas) and wishes to play in Temple (which is in South Texas), they would need to complete an Interstate Permission form, submit it to North Texas for approval who would then submit it to South Texas for approval. After permission is granted by both states, the player would be allowed to play in South Texas. Because approval is required from two different State Associations, it is important that parents **allow sufficient time** for the form to be processed by both states. The Interstate Permission form is available on the STYSA website under Admin Resources > Forms and Documents.

INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

A player who comes to the United States on or after the player is 10 years of age must request and receive an International Clearance from the U.S. Soccer Federation. Registrars are reminded that this includes foreign exchange students. (Rule 3.2.3.3). Refer to instructions in the STSYA Registrar's manual and state website (www.stxsoccer.org).

International Clearance (table from US Soccer)

	Living in U.S. prior to age of 10	Moved to U.S. after age 10, but was never registered outside U.S.	Previously registered outside the U.S.
Age 10-17, U.S. Citizen	Prior to 10	First Registration	Minors Process
Age 10-17, Non-U.S. Citizen	Prior to 10	Minors Process	Minors Process
Age 18+	Prior to 10	First Registration	ITC Request

For more information, visit [US Soccer website](#) or contact the [U.S. Soccer Registration Department](#). [Once clearance form is completed and materials compiled, please send to STSYA state office.](#)

Prior to 10: Required documentation proving the player lived in the US prior to 10th birthday

- Cleared by USSF
- The player's documentation is reviewed and approved by USSF which can take three to five business days to process
- Players who entered the US prior to age of 10 (regardless of their current age) can supply a copy of an official document to prove that fact. Acceptable forms of proof documentation include, but are not limited to, the following: school report cards, doctor records and immunization records. Process simply needs proof in order to be cleared to register with U.S. Soccer.
- Submit the completed form to STSYA.
- Player's documents will be reviewed by U.S. Soccer
- Player should not be rostered to team until approved

Documentation
☐ Complete "Prior to 10" Submission Form
☐ School report cards or immunization records. Immunization records must be date and signed by US-based physician

First Registration: Required documentation for players who have never been registered to a club affiliated with another national association.

- Cleared by USSF
- After receiving and approving forms, an inquiry is sent to the birth/home country to confirm any previous registration history
- If there is previous registration history, the process will start over under the proper ITC process
- Waiting for a response from the birth/home country can take weeks to several months.
- This international clearance process is only for players who have never been registered to a club affiliated with another national association.
US Citizens – U.S. Citizens born outside of the U.S. may be cleared to register by simply completing and signing the First Registration Form. This process is available to all players, regardless of current age and skill level. Non-US Citizens – A player who is not a U.S. Citizen and is currently aged 18 or over may also be cleared to register by the First Registration process. However, there is an additional step required.
- For Non-US Citizens – U.S. Soccer will contact the foreign national association of the player and inquire whether they have any prior registrations. If the foreign federation states, however, that the player had been previously registered, the player cannot use the First Registration option and will have to be cleared via a different method.
- Submit the completed form to STYSA
- Player's documents will be reviewed by U.S. Soccer
- Player should not be rostered to team until approved

Documentation – US Citizen
☐ Complete "First Registration" Form
☐ Player's Passport
☐ Player's Birth Certificate
Documentation – Non US Citizen (over 18)
☐ Complete "First Registration" Form
☐ Player's Passport
☐ Player's Birth Certificate

Minors: Required documentation to prove that player meets exception (general, foreign exchange, 50 kilometers, refugee).

- Cleared by FIFA's Status Committee
- All documents are reviewed by FIFA which can take several weeks to several months to process
- Additional documentation may be requested
- Submit the completed International Transfer Clearance form and all required paperwork to STYSA.
- Player's documents will be reviewed by U.S. Soccer and sent to FIFA for clearance

Minors – General: Required documentation to prove that player meets the ‘parents’ exception. The player’s parents move to the country in which the new club is located for reasons not linked to soccer.

- If there is previous registration history, the process will start over under the proper ITC process.
- Waiting for a response from the birth/home country can take weeks to several months.

Documentation – US Citizen
☐ Complete “ITC Request” or “First Registration” Form
☐ Player’s Passport
☐ Player’s Birth Certificate
☐ Player’s Parents’ Passports (both parents)
☐ Player’s Parents’ Work Visas (both parents)
☐ Player’s Parents’ Proof of Residence (lease or mortgage agreement). Must include the following Information: name(s) of occupants, residence start date, and address
☐ Player’s Parents’ Proof of Employment. Employment certification letter that confirms the employment start date, the nature of the work performed, and the term of the employment (ongoing or contracted) or an offer letter that is signed and verified by the employer. Pay stubs are not accepted.
☐ Statement from club indicating first contact with the player. Information about how the first contact was made needs to be included (e.g., tryouts, parent email to club, friend of current player at club, etc.)
☐ Statement from the player’s parents regarding the reasons and circumstances for their move to the United States. This is a simple letter typed and signed by the player’s parents.

Minors – 50 Kilometers: Required documentation to prove that player meets the ‘50 KM’ exception. The player lives outside the country, but no further than 50 kilometers from a national border. In addition, the club in which the player wishes to be registered is also within 50 kilometers of that border.

50 Kilometers = 31.0686 miles; 100 Kilometers = 62.1371 miles

Documentation
☐ Complete “ITC Request” or “First Registration” Form
☐ Player’s Passport
☐ Player’s Birth Certificate
☐ Player’s Parents’ Passports (both parents)
☐ Player’s Parents’ Work Visas (both parents)
☐ Player’s Parents’ Proof of Residence (lease or mortgage agreement). Must include the following information: name(s) of occupants, residence start date, and address
☐ Proof of address of the club in the US (must be within 50 kilometer of the border)
☐ Statement from club indicating first contact with the player. Information about how the first contact was made needs to be included (e.g., tryouts, parent email to club, friend of current player at club, etc.)
☐ Proof of distance between player’s residence and club (cannot exceed 100 kilometers)

Minors – Refugee: Required documentation to prove that player meets the ‘refugee’ exception. The player has been issued refugee status by the US government.

Documentation (unaccompanied refugee player moving without parents)
☐ Complete “ITC Request” or “First Registration Form”
☐ Player’s Passport
☐ Player’s Birth Certificate
☐ Proof of refugee status issued by US government
☐ Government decision regarding legal custody of the player and custody holder’s authorization to register
☐ Declaration of status of player’s parents
Documentation: Unaccompanied refugee player moving with parents
☐ Complete “ITC Request” or “First Registration Form”
☐ Player’s Passport
☐ Player’s Birth Certificate
☐ Player’s parents’ Passports (both parents)
☐ Proof of refugee status issued by US government
☐ Player’s Parents’ Proof of Residence (Lease or Mortgage agreement). Must include the following information: name(s) of occupants, residence start date, and address.
☐ Statement from club indicating first contact with the player. Information about how the first contact was made needs to be included (e.g., tryouts, parent email to club, friend of current player at club, etc.)
☐ Statement from the Player’s Parents regarding the Reasons and Circumstances behind their move to the United States. This is just a simple letter typed and signed by the player’s parents.

Minors – Foreign Exchange Student: Required documentation to prove that player meets the ‘foreign exchange student’ exception. Player taking part in an academic foreign exchange student program. Duration of program must be less than a year, or if longer than a year, the player must be turning 18 in less than a year or have less than a year remaining.

Documentation
☐ Complete “ITC Request”
☐ Player’s Passport
☐ Player’s Birth Certificate
☐ Player’s Visa
☐ Player’s Parents’ Passports (both parents)
☐ Player’s Parents’ Work Visas (both parents)
☐ Documentation of exchange program. Official information about the exchange program (name, purpose, funding, duration, etc.) provided by the organizers of the exchange program.
☐ Registration form and application of the player with the exchange program. A copy of the registration form for the relevant exchange program signed by the player and/or his or her parents
☐ Confirmation of player’s return from the program. A confirmation, issued and signed by the organizers of the exchange program or the minor’s parents that the layer will return to home country upon completion of the program.
☐ Documentation Academic Education. A confirmation, issued and signed by the minor player’s academic institute (school/college) in the host country that indicates the dates of the envisaged duration of the relevant studies and includes a detailed timetable of the player’s classes. Enrollment date, class schedule and planned de-enrollment date of the student the school in the host country to show that the player is going to school “normally” while in the US.

☐	Confirmation of Player's Participation from Academic Institute in Home Country. A confirmation of the player's participation in the relevant exchange program, issued by the player's academic institute in home country.
☐	Documentation of accommodation/care. (Specific details concerning the supervision and accommodation of the minor player during the exchange program that include, in particular, the exact name and address of the player's host parents. Government issued ID for the host parent(s) – passports, driver's license. Proof of residence of the host parent(s) – recent utility bill rental agreement, mortgage statement, etc.)
☐	Authorization of Host Parents. A signed statement issued by the player's host parents giving their consent to the player's registration for the club of the host country's football association (letter saying they are okay with the player registering and how it would be beneficial for his/her experience to play soccer while in the US)
☐	Parental Authorization. A signed statement issued by the player's own parents giving their consent to the player's registration with a team in the US
☐	Statement from club indicating first contact with player. Information about how the first contact was made needs to be included (e.g., tryouts, parent email to club, friend of current player at club, etc.)

International Transfer Certificate: Required documentation for players over the age of 18 previously registered to a club in another country.

- Cleared by USSF
- After receiving and approving forms, an inquiry is sent to the birth/home country to obtain clearance/release
- After receiving and approving forms, an inquiry is sent to the birth/home country to obtain clearance/release.
- Waiting for a response from the birth/home country can take weeks to several months.
- Any player over the age of 18 who has been previously registered to a club in another country cannot be registered to an affiliated club in the United States until U.S. Soccer has received an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) from the player's former association.
- Submit the completed paperwork to STYSA.
- U.S. Soccer will process and request the player's international clearance from their former federation
- The foreign federation has up to thirty (30) days to respond to our request
- Once a response is received, U.S. Soccer will notify the STYSA via email

Documentation – US Citizen
☐ Complete "ITC " Form
☐ Player's Passport
☐ Player's Birth Certificate

GUEST PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

Guest player means a registered player participating in a competition for a team that is not the team to which the player is rostered. A guest player is permitted only for invitational tournaments teams or for a team that is not participating in a competition leading to Fall Championships or leading to cup play. (Rule 3.1.6)

Listed below are several scenarios with regard to guest players. Whatever the scenario, the player must be included on the roster of the team which they are playing.

- South Texas player guest plays on another South Texas team in a South Texas event
- South Texas player guest plays on another South Texas team in an out-of-state event
- South Texas player guest plays on a team from another state in a South Texas event
- South Texas player guest plays on a team from another state in an out-of-state event
- Out-of-state player guest plays on a South Texas team in a South Texas event
- Out-of-state player guest plays on a South Texas team in an out-of-state event

Following are tips on how to accomplish the task of putting a guest player on the roster. There are really only three possible situations:

- A player is already registered with your organization and wants to guest play with one of your teams
- A player is registered through another Member Association or Club and wants to guest play with one of your teams
- A player is not registered in South Texas and wants to guest play with one of your teams.

APPLICATION FOR TRAVEL

Please refer to information on e-Travel on the South Texas Youth Soccer Association website for the most current information on travel, fees, and use of e-travel online.

SOCCER ACROSS AMERICA

There is no active Soccer Across America program; however, South Texas Youth Soccer Association will continue to support and offer this to its members.

Soccer Across America is a sports participation program designed to introduce the sport to children living in economically depressed areas. The program targeted “at risk” children in rural, suburban and urban areas who need an activity outside of school. “At risk” is defined as:

- low income households
- exposure to crime and drugs
- language and cultural barriers
- single parent homes
- children with learning disabilities
- children without organized after school supervision (latchkey)
- children who score low in state testing and need additional motivation to excel in school

The program, through South Texas Youth Soccer Association, is available to players age 6 through 18 participating through recreational leagues (no competitive level teams are eligible).

Associations or clubs wishing to establish a Soccer Across America Program should contact the state office to obtain information. teams) or Soccer Across America teams may be formed within the league only. Several existing programs are operated through city or school programs.

TOP SOCCER

TOPSOCCER opens up the game of soccer to boys and girls who have a mental or physical disability. Starting as a small, grassroots program through US Youth Soccer, TOPSOCCER programs have sprung up across the nation and now, with the support of Uniroyal Tire, it’s possible to offer an individual with a mental or physical disability the opportunity to do more than sit on the sideline. It brings a sense of accomplishment and sheer joy to participants as well as to the parents and volunteers. Reduced registration fees are offered by the state association to established TOPSOCCER Programs.

CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE APPLICATIONS

Associations and Clubs file the Certificate of Insurance directly with Player’s Health. The online form is available at: <https://landing.playershealth.com/stxsoccer-coi/>

Although there is no longer a separate goal post inspection form, it is important that your organization have a procedure in place for checking the field conditions and goal posts on a regular basis.

PLAYER GRANTS

Player grants are available to assist clubs in enrolling players who otherwise would not be able to participate due to economic restrictions. Copies of the guidelines and application are located on the BAYSA website. BAYSA Treasurer administers the player grant program for BAYSA.

MEDICAL INSURANCE CLAIMS

Insurance claim forms can be accessed on www.stxsoccer.org. There are English and Spanish versions of the form. Parents should file a claim immediately after the injury and not wait for medical bills. This insurance pays secondary to claimant's primary health insurance carrier.

STYSA POLICIES

CONCUSSION PROCEDURE AND PROTOCOL FOR US YOUTH SOCCER EVENTS

Concussion: a traumatic brain injury that interferes with normal brain function. Medically, a concussion is a complex, pathophysiological event to the brain that is induced by trauma which may or may not involve a loss of consciousness (LOC). Concussion results in a constellation of physical, cognitive, emotional, and sleep-related symptoms. Signs or symptoms may last from several minutes to days, weeks, months or even longer in some cases.

Concussion Signs, Symptoms, and Management at Training and Competitions

Step 1: Did a concussion occur?

Evaluate the player and note if any of the following signs and/or symptoms are present:

- Dazed look or confusion about what happened
- Memory difficulties
- Neck pain, headaches, nausea, vomiting, double vision, blurriness, ringing noise or sensitive to sounds
- Short attention span. Cannot keep focused
- Slow reaction time, slurred speech, bodily movements are lagging, fatigue and slowly answers questions or has difficulty answering questions
- Abnormal physical and/or mental behavior
- Coordination skills are behind, example: balancing, dizziness, clumsiness, reaction time

Step 2: Is emergency treatment needed?

This would include the following scenarios:

- Spine or neck injury or pain
- Behavior patterns change, unable to recognize people/places, less responsive than usual
- Loss of consciousness
- Headaches that worsen
- Seizures
- Very drowsy, cannot be awakened
- Repeated vomiting
- Increasing confusion or irritability
- Weakness, numbness in arms and legs

Step 3: If a possible concussion occurred, but no emergency treatment is needed, what should be done now?

Focus on these areas every 5-10 minutes for the next one to two hours, without returning to any activities:

- Balance, movement
- Speech
- Memory, instructions, and responses
- Attention on topics, details, confusion, ability to concentrate
- State of consciousness
- Mood, behavior, and personality
- Headache or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Sensitivity to light and noise

Players shall not re-enter competition, training, or partake in any activities for at least 24 hours. Even if there are no signs or symptoms after 15-20 minutes, activity should not be taken by the player

Step 4: A player diagnosed with a possible concussion may return to US Youth Soccer play only after release from a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy specializing in concussion treatment and management

Step 5: If there is possibility of a concussion, do the following

- Concussion Notification Form should be filled out in duplicate and signed by a team official of the player’s team
- If the player is able to do so, have the player sign and date the form. If the player is not able to sign, note on the player’s signature line “unavailable”.
- If a parent/legal guardian of the player is present, have the parent/legal guardian sign and date the form, and give the parent/legal guardian one of the copies of the completed form. If the parent/legal guardian is not present, then the team official is responsible for notifying the parent/legal guardian as soon as possible by telephone or email and then submitting the form to the parent/legal guardian by email or mail. When the parent/legal guardian is not present, the team official must make a record of how and when the parent/legal guardian was notified. The notification will include a request for the parent/legal guardian to provide confirmation and completion of the Concussion Notification Form whether in writing or electronically.
- The team official must also get the player’s pass from the referee, and attach it to the copy of the form retained by the team.

References:

Kissick MD, James and Karen M. Johnston MD, PhD. “Return to Play After Concussion.”

Collegiate Sports Medical Foundation. Volume 15, Number 6, November 2005.

<http://www.csmfoundation.org/Kissick> - return to play after concussion – CJSM 2005.pdf. April 22, 2011

National Federation of State High School Associations. “Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports”. 2008 NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook (Third Edition). 2008 77-82.

<http://www.nfhs.org>. April 21, 2011.

STYSA POLICY ON HEADING THE BALL

Passed July 22, 2016, effective August 1, 2016

The South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) has adopted the following recommendations from the U.S. Soccer Concussion Initiative regarding heading the ball.

All players and teams participating in STYSA-sanctioned activities are subject to this policy. Players on U11 and younger teams are prohibited from heading the ball in practices and games. If in the opinion of the referee a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick (IFK) shall be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick shall be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If in the opinion of the referee a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.

Players on 12U and 13U teams shall be allowed to head the ball during games. Heading the ball in practices, for 12U and 13U players, shall be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers per player, per week.

There shall be no restrictions on heading the ball for 14U and older players.

Coaches should enforce these restrictions by the age group of the team according to the specified policies.

Referees should enforce these restrictions by the age group of the team according to the specified policies. Referees will not be assessing the age of individual players on the fields; they will enforce the policy for the age group.

PROTECTING YOUNG VICTIMS FROM SEXUAL ABUSE AND SAFE SPORT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

On February 14, 2018, the **Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017** was signed into law and became effective immediately. The U.S. Center for SafeSport has released the following fact sheet about the legislation (section on amateur sports from this document is noted below).

Amateur Sports Act of 1978

The bill also amends the Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

(a) Designation of United States Center for SafeSport

It designates the United States Center for SafeSport to serve as the independent national safe sport organization, with the responsibility for developing policies and procedures to prevent the emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of amateur athletes. These policies and procedures developed by the Center must include:

- A requirement that (a) all adult members of a national governing body or a facility under the jurisdiction of a national governing body or at any event sanctioned by a national governing body, and (b) all adults authorized by such members to interact with an amateur athlete, immediately report an allegation of child abuse of an amateur athlete who is a minor to: (i) the Center, and (ii) to law enforcement*
- A mechanism that allows a complainant to easily report child abuse*
- Reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between a minor and an adult*
- Procedures to prohibit retaliation*
- Oversight procedures, including:*
 - Audits, to ensure the policies and procedures are followed correctly*
 - Consistent training is offered*
- A mechanism for national governing bodies to share reports of suspected child abuse*

(b) General requirements for youth-serving amateur athletic organizations

The bill also modifies the obligations of amateur athletic organizations – a not-for-profit corporation, association, or other group organized in the United States that sponsors or arranges an amateur athletic competition.

- Amateur sports organizations seeking a sanction for amateur athletic competitions must implement and abide by the policies and procedures to prevent emotional, physical, and child abuse of amateur athletes.*
- Amateur sports organizations, which participate in an interstate or international amateur athletic competition and whose membership includes any adult who is in regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor, must:*
 - Comply with the reporting requirements of the Victims of Child Abuse Act*

- *Establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult*
- *Offer and provide consistent training to adult members who are in contact with amateur athletes who are minors*
- *Prohibits retaliation*

In addition to the U.S. Center for SafeSport's factsheet, which provides information regarding the entire law, we wanted to provide additional detail on the specific mandatory reporting of child abuse requirements included in the new legislation because these requirements may impact you immediately:

- The bill amends the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 **to extend the duty to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours to all adults who are authorized to interact with minor or amateur athletes** by a national governing body, a member of a national governing body, or an amateur sports organization that participates in interstate or international amateur athletic competition. These individuals are called "covered individuals" in the new legislation.
- Child abuse is defined as physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, or negligent treatment of a child.
- Per current federal regulations, reports of child abuse should be made to the local law enforcement agency or local child protective services agency that has jurisdiction to investigate reports of child abuse or to protect child abuse victims or to the FBI. These regulations have not yet been updated to reflect the recent change in the law. Until such time as the regulations are updated, U.S. Soccer will make reports to (1) local law enforcement where any alleged incident took place to the extent it can be determined and the incident occurred in the United States, (2) local law enforcement where the victim resides if different than (1), and (3) the FBI.
- An individual who is required, but fails, to report suspected child sexual abuse is subject to criminal penalties including fines and up to one (1) year in jail.
- These obligations are in addition to any State law requirements that an individual may have in a particular jurisdiction.

If you make a report of child abuse to law enforcement, please also communicate this report to the U.S. Soccer integrity hotline at <https://www.ussoccer.com/integrity-hotline> or (312) 528-7004 and the U.S. Center for SafeSport at <https://www.safesport.org/report-a-concern>. As a reminder, as a member or affiliate of U.S. Soccer, you may be subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport under certain circumstances. The Center serves an important investigatory and remedial function where law enforcement may choose or be unable to act.

If you have any questions, you can contact either Lydia Wahlke (lwahlke@ussoccer.org) or Greg Fike (gfake@ussoccer.org) in the U.S. Soccer legal department.

Reference: US Youth Soccer

STYSA POLICY ON 10U TEAMS

Players eligible to participate on newly-formed 11U teams participating in a fall season league may begin practicing and participating in tryouts, tournaments, scrimmages and friendly games on May 1 or the day after the end of each Associations' spring season, whichever is later. An existing 10U team may participate in an invitational tournament in an 11U age group in 8-a-side play during spring season play only. 10U teams are not eligible to participate in 11-a-side tournaments in any age groups. Adopted by the STYSA Executive Committee: January 14, 2011

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO PRODUCT POLICY

It is the policy of South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) that no alcohol be sold at, brought to or consumed at STYSA-sanctioned league games or tournaments. No tobacco or alternative tobacco products (electronic cigarettes / vaping devices) may be sold at STYSA sanctioned league games or tournaments. The use of tobacco or alternative tobacco products is prohibited at or near the playing fields and is limited to designated smoking areas or to the parking lot(s) of the event facility. It is the responsibility of the organizers of STYSA events to ensure that this policy is strictly adhered to.

Adopted by the STYSA Executive Committee: May 12, 2016

ADVERTISING/SPONSORSHIP

South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) prohibits solicitation and/or sponsorship by distributors or manufacturers of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products. This includes imprinting the brand names of tobacco products or alcoholic beverages on any player's equipment and/or uniforms.

Adopted by the STYSA Executive Committee: March 11, 2001

PLAYER/TEAM GEAR LOGO POLICY

At every level of South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) competitions, each player or team official at a game may only have on his/her/their apparel the name, logo, or other identifying mark of a member directly or indirectly of STYSA or US Youth Soccer

A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any youth soccer organization other than STYSA or US Youth Soccer or its member must be removed, replaced, or covered before a player, team, or team official may participate in a STYSA sanctioned Fall league or Spring Cup competition.

Adopted by the STYSA Executive Committee: January 30, 2014

STYSA POLICY ON UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

Section 1. Commitment

As an organization committed to providing a developmental, healthy, and safe environment, STYSA recognizes that the safety of its youth players is paramount. Therefore, the use of unmanned aircrafts is not permitted at any STYSA events. It is the responsibility of the Competition Authority of STYSA events to ensure that this policy is strictly enforced.

Section 2. Definition

"Unmanned Aircraft Systems" (UAS) an aircraft which is intended to operate and its associated element which are operated with no pilot on board or can fly autonomously based on pre-programmed flight plans or more complex dynamic automation systems.

Section 3. Prohibitions

- (a) The use of non-approved UAS at any event that is sanctioned by STYSA is strictly prohibited.
- (b) The use of UAS at STYSA events may be approved by STYSA
 - (1) for a specified promotional activity at an event, and
 - (2) in a designated area or areas that are away from youth soccer players, spectators and over any field of play or practice.

Section 4. Enforcement

- (a) Any person violating Section 3(a) of this policy shall be immediately removed from the event by the STYSA competition official managing the event.
- (b) If a person is removed from an Event for a violation of this policy, the party may appeal as provided by Section 4, Discipline, Protest, and Grievance Procedures, of the STYSA Administrative Handbook.
- (c) No soccer match will be allowed to start or continue if there is a UAS flown above or in the immediate area of the field. The referee will have full discretion to determine the area surrounding the field.

Adopted by the STYSA Executive Committee: October 23, 2016

STYSA OPEN CARRY POLICY

- (a) The open display of any firearm or weapon at any STYSA sanctioned competition, practice, meeting or other event, other than by a licensed law enforcement officer, shall be considered a dangerous condition such as would preclude the safety of participants, officials and spectators.
- (b) No STYSA member association shall permit the start or continuation of any STYSA sanctioned game, practice, meeting or event if a dangerous condition exists under paragraph (a) of this Rule.
- (c) Any designated official of a member association, or in the absence of such, the referee, shall be the sole judge of whether an open display is at the competition, practice, meeting or other event.
- (d) Nothing in this rule shall be construed as limiting the referee's authority to abandon or delay a match.

Adopted by the STYSA Executive Committee: October 23, 2016

STYSA INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

This Inclement Weather Policy applies for all STYSA sanctioned activities. This policy is intended to be a minimum requirement; more stringent policies at local organizations or facilities may apply. Monitoring weather conditions is the responsibility of game officials, coaches, tournament directors and club administrators. Everyone should be aware of the potential dangers posed by different weather conditions and work together to keep the players and other participants as safe as possible. It is strongly recommended that clubs purchase weather radios and lightning detectors and have them available for on-site monitoring. Coaches may wish to consider obtaining their own weather radios and lightning detectors.

SEVERE STORMS

Severe storms can produce high winds, heavy rain, hail, lightning, thunder and tornados. If a severe storm approaches the playing area, the safety of the players must be the number one priority for coaches and referees, and may require that the game be suspended while shelter is sought. In the event the game is suspended; all participants must clear the field immediately and seek appropriate shelter.

LIGHTNING AND THUNDER

Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from a thunderstorm. The danger from lightning can persist for 30 minutes or more after a thunderstorm has passed. The National Weather Service does not issue watches or warnings for lightning by itself; however, the National Weather Service does advise that if you see a lightning bolt and hear the thunder in 30 seconds or less, you seek shelter immediately and wait 30 minutes before resuming outdoor activity. Should a lightning detector be available, it should be monitored regularly throughout the duration of the event. Activity should be suspended so that the fields can be cleared by the time lightning reaches 10 miles away from the event location. When lightning is observed as detailed above, all soccer activity must be stopped immediately. The fields must be cleared and all participants must seek shelter in a safe place such as a car or building. Keep car windows rolled up and avoid contact with metal and other conducting materials. Avoid open structures, tents, canopies, trees, and other unprotected areas. Soccer activity shall not resume for a minimum of 30 minutes following the last lightning or thunder observed.

STYSA ADMINISTRATIVE HANDBOOK – SECTION 16 – GENERAL POLICIES – AGE VERIFICATION

Associations and Clubs may periodically audit and recertify birth dates as a best practice in maintaining databases and ensuring fair play. Coaches and parents should be aware that it may be necessary in a current season or in a future seasonal year for an Association or Club to request a review of an original form of acceptable birth verification documents for re-verification purposes. Please review STYSA rule 3.2.8 or the STYSA Registrar's Manual for the current list of acceptable birth verification documents.

For inter-club or inter-association age verification requests, the requestor must submit an Age Verification Request Form to STYSA Membership Services. All age verification requests must be received from an Eligible Adult or Registered Coach as defined in Section 3 of the STYSA Administrative Handbook. All mandatory fields on the Age Verification Request Form must be filled out for the request to be processed.