

PrimeTime Sports

Bylaws, Playing Rules, and Code of Conduct/Ethics

Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

Revised 8/1/2016

Proud Member of



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Section 1
**Bylaws
of the
PrimeTime Sports**

1. ARTICLE I – LEAGUE SANCTIONING

1.1 National Sanctioning Organization – League Play

All soccer leagues of PrimeTime Sports are sanctioned through **US Club Soccer**, which is a National Affiliate member of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). Per the established policies of the USSF, teams that are members of USSF National members may play in leagues and tournaments sanctioned by other USSF National members without fear of punishment or reprisal. Examples of such National members include American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), and state associations of the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) such as the North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA).

PrimeTime Sports shall provide open and equal opportunities to athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, officials, and employees who are not under suspension or other disciplinary action, to participate in amateur soccer competitions or to seek employment without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin.

1.2 Affiliations

As a member of US Club Soccer, PrimeTime Sports complies with the authority of US Club Soccer and the USSF and shall represent all its members and respective interests in and before US Club Soccer and the USSF.

1.3 Superseding Authority of US Club Soccer and USSF Rules

PrimeTime Sports recognizes the superseding authority and precedence of the articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies and requirements of US Club Soccer and the USSF for those matters that are covered by US Club Soccer and/or the USSF and PrimeTime Sports and its members will abide by those articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies and requirements.

1.4 Registrations

PrimeTime Sports shall register, or require the registration of, all of its players, coaches, and teams with US Club Soccer at least once each year.

PrimeTime Sports will (A) provide annually to US Club Soccer copies of PrimeTime Sports' bylaws, rules and other governing documents, (B) submit changes to those documents to US Club Soccer for approval, and (C) make those documents available to PrimeTime Sports' members. PrimeTime Sports will allow the USSF to review the documents and procedures of PrimeTime Sports at the request of the USSF to determine compliance with USSF bylaws.

2. ARTICLE II – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF PRIMETIME SPORTS, LLC

2.1 Executive Committee

The business affairs of PrimeTime Sports are managed by its Executive Committee, which consists of the Executive Officers of the corporation. The Executive Committee shall transact all business of the league and shall have the power to enforce the Laws of the Game, Bylaws and Rules of the USSF and its National affiliate (US Club Soccer) of which the PrimeTime Sports is a member, and the Bylaws and Rules of this corporation.

2.2 Executive Officers

Chief Executive Officer – David Stephens
Chief Operations Officer / League President – Brandon Hollmann
Director of Marketing – Janice Stephens
Director of Soccer / League Administrator – Robert Densmore

3. ARTICLE III – DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

3.1 Disciplinary Committee

All disciplinary matters will be enforced in accordance to League Rules by the League President. The League President will look to the Disciplinary Committee as a guide in the event that a disciplinary issue is not covered by League Rules and/or the Code of Conduct/Ethics. The Disciplinary Committee shall be comprised of members of the full-time and part-time staff of PrimeTime Sports. To avoid the appearance of favoritism, members of the Disciplinary Committee will in no way be related to any players or coaches in the PrimeTime Sports leagues. PrimeTime Sports will comply with USSF and US Club Soccer rules and policies regarding a member’s right to a hearing in disciplinary matters involving suspension.

Section 2

Rules and Regulations of the PrimeTime Sports

General Rules and Regulations of PrimeTime Sports (hereinafter referred to as the “League”, “TGPL”, “TBPL”, or “PTCL”):

The seasonal year of this Association shall begin on August 1 and end on July 31 of the following calendar year.

1. ARTICLE I – REGISTERED PLAYERS

- 1.1 Only registered players shall be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of this League. A Coach, Assistant Coach, or Administrator found to have knowingly allowed the use of an unregistered player(s) shall be suspended from all soccer activities for a minimum of one (1) year, and the team shall forfeit all games in which the unregistered player(s) participated.

2. ARTICLE II – UNREGISTERED/NON-SANCTIONED PLAY

- 2.1 Players or teams who participate with unregistered players or engage in unsanctioned play shall have no benefits of membership, including but not limited to risk management, disciplinary or insurance protection, while playing with unregistered players or in unsanctioned play.
- 2.2 Unsanctioned play shall include, but not be limited to playing with other members of a players PrimeTime Sports team in outdoor/indoor leagues, tournaments, and games not sanctioned by PrimeTime Sports or another USSF affiliate. This shall not be construed to prevent any individual player from participating with school or church teams, or neighborhood unsupervised games.

3. ARTICLE III – REFEREES

- 3.1 In compliance with USSF Rules, all referees serving PrimeTime Sports shall be registered with the USSF and PrimeTime Sports in accordance with current rules and regulations of the USSF National Referee Committee and the State Referee Committee.
- 3.2 The use of unregistered referees is approved only in emergency situations; then, the captain or coaches of two competing teams may decide on someone agreeable to both of them to officiate. In these circumstances, the decisions of that person serving as an emergency referee are just as binding as if he were a registered referee.

4. ARTICLE IV – ADULT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

4.1 Scope

- 4.1.1 All coaches, managers, and team representatives will be are subject to the US Club Soccer Risk Assessment Program

5. ARTICLE V – DISCIPLINE

All teams are directed to distribute these rules to every youth player, coach, team manager, parents, and spectators.

5.1 Authority

5.1.1 All participants in youth soccer with PrimeTime Sports have requested to participate in our programs. Therefore, these participants have agreed to abide by the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of PrimeTime Sports, as well as those of the United States Soccer Federation and its National Associations of which US Club Soccer is a member,

5.2 Misconduct of Youth Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

5.2.1 All Member Associations, Playing Leagues and Tournament Officials are directed to operate and keep records on a "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" for all players/coaches/assistant coaches. Appeals of cards are not allowed except when the referee admits he made an error in the issuance of the card. Cards issued in league play are cumulative during the entire soccer year. When a player transfers to another team his or her accumulated league play cards count against the cumulative card totals for both his or her old and new teams. Player suspensions mentioned in this section, including automatic suspensions "from all **PRIMETIME SPORTS**-sanctioned activities," include all games (including indoor), organized scrimmages, friendly games, and the like, but do not include team practices.

5.2.2 A "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" in league play will be operated as follows:

- a. **Yellow Cards** - One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third league play yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth league play yellow card. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth league play yellow card.

***NOTE:** A player/coach/assistant coach receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game, and those two yellow cards are then added to such individual's previous total of league play yellow cards to determine whether additional game suspensions, if any, are required. Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow in a single game will not be added to such individual's league play red card total.*

- b. **Red Cards** - One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first league play red card. Automatic suspension, pending a hearing, from all PrimeTime Sports activities following such individual's second league play red card. Red cards issued *solely* as a result of a second yellow card in a single game will not be added to such individual's league play red card total.

***NOTE:** In cases where, during a single game, an individual receives a yellow card followed by a "straight red card" (as opposed to a red card issued solely as a result of a second yellow) both cards will be added to such individual's respective total of league play red and yellow cards and punished accordingly.*

- c. **Seventh Card** - Any individual obtaining a seventh card in league play (meaning any combination of yellow and red cards totaling seven) shall be immediately suspended, pending a meeting with the League President, from all PrimeTime Sports activities.

5.2.3 A "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" for each tournament will be operated as follows:

- a. **Yellow Cards** - One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth yellow card of the tournament. There will be a one game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth yellow card of the tournament.

***NOTE:** A player/coach/assistant coach receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game, and those two yellow cards are then added to such individual's previous total of yellow cards for that tournament to determine whether additional game suspensions, if any, are required. Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow in a single game will not be added to such individual's tournament play red card total.*

b. **Red Cards**- One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first red card of the tournament. Automatic suspension, pending a meeting with the Tournament Director, from all PrimeTime Sports activities following such individual's second red card of the tournament. Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow card in a single game will not be added to such individual's tournament play red card total.

*NOTE: In cases where, during a single game, an individual receives a yellow card followed by a "straight red card" (as opposed to a red card issued solely as a result of a second yellow) both cards will be added to such individual's respective total of tournament play red and yellow cards and punished accordingly. If Tournament Officials determine a red card was issued for an infraction that was not an "expulsion" offense in accordance with the **FIFA** Laws of the Game, such officials may reduce the red card to a yellow card and assess sanctions accordingly*

c. **Seventh Card** - Any individual obtaining a seventh card in tournament play shall be immediately suspended pending a meeting with the Tournament Director (meaning any combination of yellow and red cards totaling seven)

d. **Exceptions** - The "CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM" prescribed by these rules defines the minimum disciplinary punishment to be taken by PrimeTime Sports. Nothing herein prevents PrimeTime Sports from enacting more severe sanctions. Each case will be judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which must be dealt with swiftly and severely.

5.3 Extreme Violent Conduct

PrimeTime Sports will extend severe punishment to those players, coaches, and assistant coaches guilty of extreme violent conduct while participating in a match and for violence toward any person or property after being ejected, while on the touchline, or approaching or leaving the game site.

5.4 Misconduct of Spectators

5.4.1 Each team in the League is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. The referee shall have the authority to caution and/or send off the coach or acting coach from the field for the misconduct of the spectators associated with the team. Therefore, the coach/assistant coach/team manager is expected to control his spectators, especially on non-enclosed fields. If he/she is unable to do so, PrimeTime Sports will take appropriate actions toward the identifiable, unruly spectator. If unidentifiable, action will be taken towards the team itself.

5.4.2 Possible action for misconduct of spectators is:

- a. Suspend the spectator from attending future matches.
- b. Report spectator to the Facility Manager.
- c. Require team to forfeit any games at which the spectator is present.
- d. Require offending team to pay for presence of police at the game.
- e. Revoke and/or refuse registration to the offending team.

5.5 Misconduct and Punishment of League Members

5.5.1 Leagues and Tournaments

a. When, during the current soccer year, the players/coaches/assistant coaches of a given team have accumulated a total of seven (7) send-offs in league play (*including* red cards issued as a result of an individual receiving two yellow cards in a single game) or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25) the team will be fined \$100 payable to the PrimeTime Sports Foundation within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the seventh sendoff or any combination of cards totaling twenty-five (25). The coach and the players of said team may also be required notified to

meet with the League President to explain the team's continued misconduct. Red cards or send-offs assessed against that team's spectators or against that team during tournament play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies.

b. When the players/coaches/assistant coaches of a given team have accumulated a total of four (4) send-offs in a tournament (*including* red cards issued as a result of an individual receiving two yellow cards in a single game) the team will be fined \$100 payable to PrimeTime Sports Foundation within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the fourth send-off. The coach and the players of said team may also be required to appear to meet with the Tournament Director to explain the team's continued misconduct. Red Cards or send-offs assessed against that team's spectators or against that team during league play will be reviewed to ascertain team misconduct tendencies.

5.6 Misconduct Toward Referee

5.6.1 PrimeTime Sports has exclusive jurisdiction over assault or abuse of officials, both referee and assistant referee. This jurisdiction includes:

- a. All **USSF** registered referees (adult and youth).
- b. Any non-licensed person serving in any emergency capacity as a game official.
- c. Any coach, parent or junior assistant referee, serving as a game official.

5.6.2 The leagues will follow the rules and policies of USSF and US Club soccer in regards to referee assault or abuse.

5.7 Incomplete Game Because of Misconduct

If a game is not completed because of misconduct clearly traceable to one or the other of the contending teams, its management, or its followers as determined by the game officials or on-site staff of PrimeTime Sports, the League President shall decide as to the disposition of the game.

5.8 Misconduct of Referees

When any referee is alleged to have committed misconduct toward any participant, spectator of a match or toward another referee, the League President will assess punishment concerning the Referee in regard to his/her activities.

5.9 Appellate Procedures

The rulings of the League President are final and binding. There will be no hearings and no appeals.

5.10 Records

The League President will maintain a permanent file of all reports sent to him/her and the action taken. When any one person or a team shows a trend towards numerous misconduct reports, the League President will contact such person or team for the purpose of warning or may call such person or team to arrange a meeting.

6. ARTICLE VI – REFEREE SYSTEM

League games will be officiated as follows:

- (4v4): One USSF referee
- (7v7): Three USSF referees (1 center, 2 lines)
- (9v9): Three USSF referees (1 center, 2 lines)
- (11v11): Three USSF referees (1 center, 2 lines)

NOTE: The League will attempt to avoid the dual-referee system, but may utilize it in an emergency situation.

7. ARTICLE VI – GAME PROTESTS

7.1 Causes

There are only two acceptable causes for the protesting of a game after it has been played. They are:

7.1.1 A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player.

A team that knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player shall forfeit all of the games in which the player participated. A coach, assistant coach, and/or manager of the team playing such player shall be suspended for a minimum period of one year. The offending player may be suspended from all PrimeTime Sports soccer activities.

7.1.2 There has been an obvious error made in the application of the Laws of the Game that directly affects the outcome of the match, and the referee admits it.

a. No protests can even be entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the referee during play. The Laws of the Game clearly state in Law V (Referees) that . . . “A referee shall be appointed to officiate each game . . . his decisions on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned”. A game cannot be protested because one coach, or both for that matter, thinks the referee was incompetent.

b. Any protests relating to the grounds, goal posts, cross bars, or other appurtenances of the match shall not be entertained by the League President unless an objection has been lodged with the match referee before the commencement of the match. The referee shall require the responsible team to remove the cause of objection if this is possible, without unduly delaying the process of the match. When an objection has been lodged, a protest, in writing, must be made to the League President. No objection or protest shall be withdrawn (because the protestor won the match) except by consent of the League President.

8. ARTICLE VIII - RULES OF COMPETITION

The Rules of Play shall be the FIFA Laws of the Game modified only as to the following:

- 8.1 Size of fields for various age groups
- 8.2 Size of ball for various age groups
- 8.3 Number of players and substitution
- 8.4 Duration of game for various age groups
- 8.5 Players equipment
- 8.6 Modified rules for Under 5 and Under 6
- 8.7 Modified rules for 5v5 Winter and Summer
- 8.8 Incomplete Game because of Inclement Weather

8.1 Field of Play

The following are recommended field and goal sizes:

Format	Field Width	Field Length	Goal Size
11v11	Min. 70 yds.	Min. 110 yds.	8 ft. x 24 ft.
9v9	Min. 50 yds.	Min. 75 yds.	7 ft. x 21 ft.
7v7	Min. 40 yds.	Min. 60 yds.	7 ft. x 21 ft.

8.2 The Ball

Ball sizes for various age groups will be as follows:

Age Groups	Ball Size
Under 13-19	Size #5
Under 8-12	Size #4
Under 7	Size #3

8.3 Number of Players and Substitution

8.3.1 The number of players on field for a team during a game and on roster will be as follows:

Age Groups	# of Players on Field	Max # of Players on Game Day Roster
Under 15-19	11	22
Under 11-14	11	18
Under 11-12 (9v9)	9	16
Under 9-10	9	16
Under 7-8	7	14

8.3.2 Substitution Rule – UNDER 7 and OLDER ONLY

- At a throw-in, by team in possession or both teams when *team in possession does first*;
- At a goal-kick, by either team;
- After a goal is scored, by either team;
- When the referee stops the play for an injury, injured player(s) only and equal number of player(s) by other team;
- At halftime, by either team;
- When a caution (yellow card) is given, that player may be substituted for.

8.4 Duration of Games

8.3.1 The number of players on field for a team during a game and on roster will be as follows:

Age Groups	Game Length
Under 17-19	Two (2) 45-minute halves
Under 15-16	Two (2) 40-minute halves
Under 13-14	Two (2) 35-minute halves
Under 11-12	Two (2) 30-minute halves
Under 11-12 (9v9)	Two (2) 30-minute halves
Under 10 (9v9)	Two (2) 25-minute halves
Under 9 (9v9)	Two (2) 25-minute halves
Under 8	Two (2) 22-minute halves
Under 7	Two (2) 22-minute halves

8.5 Player's Equipment

8.5.1 All players on a team will conform to the following:

- a. shirt/jersey of like or similar color
- b. shirt/jersey shall have a permanent number on the back of his jersey not less than four (4) inches high.
- c. shinguards, meeting the standards set forth in the **FIFA** Laws of the Game or subsequent memoranda
- d. socks completely covering the shinguards
- e. soccer shoes with molded rubber cleats – no metal cleats or baseball, football, golf shoes with a toe-cleat. (shoes with no cleats are acceptable)

8.6 Modified Playing Rules for Under 5 and Under 6

8.6.1 Maximum number of players on the field at any one time = **Five (5)**

8.6.2 Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed –
Twelve (12)

8.6.3 Length of Games

- a. The game shall be divided into two (2) twenty (20) minute halves.
- b. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes between halves.
- d. Time may be added only for **SERIOUS** injuries, at referee's discretion

8.6.4 Substitutions

- a. On goal kicks, goal scores, own team's throw-in
- b. Injuries
- c. Halftime

8.6.5 Fouls and Misconduct

- a. All free kicks will be indirect
- b. Opposing players are to be at least five (5) yards away from the ball when it the free kick is taken
- c. The referee is expected to explain the infractions to the offending player(s)
- d. Caution and ejections issued to players are strongly discouraged

8.6.6 Offsides will not be called

8.6.7 Restarts and Out-of Play

- a. Kick-offs, goal kicks, and corner kicks are indirect and a goal may not result from those restarts
- b. Throw-ins with one-retry, also indirect
- c. Opposing players are to be at least five (5) yards away from the ball when the throw-in or kick is taken

8.6.8 Reporting Scores and Standings

- a. League does not record final score or standings.

8.6.9 Sideline Etiquette

- a. Parent/coaches should not coach or instruct players during the game.
- b. **NO** individuals allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game.
- c. Parent/coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators should be located not less than three (3) yards from outside the touchline, and should be closer than ten (10) yards to the goal line.
SPECTATORS ARE NOT ALLOWED BEHIND THE GOALS.
- d. Opposing parent/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.

- e. No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.

8.7 5v5 Winter and Summer Leagues

8.7.1 General Rules

For all ages, there are 4 field players and a Goalkeeper (GK), 5v5. The minimum number of players required to start or continue a match is 3, one of whom must be designated as GK. GK must wear a shirt or mesh scrimmage vest that is a different color than the players on BOTH teams. The “home” team wears their white or lighter colored jerseys (or mesh scrimmage vests). All player jerseys must have a permanent number. Spectators are NOT to sit on the same sideline as the teams. For the safety of all players, the doors to the field are to remain closed during matches.

- 20-minute halves with a 1-minute half time break. Halftime is meant to be an opportunity for players to get a drink of water and switch ends of the field, not a detailed coaching sessions
- Like outdoor soccer, fouls result in direct free kicks (DFK) and violations result in indirect free kick (IFK)
- No offside
- Kick-ins from the sidelines (touch lines) instead of throw-ins
- Goal Clearance (throw by GK) instead of goal kicks
- Kick-ins and other free kicks must be taken within 4 seconds
- Opposing players must be at least 5 yards away from the ball when kick-ins and free kicks are taken
- Goals can be scored by shots taken on either end of the field, provided not scored directly from IFK

8.7.2 Substitutions

Free substitutions are made "on the fly". A player can only enter or leave the match in the substitution areas marked by their respective benches, and a player may only enter a match after the player they are replacing has left the field. Failure to do so results in a caution and an IFK taken from where the ball was situated when the match was stopped to caution the player.

8.7.3 Kick-offs

Opposing players must be 5 yards away from the ball until the ball is put in play. The ball may be kicked in any direction. A goal may NOT be scored directly from a kick-off. The “home” team kicks off to start the first half and the “away” team kicks off to start the second half.

8.7.4 Corner Kicks

Taken inside the corner arc by the offensive team if last played over the goal line by the defensive team. If there is no arc, kick is taken at the point where goal line and sideline meet (at corner). Opposing players must be 5 yards away from the ball until the ball is put in play. A goal MAY be scored directly on a corner kick.

8.7.5 Kick-ins

A ball played out over the sideline by one team becomes the other team’s ball. The team kicking in has 4 seconds to get the ball back in play or it becomes opponent’s kick-in. Opposing players must be 5 yards away from the ball until the ball is put in play. The referee will give a visual count with his hand. If the ball hits the ceiling netting, a kick-in is taken at the closest point on the nearest touchline, running parallel to the goal line. Kick-in’s are indirect, so a goal may NOT be scored directly from a Kick-in.

8.7.6 Goal Clearances

When the offensive team puts the ball over the end line, the other team gets the ball. The GK must put the ball within 6 seconds of retrieving it by throwing it (no punting) back into play. Opposing team must stay out of penalty area during a goal clearance. The GK cannot touch ball again until another player touches it. Goal Clearances (like kick-in’s) are indirect, so a goal may NOT be scored directly from a Goal Clearance.

8.7.7 Fouls and Misconduct

Contact may not be done by play that is careless, reckless, or with excessive force. Free kicks are awarded as either direct or indirect following the same guidelines as outdoor soccer. Fouls resulting in a direct free kick (DFK) are counted by the referee.

- Sending Off Fouls (Red Card)
- Handling the ball deliberately, except for GK in their area.

Like outdoor soccer, examples include denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity by handling the ball (except the GK in their own penalty area) or denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by fouling an opponent moving toward the goal. A player sent off cannot re-enter the match. Depending on the reason for the red card, referees may or may not have the player removed from the playing area. The team of the red carded player will play one man short for two minutes. Substitution for the ejected player is allowed after 2 minutes, regardless of the number of goals scored by either team.

Fouls resulting in a Direct Free Kick (DFK) that are counted in team foul count

- Kicking or attempting to kick an opponent
- Tripping or attempting to trip an opponent
- Jumping at an opponent
- Charges an opponent
- Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- Pushes an opponent
- Tackling
- Holding an opponent
- Spits at an opponent
- Handling the ball (except the GK in their own Penalty area)

Upon a team's 6th DFK foul in a half, and each additional DFK fouls within the half, the opposing team is awarded a penalty taken from the penalty kick mark. The defending team may NOT build a wall to block a penalty kick. The GK must remain on the goal line until the penalty kick is taken. The player taking the penalty kick must be clearly identified and the player taking the penalty kick must make an attempt at the goal. All other players from both teams must be on the other side of the halfway line until the penalty kick is taken.

8.7.8 Slide tackling is allowed under certain conditions, if in the opinion of the referee:

- 1) No opponents are nearby, a player may slide to intercept or direct (shoot) the ball. No foul results.
- 2) The slide is dangerous to an opponent, but no contact is made. Dangerous play foul results in an IFK.
- 3) If contact is made with an opponent in a careless, reckless or excessive force manner (or if referees believe that such contact could have resulted). An accumulated foul results in a DFK.

Exceptions

The GK is allowed to slide in an attempt to clear the ball, if in referees' judgment, the slide is an attempt only to make contact with the ball, not the opponent. If GK slide is at least careless (a foot in air, a hook, rolling tackle) it is a foul and possibly a card-able offense. A field player may slide in instances where there is not an opponent close by and no injury is likely to occur. This would most likely happen when a player is attempting to stop the ball from going out of bounds or an offensive player sliding to knock the ball into the goal where there is not other defensive player close to the play. Players and coaches should use this general rule, if you slide tackle near a player, assume a foul will be called.

8.7.9 Indirect Free Kicks (IFK)

Opposing players must be 5 yards away from the ball until the ball is put in play. Teams MAY shoot at the goal on an IFK. If the ball goes directly into the goal on an IFK without touching an opponent or a teammate, then a goal will NOT be awarded. Rather, it will result in a Goal Clearance. **IF THE BALL TOUCHES A TEAMMATE OR OPPONENT (INCLUDING THE GK) BEFORE ENTERING THE GOAL, THEN A GOAL WILL BE AWARDED.**

Example: A team is taking a kick-in and they shoot at the goal, the coach of the defending team should remind their GK not to touch the ball. On an IFK, if the defending GK makes contact with the ball and the ball goes into the goal, a goal will be awarded.

8.7.8 Goalkeeper (GK) Restrictions

GKs may throw the ball in the air across the midfield line. Passing to your own GK is allowed, as long as the GK plays the ball with their feet. If the GK uses their hands on a ball deliberately played to them by their teammate, it will result in an IFK from where the ball is touched by GK hands.

8.7.9 Overtime in Tournaments or League Championship matches

If a Quarter-Final, Semi-Final, Final, or 3rd Place match ends in a tie, there will a penalty kick shootout to determine the winner. The “home” team shoots first.

Each team will get to pick 3 shooters of the players on the field when the match ended for Round 1. If still tied after 3 shooters, each team will get to designate any 5 shooters (including any of the first 3 shooters) for Round 2. In Round 2, the shoot-out will be “make-miss”. If the home team shooter scores and the away shooter immediately after misses (or vice versa), then the match is over. If still tied after Round 2, the teams can designate 5 new or same shooters for Round 3, which will be “make-miss”, like Round 2.

8.8 Incomplete Game because of Inclement Weather

For games that are not completed because of inclement weather, the League will follow these guidelines:

8.7.1 If the game is halted during the second half of play or at halftime, it will be an official game and no make-up game will be scheduled.

8.7.2 If the game is halted during the first half of play, the game will rescheduled to a later date and played in its entirety.

8.9 League Rainout Policy

8.9.1 In the event a team does not play 8 games (U5-U10) or 14 games (U11-U14) due to inclement weather, they will receive a credit of 10% of the registration fee paid.

Section 3

Rules for Registration of the PrimeTime Sports

1. ARTICLE 1 – REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS AND COACHES

Youth registration of soccer players under these League rules shall include all those registrants defined as youth by USSF, being all male and female registrants under the age of nineteen (19).

1.1 Registration of Players

1.1.1 Registration for individual players and/or complete teams is done online through PrimeTime Sports and US Club Soccer

1.1.2 PrimeTime Sports and US Club Soccer will require all players to present proof of age when they register to play. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency.

1.1.3 PrimeTime Sports and US Club Soccer will keep a copy of proof of age on players.

1.1.4 During league play, a maximum of 3 players are allowed to be listed on multiple teams within the same club.

1.1.5 Players may change teams in the same age group prior to the third game of the season with written permission of the League President.

1.1.6 Female players may play on a male team in a “Boys” division, but if at least one male player is on a female team, the entire team is classified as a “Boys” team and will play in a “Boys” or “Coed” division.

1.1.7 Players and teams will be allowed to “Play-up”, which means that they are playing against players at least one year older than themselves.

1.2 Age Grouping

The League will use the following age group determinations:

- Under 17-19
- Under 15-16
- Under 13-14
- Under 11-12
- Under 11-12 (9v9)
- Under 10 (9v9)
- Under 9 (7v7)
- Under 8 (7v7)
- Under 7 (4v4)
- Under 6 (4v4)

Please see the “Age Group Chart” in APPENDIX A of this manual to see which age group is right for your player

1.3 Minimum Age

The age of four (4) is the minimum age to play soccer. The age of a player for purpose of league play shall be the player's age on July 31 of the immediately preceding soccer year. The current soccer year begins on August 1 and ends July 31 of the following year. Exception: players who are four (4) years of age before January 1 of the current soccer year will be permitted to participate in the Under 5 age division in the spring season.

1.4 Registration of Coaches

1.4.1 Each coach/assistant coach/manager of a team shall be required to register with US Club Soccer each soccer year.

1.4.2 Any coach/trainer offering or participating in individual/team practices or training sessions, soccer camps, skills camps, and/or similar activities involving youth players, must be registered with US Club Soccer.

1.4.3 Persons who coach or will coach in the League are not required to be USSF licensed, but it is strongly encouraged

2. **ARTICLE II – TEAM FORMATION AND TRYOUTS:**

2.1 Team Formation Rules:

1.4.1 Teams may join the League with an established team from another league or association (outdoor or indoor).

1.4.2 Individual players without a team may register with PrimeTime Sports as a "Free Agent" and be placed in a "Free Agent Pool".

a. Free Agents may seek out and join established teams. The Free Agents will responsible for any additional costs of joining that team

b. Established teams may notify PrimeTime Sports of a need for Free Agents for their team(s). PrimeTime Sports will relay the team's contact information to the Free Agents. PrimeTime Sports will not release Free Agent information directly to teams

2.2 Tryouts:

PrimeTime Sports has no rule that condones or restricts tryouts

3. **ARTICLE 3 – CHANGES**

These rules of registration may be changed at the discretion of PrimeTime Sports. All changes will be communicated with all teams in a timely manner.

Section 4

Tournaments of PrimeTime Sports

Any violation of USSF, US Club Soccer, NTSSA/USYSA or PrimeTime Sports rules by a team, coach, manager, player or team representative in any sanctioned or sponsored tournament or event will be reported to the appropriate organization for disciplinary action.

1. ARTICLE 1 – SANCTIONING

1.1 National Sanctioning Organization – Tournaments

The PrimeTime Sports is sanctioned for league play and tournament play through US Club Soccer, which is a National Affiliate member of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). Per the established policies of the USSF, teams that are members of USSF National Associations may play in tournaments sanctioned by other USSF National affiliates without fear of punishment or reprisal. Examples of such National affiliates include American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), and state associations of the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) such as the North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA).

1.2 Local Sanctioning – Tournaments

PrimeTime Sports will host youth tournaments across the North Texas area and beyond in 2014-2015. Most of our tournaments will be sanctioned through US Club Soccer. Some of the locations may be under the jurisdiction of the state association member of USYS, such as North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA).

2. ARTICLE II – TEAMS ACCEPTED

2.1 USSF Members

PrimeTime Sports outdoor tournaments will accept outdoor teams from all USSF-affiliated member organizations, listed below:

2.1.1 US Club Soccer

2.1.2 United States Youth Soccer (USYS) state associations, including but not limited to:

- a. North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA)
- b. South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA)
- c. Oklahoma Soccer Association (OSA)

2.1.3 American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO)

2.1.4 Soccer Association for Youth (SAY)

2.2 Skill Divisions

2.2.1 Recreational – limited to recreational players on recreational rosters from a USSF-member association, Under 5 through Under 19. Teams classified as “Competitive” or “Academy” by their playing association are not eligible for the recreational division

- 2.2.2 Academy – a more competitive division of players, Under 6 through Under 10. The academy division is open to recreational teams. Most tournaments are sanctioned through US Club Soccer. Any tournaments which are sanctioned through NTSSA will not offer Under 6 academy divisions, per NTSSA rule
- 2.2.3 Competitive – a more competitive division, Under 11 through Under 19. The competitive division may be separated into distinct skill divisions in tournament play

2.3 Roster Requirements

- 2.3.1 Registered players may only play on one (1) team per skill division.
- 2.3.2 Every team participating in a tournament or event **MUST** present an official roster from a USSF-affiliated member association
- 2.3.3 The roster is to be signed by their home association registrar or League President before play starts
- 2.3.4 All players must be registered with a USSF-member association for outdoor play. Indoor players and unregistered outdoor players are not be allowed to participate.

2.4 Guest Players

- 2.4.1 Defined as a registered player participating in a competition for a team in which the player is not rostered for purpose of league play
- 2.4.2 Teams are allowed to have as many guest players as they wish, provided they do not exceed the roster maximum for their age group for the tournament, and they have the proper paperwork for each guest player

2.5 Medical Release Forms

- 2.5.1 PrimeTime Sports, US Club Soccer, and NTSSA require all youth teams entering tournaments or events to have medical releases.
- 2.5.2 Medical releases are to be presented at tournament check-in, prior to a team's first game of the tournament.
- 2.5.3 Medical releases are do NOT require notarization, but it is suggested.

3. **ARTICLE III – PRIMETIME SPORTS TOURNAMENT RULES - GENERAL**

3.1 Advancement

- 3.1.1 Under 5 through Under 8 Recreational age groups will receive individual participation awards only. No Scores will be kept or results posted
- 3.1.2 For all other age groups, teams finishing 1st and 2nd will receive awards and a berth in the PrimeTime Sports Cup Championship Tournament, May 2016.

3.2 Format

- 3.2.1 For all qualifying tournaments, teams will be scheduled to play at least three games
- 3.2.2 Each age group will play under a format which is dependent upon the number of teams in the age group: pool, round robin, or bracket

3.2.3 Most game schedules will consist of two games on Saturdays and at least one game on Sunday. For tournaments in which play extends to Friday or Monday (holiday only), it may be possible to have only one game per day

3.3 Home team

3.3.1 In bracket play, the top team listed will be the home team. In pool and round robin play, the team listed first will be the home team. **AWAY TEAMS ARE NOT TO WEAR WHITE JERSEYS.** If the only jersey an Away team has is white, the Away team is to wear mesh scrimmage vests over their white jerseys

3.3.2 In the case of uniform conflicts, the home team will wear their white or lighter colored jerseys. If they do not have alternate jerseys, the home team will wear matching-colored, scrimmage vests over their jerseys

3.3.3. At most complexes, both teams and their coaches will sit on one side of the field and ALL spectators will sit on the other side. If the facility is set-up with teams on opposite sides of the field, teams and their spectators will sit on opposite sides. The home team will have first choice of side

3.4 Uniforms

3.4.1 Players are required to have like-colored jerseys/t-shirts with permanent numbers (ironed-on or permanent marker) at least 4 inches tall on the back of their jersey/t-shirt that match the numbers listed on the team roster.

3.4.2 **TAPED OR CHALK NUMBERS WILL BE PERMITTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SITE DIRECTOR**

3.4.3 Matching-colored scrimmage vests without numbers may worn only over a permanently numbered jersey/t-shirt.

3.5 Ties

Score will not be kept and ties will not be broken in the Under 5 through Under 8 Recreational age groups. In all other age groups, games ending in a tie score will be decided by penalty kicks.

3.5.1 A coin-flip by the referee(s) will determine which team will take the first kick

3.5.2 Kicks may be taken by any five players of the team on the field at the end of regulation time

3.5.3 All other FIFA rules and procedures apply regarding re-takes, misconduct, etc.

3.6 Tiebreaker Procedure for Pool and Round Robin Play:

3.6.1 Two Teams Tied: The winner of the game between the two teams tied will be awarded higher place, with the losing team awarded next place

3.6.2 Three or more teams tied: Goal Differential Rule used (each team given a goal differential for each game played, with a maximum +5 or -5 differential for any one game)

3.6.3 Goal Differential used for ALL pool or round robin games, not just compared against the other tied teams. Places awarded based upon highest Goal Differential.

3.6.4 If two teams are tied and have the same goal differential, winner of the game between the two tied teams awarded the higher place.

3.6.5 If 3 or more teams remain tied, higher place will be awarded based upon the lowest number of goals allowed. Any remaining ties awarded based upon head-to-head competition.

3.7 Tournament Misconduct

3.7.1 Any coach or player who is ejected from a game by a game official or the Tournament Director will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game for that team. Additional penalties may be enforced based on the seriousness of the incident.

3.7.2 Players, coaches, and/or spectators ejected for **fighting** are to leave the complex and not return for the remainder of the tournament.

3.7.3 Inappropriate behavior, serious foul play, and violent conduct will not be tolerated. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of his/her players and spectators on and off of the field and must promote sportsmanship, win or lose.

3.7.4 The Tournament Director may remove a player, coach, and/or spectator from a game or the tournament for unacceptable conduct and/or actions that endanger the safety of others.

3.7.5 In the course of tournament play, a player receiving a total of three yellow cards will “sit-out” the next game for their team. If the third yellow card occurs in their team’s final game of the tournament, that player will be allowed to continue the game. The Tournament Director may also remove an entire team for accumulating an unacceptable number of yellow and red cards.

3.7.6 The Tournament Director may modify the Tournament Rules when the Tournament Director deems it in the best interests of the tournament to do so. All teams will be bound by any such change.

3.8 Tournament Forfeit Policy

Teams participating in a tournament expect their opponent to be as diligent and consciences as their own team in being on time and prepared to participate in ALL scheduled games. To minimize the occurrence of forfeited games, PrimeTime Sports has adopted these Game Forfeiture Rules.

3.8.1 Game time is forfeit time. Any team not ready to field the minimum number of player at the scheduled game time will forfeit the game. The Tournament Director has the authority to delay a game a reasonable amount of time if he/she deems it the best interest of the tournament and teams involved and if such a delay will not displace teams later in the day/night.

3.8.2 When a team forfeits a game in a tournament, the following rules apply:

- a. The team receives a loss for the scheduled game, scored 0-3.
- b. A team forfeiting any game is still expected to play any and all subsequently scheduled games.
- c. The team forfeits any team or individual awards given for participation in the forfeited game.
- d. A game ended prematurely by a game official or Tournament Director due to the misconduct of a player, coach, or spectator shall be deemed a forfeit by that team for purposes of this policy.
- e. When a team forfeits a game, the team will be required to pay a Forfeit Penalty for each forfeited game. The amount of the Forfeit Penalty is \$25 in the U6-U9 age groups and \$50 in all other age groups. Payment of the Forfeit Penalty is due prior to the team’s entry in any subsequent PrimeTime Sports soccer leagues and /or tournaments.
- f. In the event of a subsequent forfeit by the team within one (1) year, an additional Forfeit Penalty of \$100 per forfeited game will be assessed. Any team forfeiting a game in 3 or more events will not be eligible to participate in any future PrimeTime Sports events for a period of not less than

six (6) months and may participate thereafter only upon such terms and conditions as may be required by the Director of Soccer Operations for PrimeTime Sports.

g. Teams who forfeit a game(s) will be reported to their governing home association and are subject to any forfeit penalties, if any.

3.8.3 The forfeit penalty rules may be modified or waived by the Director of Soccer Operations in the event of extenuating circumstances. Factors considered will include communications from the teams as to their unavailability to play the scheduled game, the timing of such communications, the circumstances causing the forfeiture and such other considerations deemed relevant by the Director of Soccer Operations. His/her decision as to the application of the Forfeiture Rules shall be binding upon all parties.

3.8.4 Because of our commitment to competitive excellence, PrimeTime Sports gives the team who was forfeited a credit for each forfeited game, which can be applied toward the entry fee of any future PrimeTime Sports soccer tournaments, except the Cup Championships.

a. This credit must be used within one year and is available for fully paid entries only.

b. The amount of the credit is \$25 in the Under 6 - Under 9 age groups and \$50 in all other age groups.

3.9 Substitutions

There will be free substitution, with the referee's consent, at the following times:

3.9.1 A player receiving a yellow card (the player carded only)

3.9.2 Prior to a throw-in for the team in possession, both teams if the team in possession does

3.9.3 Prior to a goal kick by either team

3.9.4 After a goal by either team

3.9.5 After an injury, when the referee stops the play

3.9.6 At half-time by either team

3.9.7 In case of extreme heat, at the referee's discretion

3.10 Tournament Rain-out Policy

3.10.1 In the event that inclement weather forces the cancellation of all or part of a Cup Qualifying tournament, teams will receive a credit of a percentage of their entry fee or partial cash refund of the registration fee paid. This credit is to be used in future PrimeTime Sports soccer tournaments, including the Cup Championships, and will be given in the following increments:

a. No games played = 75% OR 50% refund

b. One game of three played = 50% OR 25% refund

c. Two games of three played = 25%

3.10.2 The team contact will be given the number to the "Tournament Hotline", which will inform teams of any schedule changes due to inclement weather.

3.10.3 In the event of inclement weather, format for tournament play and/or completion of the tournament will be determined by the Tournament Director.

3.10.4 If a game is played into the second half but is stopped short of full time, other than acts on the part of one of the teams, the game shall be considered complete. If tied, winner will be determined by the tiebreaker procedure.

3.11 Protests

All referee decisions are final. No protests will be allowed, except for ineligible player.

3.11.1 Protests to a player's eligibility should be reported immediately to the Tournament Director, so that it may be heard in a timely manner.

3.11.2 Any protest of player eligibility must be made **PRIOR** to a game where that player's team is scheduled to play. Failure to protest eligibility prior to a game will waive a team's opportunity to protest any player's eligibility for that game.

3.11.3 All protests must be in writing and accompanied by the official protest fee of \$100 cash. This fee is refundable only if the matter is ruled in the favor of the protesting party.

3.11.4 If the protest is ruled against the protesting team, the fee is not refunded. Rather, it will be donated to the PrimeTime Sports Charitable Foundation, which supports youth sports teams and events.

3.11.5 The ruling on a protest will be made by the Tournament Director and is final and binding on all participants in the event.

3.12 Tournament Withdraw Policy

One of the biggest challenges to managing events is late entry withdrawals by teams. Such entry withdrawals shift energies and resources away from preparing for future events to "damage control" for a late change in a division. PrimeTime Sports events are among the lowest cost tournaments available. To continue to offer this outstanding value to teams, PrimeTime Sports has this Tournament Entry Withdrawal Policy.

3.12.1 **Entry Withdrawal** - A team withdrawing an entry on or before the entry deadline for a tournament will receive a full cash refund of the Entry Fee, provided that the withdrawal must be made by email to soccer@primetimesportz.com

3.12.2 **Late Withdrawal** - Any withdrawal after the entry deadline will be considered to be a Late Withdrawal. The Entry Fee for a Late Withdrawal will be handled as follows:

- a. If a fully paid entry is found to replace the withdrawing team, the withdrawing team will be assessed a \$20 per game Withdrawal Fee and the balance of the Entry Fee will be a credit forward to be used by the withdrawing team for any future PrimeTime Sports tournament.
- b. If a fully paid entry is not found to replace the withdrawing team, no amount of the Entry Fee will be refunded or credited.
- c. Any withdrawal from an event by a team within 48 hours of the event will also be assessed a Forfeit Fee in accordance with the Game Forfeiture Rules.
- d. If a team's entry has been accepted without full payment of the Entry Fee, any amount due must be paid prior to the acceptance of the team's entry in a subsequent event.
- e. PrimeTime Sports assumes no duty or responsibility to find a replacement entry for a Late Withdrawal

3.12.3 The Late Withdrawal policy may be modified or waived by the Director of Soccer Operations in the event of extenuating circumstances. Factors considered will include communications from the teams as to their entry withdrawal, the timing of such communications, the circumstances causing the entry withdrawal and such other considerations deemed relevant by the Director of Soccer. His/her decision as to the application of the Team Entry Withdrawal Policy shall be binding upon all parties

3.12.4 US Club Soccer policies regarding teams withdrawing from a US Club-sanctioned tournament will also apply

3.12.5 NTSSA and USYSA policies regarding NTSSA teams withdrawing from a NTSSA-sanctioned tournament will also apply

3.13 Qualification for Cup Championship

When a team qualifies for the PrimeTime Sports Cup Championship Tournament, their team is required to bring no less than 50% of those same players to the Cup Championship

Note: The roster maximum may not be exceeded in the Cup Championships, even if the number of qualified players exceeds the roster maximum

4. ARTICLE IV – PRIMETIME SPORTS TOURNAMENT RULES - BY AGE GROUP

4.1 Under 5-6 Recreational

4.1.1 4v4 with no goalies; roster maximum = 8; ball = size 3; no scores will be kept or posted; minimum number of players required to play is 3

4.1.2 Field/goal dimensions = Minimum of 20 yards by 30 yards long, with goals 4 feet x 6 feet

4.1.3 Four 10-minute quarters; substitutions only during quarter breaks and halftime

4.1.4 Free kicks are indirect, no penalty kicks, no offsides, throw-ins with one retry

4.2 Under 7-8 Recreational

4.2.1 5v5 with no goalies; roster maximum = 8; ball = size 3; no scores will be kept or posted; minimum number of players required to play is 3

4.2.2 Field/goal dimensions = Minimum of 20 yards by 30 yards long, with goals 4 feet x 6 feet

4.2.3 Four 10-minute quarters; substitutions only during quarter breaks and halftime

4.2.4 Free kicks are indirect, no penalty kicks, no offsides, throw-ins with one retry

4.3 Under 9-10 Recreational

4.4.1 7v7 including goalies; roster max = 14; ball = size 4; minimum number of players required to play is 5

4.4.2 Field/goal dimensions = Minimum of 30 yards by 60 yards long, with goals maximum of 7 feet x 7 yards

4.4.3 Two 25-minute halves; substitutions at own throw-in, goal kicks, and after goal scored

4.4.4 Other FIFA rules and procedures including offsides, throw-ins, direct and indirect free kicks, penalty kicks, etc.

4.4 Under 5-6 Academy

4.4.1 5v5 with goalies; roster maximum = 12; ball = size 3; minimum number of players required to play is 3

4.4.2 Field/goal dimensions = Minimum of 25 yards by 45 yards long, with goals 6 feet x 12 feet

4.4.3 Two 20-minute halves; substitutions at own throw-in, goal kicks, and after goal scored

4.4.4 Free kicks are indirect, no penalty kicks, no offsides, throw-ins with one retry

4.5 Under 7-8 Academy

4.5.1 7v7 including goalies; roster max = 15; ball = size 3(U7), 4 (U8); minimum number of players required to play is 5

4.5.2 Field/goal dimensions = Minimum of 40 yards by 60 yards long, with goals maximum of 7 feet x 7 yards

4.5.3 Two 22-minute halves; substitutions at own throw-in, goal kicks, and after goal scored

4.5.4 Other FIFA rules and procedures including offsides, throw-ins, direct and indirect free kicks, penalty kicks, etc.

4.6 Under 9-10 Academy

4.6.1 9v9 including goalies; roster max = 15; ball = size 4; minimum number of players required to play is 7

4.6.2 Field/goal dimensions = Minimum of 50 yards by 70 yards long, with goals maximum of 7 feet x 7 yards

4.6.3 Two 25-minute halves; substitutions at own throw-in, goal kicks, and after goal scored

4.6.4 Other FIFA rules and procedures including offsides, throw-ins, direct and indirect free kicks, penalty kicks, etc.

4.10 Under 11-12 Recreational & Competitive

4.10.1 9v9 including goalies; roster max = 15; ball = size 4; minimum number of players required to play is 7

4.10.2 11v11 including goalies; roster max = 18; ball = size 4; minimum number of players required to play is 7

4.10.3 Field/goal dimensions = Minimum of 60 yards by 100 yards long, with goals maximum of 8 feet x 8 yards

4.10.4 Two 30-minute halves; substitutions at own throw-in, goal kicks, and after goal scored

4.10.5 Other FIFA rules and procedures including offsides, throw-ins, direct and indirect free kicks, penalty kicks, etc.

4.11 Under 13-14 Recreational & Competitive

4.11.1 11v11 including goalies; roster max = 18; ball = size 5; minimum number of players required to play is 7

4.11.2 Field/goal dimensions = Minimum of 60 yards by 100 yards long, with goals maximum of 8 feet x 8 yards

4.11.3 Two 35-minute halves; substitutions at own throw-in, goal kicks, and after goal scored

4.11.4 Other FIFA rules and procedures including offsides, throw-ins, direct and indirect free kicks, penalty kicks, etc.

4.12 Under 15-16 Recreational & Competitive

4.12.1 11v11 including goalies; roster max = 18; ball = size 5; minimum number of players required to play is 7

4.12.2 Field/goal dimensions = Minimum of 70 yards by 120 yards long, with goals maximum of 8 feet x 8 yards

4.12.3 Two 40-minute halves; substitutions at own throw-in, goal kicks, and after goal scored

4.12.4 Other FIFA rules and procedures including offsides, throw-ins, direct and indirect free kicks, penalty kicks, etc.

4.13 Under 17-19 Recreational & Competitive

4.13.1 11v11 including goalies; roster max = 22; ball = size 5; minimum number of players required to play is 7

4.13.2 Field/goal dimensions = Minimum of 70 yards by 120 yards long, with goals maximum of 8 feet x 8 yards

4.13.3 Two 45-minute halves; substitutions at own throw-in, goal kicks, and after goal scored

4.13.4 Other FIFA rules and procedures including offsides, throw-ins, direct and indirect free kicks, penalty kicks, etc.

Section 5

Code of Ethics/Conduct of the PrimeTime Sports

1. ARTICLE I – CODE OF ETHICS/CONDUCT FOR COACHES

This code of ethics has been developed to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of the sport of soccer. (The term “Coach” shall include, but is not limited to Head Coach, Assistant Coach(s), Manager/Trainer and/or Team Representative.)

1.1 Responsibility to Players

1.1.1 The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players. Winning should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.

1.1.2 Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.

1.1.3 Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.

1.1.4 Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.

1.1.5 Demands on players’ time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress. Motivation for excellence should include academics as well as athletics.

1.1.6 Coaches must never encourage players to violate the recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies of PrimeTime Sports, US Club Soccer, or the USSF.

1.1.7 Under no circumstances should coaches authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs, or supplements of any kind whether legal or illegal, prescription, or over-the-counter. Medication and supplementation of any kind should be the responsibility of the parents and/or legal guardian. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician’s instructions regarding treatment and recovery. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.

1.1.8 A coach's dealings with players and parents must be upfront, honest, and forthright. Coaches must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to players and parents.

1.2 Responsibility to PrimeTime Sports and US Club Soccer

1.2.1 Adherence to all PrimeTime Sports and US Club Soccer rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting, and guest players are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of every coach to know and understand these rules.

1.2.2 Player development and the growth of the player through participation is essential to the growth of the sport. Additionally, the coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity, and dignity of the sport are maintained.

1.2.3 Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the League President immediately.

1.2.4 A coach's dealings with PrimeTime Sports and US Club Soccer must be upfront, honest, and forthright. Coaches must always be honest and refrain from misrepresentations to PrimeTime Sports and US Club Soccer.

1.3 Responsibility to the Laws of the Game

1.3.1 Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer. Coaches are also responsible to ensure that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws.

1.3.2 Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the laws of the game. Those coaches who circumvent the rules to gain advantage have no place in soccer.

1.3.3 Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.

1.3.4 If coaches permit, encourage, or condone performance that is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, they are derelict in their responsibility to players, PrimeTime Sports, US Club Soccer, the USSF, and the sport of soccer worldwide.

1.3.5 The coach must strive constantly to teach good sporting behavior.

1.4 Responsibility to the Officials

1.4.1 Officials must have the support of coaches, players and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players.

1.4.2 Coaches should strive to develop a line of communication with officials, giving each an opportunity to better understand the problems relating to their specific area. This section shall not be taken as an encouragement to debate referee decisions during the match.

1.4.3 On game day, officials should be treated with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as "Referee" or "Mr./Ms. Referee" and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach, or player. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.

1.4.4 Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

1.5 Responsibilities Regarding Scouting and Recruiting

1.5.1 It is unethical to scout any team, by any means whatsoever, except in regularly scheduled games.

1.5.2 The use of videotape or motion picture equipment to scout an opponent's regularly scheduled games for the purpose of recruiting is unethical.

1.5.3 All PrimeTime Sports and US Club Soccer rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed by the coach, manager, or any team representative.

1.5.4 It is unethical to recruit player(s) actively playing for another team.

1.5.5 When discussing the advantages of his organization, the coach has an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams, and organizations.

1.5.6 It is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete which cannot be fulfilled; illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and immoral to deliver same.

1.5.7 Allegations of illegal or unethical recruiting are very serious and should be based on concrete facts rather than hearsay and innuendo. While documentation of recruiting violations is essential, the use of videotape and other electronic equipment is discouraged.

1.6 Game Day and Other Responsibilities

1.6.1 A coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to himself, his organization, and the sport of soccer. This is never more evident than on the day of the contest.

1.6.2 Rival coaches should meet prior to the game and exchange friendly or professional greetings. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary professional conduct.

1.6.3 During play, coaches have a responsibility to be as inconspicuous as possible. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude towards players. The coach must confine him/herself to the coaching area. The attitude of the coach towards officials, spectators, opposing players and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.

1.6.4 It shall be unethical for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench during the game. Hostile physical contact with a player is considered highly unethical.

1.6.5 The coach's foremost post-game responsibility is his/her team.

1.6.6 Coaches should use their influence on unfriendly spectators that demonstrate intimidating behavior towards officials and opposing teams.

1.6.7 Coaches must act in a professional manner at all times when in the presence of players, whether at games, practices, or in any other setting. A coach demonstrating behavior that could be considered by a reasonable person to be irrational, inappropriate, or unbecoming an adult will not be tolerated. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Lewd gestures or remarks
- b. Overly critical remarks
- c. Ranting and raving
- d. Snide or demeaning remarks
- e. Threatening behavior or remarks
- f. Physical confrontations
- g. Temper outbursts

2. **ARTICLE II – CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS**

2.1 Children have more need for example than for criticism. Attempt to relieve the pressure of the competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences.

2.2 Be kind to your child's coach and officials. The coach is a volunteer, giving of personal time and money to provide a recreational activity for your child.

2.3 The opponents are necessary friends; without them your child could not participate.

2.4 Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.

2.5 Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship.

2.6 Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.

2.7 Remember your child is involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, **NOT YOURS!**

2.8 Encourage your child to always play by the rules.

2.9 Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.

2.10 Remember that your child learns by example. Children mimic what their parents say. Criticism of the coach, officials, teammates, and/or opponents fosters bad attitudes and can only lead to a negative experience for your child.

2.11 Parents should remember that a coach has an entire team of players to consider when making decisions regarding position, playing time, substitutions, and strategy. The team does not revolve around one player.

3. ARTICLE III - CODE OF CONDUCT FOR REFEREES

3.1 I pledge that I will faithfully enforce the Laws of the Game and any special Rule of the Competition of the League or Tournament I am officiating for without prejudice or favoritism to any player, team or coach.

3.2 I recognize that it is my professional duty to constantly keep abreast of any changes in the Laws or Rules of Play and to keep myself physically fit and have my training refreshed.

3.3 I will constantly strive to improve my own refereeing techniques and always accept sincere, constructive criticism from fellow referees or official assessors without malice.

3.4 I pledge that I will make myself available, whenever possible, for game assignments for which I am qualified.

3.5 I do hereby acknowledge my fellow referees' total authority over any matches over which they are duly assigned to officiate, and I pledge that I will never interfere with the carrying out of their prescribed duties, before, during or after a match.

3.6 I understand that any criticism of fellow referees should be limited to constructive criticism in quiet, private referee-to-referee discussions, and then never within hearing distance of players, coaches or spectators.

3.7 As a registered USSF/PrimeTime Sports referee, I will always strive to conduct myself in the highest professional manner possible, including refraining from indulging in arguments or name-calling with coaches and/or spectators.

3.8 I also acknowledge that if I am also a coach, player or spectator, that my conduct towards, and my respect for, my fellow referee doing my game is more closely noticed by all concerned. I will, therefore, strive to set a very high standard of personal conduct under these circumstances to serve as an example to all.

3.9 I understand that I should wear only the approved USSF referee uniform with the current badge of the highest grade I am qualified for, and that my uniform be clean, neat and in a good state of repair. I also understand that if I am a coach, I am not to wear my uniform while coaching my team.

3.10 I further understand that I should not partake of any type of alcoholic beverage before any game assignment, and that I should never smoke, eat or drink while actually officiating.

3.11 I hereby pledge that I will always faithfully carry out my duties and obligations as a USSF referee registered with PrimeTime Sports and US Club Soccer; and that I do hereby acknowledge and accept the jurisdiction of the league or tournament I may be refereeing for, PrimeTime Sports, US Club Soccer, the USSF, and their respective Referee Committees, where applicable, over my actions, conduct and performance as a registered USSF referee.

3.12 I furthermore understand that I may be disciplined, to include being placed on probation, suspended, or refused referee registration for significant or repetitive breaches of this Code of Conduct or any of its articles or provisions.

4. ARTICLE IV - USSF CODE OF ETHICS FOR REFEREES (as established per USSF Policy 531-11)

4.1 I will always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.

4.2 I will conduct myself honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of my position.

4.3 I will always honor an assignment or any other contractual obligation.

4.4 I will attend training meetings and clinics so as to know the Laws of the Game, their proper interpretation and their application.

4.5 I will always strive to achieve maximum teamwork with my fellow officials.

4.6 I will be loyal to my fellow officials and never knowingly promote criticism of them.

4.7 I will be in good physical condition.

4.8 I will control the players effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing fairness.

4.9 I will do my utmost to assist my fellow officials to better themselves and their work.

4.10 I will not make statements about any games except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.

4.11 I will not discriminate against nor take undue advantage of any individual group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

4.12 I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization and its affiliates.

APPENDIX A
**Age Chart
of the
PrimeTime Sports**

Age groups and player eligibility are based on birthdays August 1-July 31. See age chart at:

www.usclubsoccer.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/US-CLUB-SOCCER-Age-Group-Chart-2015-16.pdf

APPENDIX B

US Club Soccer Risk Management Policy

Rule 101. Policy Guidelines

US Club Soccer is committed to providing a safe environment for its Members and participants, and to preventing abusive conduct in any form. Every Organization Member and its personnel are responsible for protecting participants and ensuring their safety and well-being while involved in sponsored activities.

To this end, the following guidelines of behavior and procedures have been adopted for US Club Soccer Organization Members, staff, volunteers and participants. All Organization Members, as well as parents, spectators and other invitees, are expected to observe and adhere to these guidelines.

Violation of these guidelines may be used as a basis for an Organization Member or its staff's suspension or other disciplinary action, or a staff's disqualification from registration.

(1) Abuse of any kind is not permitted within the Organization. Physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse or misconduct from our players, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents or spectators shall not be tolerated.

(2) Physical and sexual abuse, including, but not limited to, striking, hitting, kicking, biting, indecent or wanton gesturing, lewd remarks, indecent exposure, and any form of sexual contact or inappropriate touching, are strictly prohibited within the Organization.

(3) Emotional abuse or verbal abuse is also prohibited. These include, but are not limited to such forms of abuse as: insulting, threatening, mocking, demeaning behavior, or making abusive statements in regard to a person's race, gender, religion, nationality/ethnicity, sex or age.

(4) The Organization is committed to providing a safe environment for players, participants and staff. Every Member of this Organization is responsible for reporting any cases of questionable conduct or alleged mistreatment toward our Members by any coach, official, volunteer, player, parent, sibling or spectator.

- Provide one-on-one training or individual coaching with the assistance of another adult or the child's Buddy.
- If you must have a private conversation with a youth participant, do it within view of others, in the gym or on the field, instead of in a private office.

- Coaches and other adult members of this organization should not socialize individually with participants outside of sponsored activities

(5) The Organization will respond quickly to any and all allegations of abuse within this organization. This information will be communicated to the authorities for investigation and will be reviewed by the Organization Board. The alleged offender will be notified of such allegations promptly.

(6) The Organization promotes good sportsmanship throughout the Organization and encourages qualities of mutual respect, courtesy and tolerance in all participants, coaches, officials and volunteers. The Organization advocates building strong self-images among the youth participants. Children with a strong self-image may be less likely targets for abuse; similarly, they may be less likely to abuse or bully others around them.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

(7) Buddy System: It is recommended that every activity sanctioned by the Organization establish a “Buddy System”. Each youth participant should be assigned a buddy during sponsored activities. No child should go anywhere--to the bathrooms, locker rooms, or other location- -without his or her buddy.

(8) To further protect youth participants, as well as coaches, officials and volunteers, it is strongly recommended that no adult person allow him/herself to be alone with a child (unless their own child) or with any group of children during sponsored activities. In particular, it is recommended that coaches or other adult members of this organization:

- Do not drive alone with a child participant in the car.
- Do not take a child alone to the locker room, bathrooms or any other private room.

(9) Supervision/Chaperone ratio: It is recommended that for any sponsored activity, the ratio of adults to youth participants be 1:8, or 1 adults for every 8 children, with a minimum of 2 adults for every activity.

(10) When traveling overnight with youth participants, children should be paired up with other children of the same gender and similar age group, and with chaperones in separate, but nearby rooms.

(11) We want to empower our children to trust their feelings and let them know that their concerns, fears and hopes are important by listening to them. Open communication between children and parents, or between children and other adults in the organization may help early warning signs of abuse to surface.

Rule 201. Staff Registration Obligations

All coaches and administrators who are required to register with US Club Soccer pursuant to Rules 105 and 106 of the US Club Soccer Player Rules shall, as part of that registration process, provide the Organization with a completed risk management form for coaches and administrators, which is available on the US Club Soccer website.

Rule 202. Disqualification of Individuals

(1) The Organization may deny registration to and disqualify any individual, or deny Membership to or otherwise discipline any Club which continues to employ or utilize any individual who either fails to comply with the these registration procedures, or as a result of such procedures is determined by the Organization to be unfit to continue in his current position, and is disqualified.

(2) The Organization may use any information and its absolute discretion in determining disqualification, but at a minimum such information can include conviction of any felony, gross misdemeanors, violation of these guidelines, or driving offenses, including loss of license, to reckless driving, impaired driving, or a DUI

(3) Any person accused of sexual or physical abuse may be asked to resign voluntarily or may be suspended by the Board until the matter is resolved. Regardless of criminal or civil guilt in the alleged abuse, the continued presence of the person could be detrimental to the reputation of the organization and could be harmful to the participants. A person, who is accused but later cleared of charges, may apply to be reinstated within the Organization. Reinstatement is not a right, and no guarantee is made that he or she will be reinstated to his/her former position.

(4) In addition, an individual's actions may give rise to a suspension instead of a disqualification under the Organization's Disciplinary Rules.

(5) The Organization and its members shall further comply with U.S. Soccer's Risk Management Bylaws, Rules, and Policies, including Bylaw 212, and Policies 212 and 601-10.

APPENDIX C

US Club Soccer Disciplinary Procedures (and Matters of Alleged Referee Assault or Abuse)

Rule 101. General

The authority to discipline Organization Members and its players, coaches, and administrators are contained in the US Club Soccer (NACSC) Bylaws and Section 9 of the Policies, or the rules of an individual competition.

Outlined herein are the Procedures for disciplinary actions and Appeals for Organization Members, their coaches, administrators, players, fans, and other personnel, as well as for other affiliated events and organizations (i.e. tournaments and leagues) sanctioned by US Club Soccer.

For purposes of these Rules:

--*Disciplinary Committee* shall refer to a hearing committee other than at the US Club Soccer level (i.e. tournaments and leagues);

--*Discipline Committee* shall refer to a US Club Soccer hearing committee.

These Rules and Procedures include the following actions:

(a) Appeals-- Arise from an adverse decision from a hearing held at a lower level which was either an Appeal or disciplinary hearing. Other than a parent or guardian who files for a minor child, only those principal parties adversely affected by the original action shall have standing to Appeal.

(1) Generally, an Appeal shall not have the effect of staying a previous decision, which remains in force and effect pending the results of the Appeal. A decision may only be stayed if the hearing committee determines that:

i. The appellant will suffer irreparable harm if the decision is not stayed.

ii. The Appeal has a high likelihood of success.

(2) An Appeal is not a retrial, and generally shall be limited to a review of the matters raised at the hearing. A hearing committee may ask for additional information from the parties in exceptional circumstances. In all Appeals, however, the parties may present written arguments in support of their positions.

(3) The hearing committee must find the prior decision was clearly erroneous or the appellant's right to due process was violated to reverse a prior decision.

(4) The imposition of discipline which does not extend or have consequences beyond the tournament competition itself shall not be appealable.

(b) Disciplinary Hearing-- Is an original hearing that results from a written allegation, such as a game incident report or other Allegation of Misconduct, brought by elected or duly appointed officials, including referees, of US Club Soccer, its Member Clubs, other Organization Members, U.S. Soccer, or US Club Soccer sanctioned leagues, tournaments, or other events.

(1) An Allegation of Misconduct is a written allegation utilizing the official US Club Soccer form. It is recommended, but not required that his form be utilized for all written allegations.

(c) Bad Financial Standing-- Need not result from a disciplinary action pursuant to these rules. It is the result of an administrative action taken by US Club Soccer for non-payment of financial obligations, and is the opposite of an Organization Member being in good standing. Written notification must be given to place an Organization in bad standing, the continuation of which may result in Membership termination pursuant to Bylaw VII.

(d) Ineligibility-- Does not result from a disciplinary action (as opposed to suspension), but from a failure of a player or coach to comply with administrative rules and procedures, such as registration requirements or roster rules.

(e) Protests-- Matters arising from a competition which do not involve the discipline of a Club, player, or other individual are considered protests, and are set forth in US Club Soccer Policy 8.05.

Rule 102. Levels of Authority

The levels of disciplinary authority are as set forth herein. Unless stated otherwise, the next level shall hear Appeals from decisions of the next lower level:

(a) Level #1: Competition disciplinary committees and actions by the US Club Soccer Executive Director.

(1) Leagues, tournaments, and other competitions sanctioned by US Club Soccer shall establish their own protest and disciplinary committees and procedures, which must be approved by US Club Soccer at the time of sanctioning. Other than an allegation of referee assault or abuse, all protest and disciplinary matters arising out of these competitions may be heard by these committees. If the disciplinary committee fails to take any action on a written allegation, the petitioner may forward the matter to the US Club Soccer Discipline Committee.

(2) Penalties levied by a tournament disciplinary committee shall not extend beyond the tournament, other than the possibility of suspension from the same tournament in the future. The committee may file an Allegation of Misconduct with the US Club Soccer Discipline Committee if they believe other action may be warranted. All passes shall be returned to the team at the end of the tournament.

(3) The US Club Executive Director may take disciplinary action pursuant to Policy 9.03, but shall not have authority to hear Appeals.

(b) Level #2: US Club Soccer Discipline Committee.

(1) The US Club Soccer Discipline Committee shall be appointed pursuant to the Bylaws. It may hear Appeals from 102(a) actions or discipline levied by the Executive Director, hold original hearings on matters forwarded to them without action by a competition disciplinary committee or the Executive Director, may hold original disciplinary hearings based on an Allegation of Misconduct, and shall hear all charges of referee assault or abuse.

(c) Level #3: US Club Soccer Board.

(1) The Organization Board shall hear any Appeals from disciplinary actions or Appeal decisions of the US Club Soccer Discipline Committee.

(2) Pursuant to Bylaw VII, other than in the case of non-payment of dues and fees where a hearing is not required, any hearing to terminate an Organization Member shall be before the Organization Board.

Rule 103. General Procedures

The following procedures shall apply to all levels of authority:

(a) Any hearing under these rules shall be the result of a written allegation, with an Allegation of Misconduct being the preferred format. No hearing shall result from circumstances which are only communicated orally.

(b) No person may sit on a hearing committee when any conflict of interest exists. Any such individual shall recuse himself from such committee. If a league or tournament authority has an institutional conflict of interest with the issue being adjudicated, then the matter shall be forwarded to the Discipline Committee.

(c) The hearing and adjudication of any written allegation should be completed within 30 days of its filing (however, a competition protest shall be heard as expeditiously as possible). If a decision is not reached within the 30 day period, the matter may be submitted by the petitioner to the Discipline Committee and any fee previously submitted shall be applied.

(d) The decisions and/or disciplinary sanctions imposed as the result of a hearing shall be binding on all disciplinary authorities, and shall be recognized by all US Club Soccer affiliated organizations.

(e) Official notifications and discipline decisions may be sent by certified or registered first class mail return receipt requested, or by two day or overnight parcel service, to the address indicated on the Club registration or roster form, or on the petitioner's written allegation.

Rule 104. Filing Requirements

(a) An Appeal or allegation shall be in writing and include:

- The nature and specifics of the complaint;
- A list of the Bylaws, Policies, or rules that have been violated;
- A statement of the requested result;
- The applicable filing fee, if any.

(b) The written allegation, along with all supporting documents, shall be forwarded by Registered or Certified U. S. Mail--return receipt requested to the disciplinary committee set forth in the competition rules, or to the US Club Soccer Discipline Committee at:

716 8th Avenue North
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

(c) In the case of an Appeal to US Club Soccer, the Appeal must be placed in the mail and postmarked within 5 days of the receipt by the appellant of the decision being appealed (Sundays & -Holidays excluded), unless the rules of the competition state otherwise, and sent to the address in (b) above.

(d) Appeals and Allegations of Misconduct shall be submitted on the required form, although failure to do so shall not be fatal to the cause of action or rights of the petitioner. An allegation of referee assault or abuse may be submitted on an Allegation of Misconduct form or a competition incident report.

(e) The schedule of filing fees and number of copies required are as follows:

(1) Competition disciplinary committee: The filing fee and number of copies shall be established by the competition authority.

(2) Appeal to the US Club Soccer Discipline Committee or US Club Soccer Board: Filing fee for an Appeal: \$200, and 5 copies of all relevant documents. If the Appeal is granted, the filing fee shall be returned to the appellant.

(3) Allegation of Misconduct to US Club Soccer: Filing fee of \$200 and 5 copies of all relevant documents.

(4) Allegation of referee assault or abuse: No fee and only the original competition incident report must be filed initially.

Rule 105. Pre-hearing Procedures

Upon receipt of a written allegation, the disciplinary committee or US Club Soccer Discipline Committee shall initially determine if the parties have standing and if the matter has been properly filed. It will also determine if it has the necessary information to adjudicate the matter, including contact names and addresses for official notifications, statements of fact, and relevant documents, and in the case of an Appeal the prior official document directory. The hearing committee may ask for additional information or clarifications, or may hold an initial conference among the parties to discuss procedural matters.

(a) In the case of an Appeal, all original copies of evidence submitted shall be retained by the disciplinary committee at which the evidence was first submitted. The official document directory submitted to the Discipline Committee in an Appeal shall be a true and exact copy of all original evidence submitted and accepted at the lower-level hearing. The directory shall be numbered, indexed, and signed as verified by the original hearing chairman and forwarded by certified mail, with a duplicate packet sent to the petitioner/appellant. In special circumstances, the Discipline Committee may require the original copy(s) of a specific document(s).

(b) The defendant in a disciplinary hearing shall receive a written notice of the charges and the possible consequences if determined to be true.

(c) The hearing committee shall establish a time schedule for the parties to provide a list of witnesses and copies of any evidence to be presented, which the committee then shall provide to the other party. The committee shall establish a time frame for the defendant or respondent to file a rebuttal to the charges, allowing a reasonable amount of time to do so, and an additional period for the appellant or petitioner to respond.

(d) The date for the hearing shall be published in a notice of hearing, and sent to all parties and hearing committee members. A reasonable time shall be allowed from the time of notice of the charges and the hearing date to allow for preparation, and the hearing shall be held at a time and place so as to make it practicable for the defendant to attend.

Rule 106. Hearing Procedures

(a) A closed hearing will normally be held in the case of an Appeal to the Disciplinary Committee, although the Committee may conduct a live hearing if it so chooses.

(b) An open hearing, in person, must be held in any matter before a competition disciplinary committee, and in the case of a Club Member termination or alleged referee assault or abuse.

Other original jurisdiction disciplinary hearings at the US Club Soccer Discipline Committee level may be in person or by teleconference.

(1) If by teleconference, the Committee shall assume the cost, and the connection must allow all parties to hear each other.

(c) At the original hearing on any issue, all documentary evidence such as player passes, team rosters, referee's game reports, letters, proof of age documents, photographs and other sources of written or printed information shall be original or official version only. No photocopies or other reproductions shall be acceptable.

(1) A referee's game report is considered the official report of the game. The referee and/or assistant referee shall be present or, with advance authorization from the hearing committee, be available telephonically to answer questions at the hearing.

(d) Testimony shall be limited to the principle parties, eyewitnesses, and recognized authorities on the subject (such as a registrar on registration matters). Character witnesses and other third party witnesses shall not be allowed. The parties shall have the right to question each other's witnesses.

(1) A party may have the hearing recorded, but the hearing committee shall determine the method of recording and may charge parties a reasonable amount for a copy of such recording.

(e) Minors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

(f) Testimony and the number of witnesses may be restricted with respect to time as stipulated in the notice of hearing sent to the principle parties.

(g) In the event of the defendant's inability, failure, or refusal to attend after being properly notified, the hearing authority may either reschedule the hearing or proceed with the hearing using the evidence on hand to render a decision.

(h) The order of testimony shall be:

- Petitioner presents case;
- Witnesses for petitioner called individually;
- Defendant presents case;
- Witnesses for defendant called individually;
- Recall any witnesses as necessary;
- Petitioner closing statement;
- Defendant closing statement.

(i) It is not the intention of the hearing to abide by strict rules of evidence as would occur in a court of law. The hearing chairman may exercise latitude in attempting to determine the facts of the case. The basic tenant to be followed is that each party shall be afforded an equal opportunity to present their case.

(j) Petitioners and defendants are allowed to remain in the hearing room throughout the testimony phase of the hearing. They must be allowed to examine any and all documentary evidence presented and accepted at the hearing. Witnesses shall only be in the hearing room when they testify.

(k) Copies of all written evidence that a party wishes to present shall be given to the hearing committee, defendant, and petitioner.

(l) All questions or statements from involved parties shall be addressed to the hearing chairman who will ask the appropriate individual for an answer or rebuttal if the chairman deems the question pertinent

(m) Witnesses may be recalled after initial testimony for further questioning and/or clarification of earlier testimony.

(n) An attorney or other advisor may counsel either party at a hearing; however, the advisor may not participate directly in the proceedings and will restrict his comments and advice to the party he is advising. An advisor may not question the witnesses, present oral arguments, or interrupt or object to the conduct of the proceedings. A disciplinary hearing is an administrative hearing, not a court of law. The hearing chairman may order an advisor out of the hearing room if he fails to properly conduct himself according to this paragraph.

(o) The hearing committee may also be advised by an attorney.

(p) No ex parte communication shall be allowed between a party and any person involved in making a decision or procedural determination except to provide explanations involving procedures to be followed.

(q) After the hearing, the parties shall be excused and the hearing committee shall commence its deliberations. The committee can choose to recess and meet during the hearing for a short period of time if it so chooses.

Rule 107. Decisions

(a) The members of a hearing committee shall decide each issue arising from the hearing, but respond only to the specific issues and allegations contained in the written Appeal or allegation. Any other issue and/or rule violation, which may become known during the course of the hearing, shall be referred to the appropriate authority. This referral may be accompanied with a recommendation for appropriate action. Notice of the referral shall be included in the written decision.

(b) The hearing committee shall announce its decision in written form and provide it to the parties, if possible, within 72 hours of the conclusions of deliberations (Sundays and holidays excluded).

(1) Notification of the decision shall be communicated to the principle parties at the same time and by the same method, as set forth in Rule 103 (e) herein. It is recognized, however, that it may be prudent to also communicate the decision to the parties orally.

(2) In the case of competition disciplinary committee decisions, the decision shall also be sent to the US Club Soccer administrative office.

(c) Written notification of the decision shall include a statement of the procedure for Appeal.

Rule 201. Misconduct Towards A Game Official (Referee or Assistant)

These rules shall be read in conjunction with the policies of U.S. Soccer. Misconduct against referees may occur before, during and after the match, including travel to and from the match. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a game official as a referee.

(a) When any affiliated player, coach, manager, assistant coach, club league official or game official allegedly assaults or abuses a referee, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in the Organization's Discipline Committee.

(1) When an allegation of assault is verified by the Organization, the accused shall be automatically suspended until the alleged assault is adjudicated.

(b) The Discipline Committee shall hold a disciplinary hearing within 30 days of the alleged assault. If the Committee does not adjudicate the matter within that period of time, original jurisdiction shall immediately vest in the U.S. Soccer Appeals Committee to adjudicate the matter, to which the same suspension term provisions shall apply.

(1) Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension.

(c) In cases of alleged referee abuse, the Organization Discipline Committee shall hold a hearing when requested by the alleged assailant or it is otherwise deemed appropriate by Organization.

(d) If referee assault is found to have occurred, the player, coach, manager, or official committing the referee assault shall be automatically suspended as follows:

(1) For a minor or slight touching of the referee or the referee's uniform or personal property, at least 3 months from the time of the assault.

(2) Except as provided in (3) and (4) , for any other assault, at least 6 months from the time of the assault.

(3) For an assault committed by an adult and the referee is 17 years of age or younger, at least 3 years, or

(4) For an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least 5 years.

(e) A player, coach, manager or official who is found to have committed the assault or abuse may Appeal the decision by following the procedures set forth in Rule 102 and 104.

Rule 202. Reporting Assault and Abuse

(a) If procedures for the reporting of referee assault or abuse are not established by U.S. Soccer, the procedures herein shall apply.

(b) Referees shall transmit a written report of the alleged assault and or abuse within 48 hours of the incident (unless there is a valid reason for later reporting) to the Organization, utilizing either a referee's game report and supplemental report or a competition incident report. For tournaments or special events, the referee shall transmit a written report to the tournament director on the day of the incident.

(c) Upon any allegation of an assault on a referee or assistant referee, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall immediately vest in the Organization, which shall inform the competition authority and request further information, if available.

Rule 203. Misconduct towards a Non-referee

When it shall be alleged that any US Club Soccer affiliated player, coach, administrator, or other Club personnel or fan has committed an assault upon another at any US Club Soccer sanctioned game or event, the league, tournament host Club, or other competition authority shall immediately notify the Organization within 72 hours of the alleged offense by completing a competition incident report. The Organization will determine whether to file an Allegation of Misconduct if one is not filed by another individual and refer the matter to the competition's disciplinary committee or the Organization Discipline Committee.

(a) Upon receipt of a competition incident report that an affiliated player, or coach, or administrator, or member, has committed an assault upon another, the adjudicating authority shall immediately suspend the accused individual(s). The disciplinary committee or Discipline Committee shall have full authority to assess penalties such as, but not limited to, suspension, revocation, or probation prior to a hearing.

(b) The definition of "assault" shall include, but is not limited to the following act or acts committed upon an affiliated player, coach, administrator, member, or spectator at an affiliated game: the act of kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into, the act of kicking or throwing any object at another player, coach, administrator, or spectator that could inflict injury or damage to said person or his/her personal property, i.e., car, equipment, etc.

(c) Disciplinary sanction or suspension, imposed as the result of an assault, shall remain in full force and effect and unless it is overturned on Appeal or review, regardless of the level at which it was imposed.

Rule 301. Exhausting Remedies

No US Club Soccer sanctioned league, Organization Member, coach, administrator, team, referee, player, member or their representative may invoke the aid of the State or Federal courts without first exhausting the Organization's appeal rules, and any applicable U.S. Soccer Policies, including grievance actions. Any person invoking such aid shall be subject to the penalties cited below.

--Court costs.

--Attorney fees.

--Reasonable compensation for the time spent by Organization Officers and employees in responding to and defending allegations in the action, including responses to discovery court appearance.

--Travel expenses.

--Expenses for holding special Organization Board or Committee meetings necessitated by Court action.

Rule 302. Interference and Non-Participation

(a) Any person who directly or indirectly attempts to threaten, dissuade, interfere, influence or impede any witness, petitioner or other party in connection with any disciplinary action or investigation is subject to the sanctions of probation, suspension, and fines.

(b) Any person who fails to appear after receiving a written notice to appear as a witness or as a defendant at a disciplinary hearing is subject to the sanctions of probation, suspension, and fines.