# ILLINOIS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION POLICIES

# AND PROCEDURES

ALL BYLAWS AND POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION (USSF), UNITED STATES YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (USYSA) AND FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME SHALL BE INCORPORATED INTO AND ARE PART OF ILLINOIS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION'S (IYSA) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. MODIFICATIONS SHALL BE FOR THE GOOD OF YOUTH SOCCER AND APPLY ONLY TO IYSA AND ITS AFFILIATES.

A PERSON, TEAM, CLUB, OR LEAGUE MAY BE PLACED IN BAD STANDING WITH THE ILLINOIS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION RESULTING IN PROBATION, SUSPENSION AND/OR FINE FOR VIOLATING ANY OF THE IYSA POLICIES OR PROCEDURES (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE IYSA CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES, RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY, GOAL SAFETY POLICY, ETC.) A PERSON IS DEFINED AS A PLAYER, COACH, ADMINISTRATOR, TRAINER OR ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE TEAM, CLUB, OR LEAGUE. COACHES, TEAMS OR CLUBS SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BEHAVIOR OF THEIR PARENTS AND SPECTATORS.

**DEFINITIONS**

(1) **"Affiliated"** means players and teams including only players who are registered with Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA).

(2) **"Team"** means a group of rostered IYSA affiliated soccer players playing on the same side in soccer games.

(3) **"Game"** means a match between two IYSA affiliated teams having a predetermined time limit, officiated by a USSF certified referee and subject to the FIFA Laws of The Game including allowable modifications. Scores are recorded and usually have effect on standings.

(4) **"Scrimmage"** means Practice. May have some of the characteristics of a game. Must be between two IYSA affiliated teams or subdivisions of one team. All players must be IYSA affiliated. No out-of-state team may participate. No certified referee officiates. No fees may be charged or paid. FIFA Laws of the Game are not enforced. Scores are not recorded and the outcome has no effect on standings.

(5) **"Friendly"** means planned scheduled games between four (4) or fewer IYSA/USYSA affiliated league teams as one event. No more the one age group must participate. Combinations of Friendlies in the same event are not allowed. No awards must be issued. No fees must be charged. Each team may pay a referee game fee. Game officials must be USSF currently registered. The host must apply for and receive IYSA Permission to Host Friendly games form. Out-of-state teams must be currently registered with their US Youth Soccer National State Association and must have a permission to travel form.

(6) **"Tournament Team"** means a team that includes guest players and is put together for the sole purpose of playing in an IYSA/USYSA sanctioned tournament.

(7) **"Guest Player"** means an IYSA/USYSA registered player participating in a competition for a team to which the player is not rostered for purposes of league play.

(8) **"Player Registration"** means the execution of intent to play the sport of soccer by signing either a player registration form or a team roster.

(9) **"Rostering"** means assignment of a registered player to a team.

(10) **"Suspension"** means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privilege, such as the right to play, coach, or otherwise administer participate (directly or indirectly) in soccer, and the suspension is for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.

(11) **"Add"** means to add a player to the roster of a team. Must comply with the rules of IYSA/USYSA.

(!2) **"Release"** means the removal of a player formally from the team's roster. See the rules and procedure for Voluntary Release and Involuntary Release. Released player is no longer registered with the IYSA and the IYSA Member League.

(13) **"Transfer"** means the removal of a player from the roster of one team and adding the player to the roster of another team. See the rules governing transfers.

(14) **"Club"** means an organization that is a member (directly or indirectly) of a State Association that has an identifiable membership of youth soccer players on whose behalf the organization conducts or engages in youth soccer activities.

(15) **"Soccer Year"** shall be August 1 thru July 31 of the succeeding calendar year. Each soccer year shall be a Fall Season (August 1 thru December 31) and a Spring Season (January 1 thru July 31).

(16) **"Tryout"** is a separate published event organized and conducted by a club exclusively for the purpose of evaluating the participating players for a position with one of the club's IYSA Member League teams. The tryout event must be publicly announced in writing prior to the tryout. If a player is not available to attend the published tryout event, the player may only tryout with the team at a club practice event within the club and not games against teams outside the club including but not limited to friendlies, scrimmage games, indoor games, and/or tournament games.

(17) **"Club Pass"** is a US Youth Soccer/IYSA pass issued to a youth player by an IYSA league in compliance with the rules of the IYSA of which the club is a member as provided by this policy and specifies the club of which the youth player is a registered member. Added 9/17/11

**RULE 001 A. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**
A player must be properly registered and rostered in accordance with the rules of USYSA and the IYSA. A player may not be simultaneously rostered on more than one competitive/travel team. A current IYSA member competitive league, in good standing, may request from the IYSA Board of Directors a modification of this rule for its league play only.

**RULE 001 B. TEAM ELIGIBILITY**
A team may concurrently register and participate in more than one (1) IYSA affiliated competitive league.

**RULE 002.** DELETED 4/30/25

**RULE 003. TRYOUTS** – DELETED 9/19/09

**RULE 004. COMPETITIVE PLAYER TRANSFER RULE**
Effective July 10, 2004, a competitive player is obligated to his/her competitive team for the soccer playing year from the time he/she signs a player registration or team roster form until the end of the soccer-playing year (August 1 through July 31 of the year for which the team is being registered).

The constitution and/or rules and regulations of each member League shall contain a player transfer rule/recruitment policy for players transferring from one team to another within that League (Intra-League transfers).

Inter-League transfers shall only be allowed during the soccer-playing year when both leagues agree or approved on its merits by the IYSA in response to a special request by the player or the player's parent/guardian.

Players may appeal the decisions of the League to the IYSA which will consider the appeal on the basis of compliance with the League's transfer rule.

**RULE 005. VOLUNTARY RELEASE**
Voluntary Release means the removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of the player.

It is the right of any player to be released from a team at any time. Such player can join another team only in compliance with the transfer rules of the League and the IYSA.

Upon written notice to the League from the player with evidence that the player has requested release from the team and that the request has not been honored within the allowed time, the League shall affect the release.

**RULE 006. INVOLUNTARY RELEASE**
Involuntary Release means the removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of team authorities.

The team may release involuntarily a player from its roster only if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons:
(A) The player has violated rules of the USSF or USYSA or The National State Association (IYSA) through which the player registered.
(B) The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance. Determination of what constitutes a reasonable travel distance is subject to definition by the National State Association (IYSA).
(C) The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season (Soccer-playing year).

When processing an involuntary release, the coach or other team/club official shall present a letter on the team/club's stationary to the player informing the player that he/she is being released from the team and stating the reason for the release and informing the player that he/she may appeal the decision to the League and IYSA.

**RULE 007. ENDORSEMENT OF FIFA LAW 4 - THE PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT**
The IYSA endorses FIFA Law 4 on Safety which states "A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous (including any kind of jewelry)". " FIFA notes that, under the "Powers and Duties" of the referee in Law 5 - The Referee, he or she has the authority to ensure that the players' equipment meets the requirements of Law 4. Modern equipment such as headgear, facemasks, knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight, padded material are not considered dangerous and are therefore permitted." Medical bracelets or necklaces must be taped or otherwise secured so as not to present a hazard and in a manner that the medical message can be clearly seen.

**RULE 008. TEAM AND PLAYER BREACHES OF RULES**
Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained in FIFA laws of the Game, USSF Bylaws and Policies and USYSA Bylaws including cautions, ejection, and suspension. Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team such as relatives and spectators are also subject to the jurisdiction and authority of IYSA. Any coach or team official of a team shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual at any game that, in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that team.

**RULE 009. LITIGATION** - Updated 7/13/19
No IYSA member including but not limited to league officials, leagues, clubs, teams, players, coaches, parents of players, administrators or referees may invoke the aid of the courts in the United States or of a State without first exhausting all available remedies including hearings and appeals within the appropriate member association, league, or the IYSA as provided within the Federation. The offending party shall be subject to suspension/disqualification and fines, and shall be liable to the IYSA for all expenses incurred by the IYSA and its officers in defending each court action. Any person participating in the IYSA or its Local Affiliated Organization's program who becomes involved as a defendant in litigation detrimental to the welfare of youth players or litigation based on activities detrimental to the welfare of youth players, including pending dispositions of any of the criminal offenses noted in The Criteria of the National Council of Youth Sports, shall be suspended/disqualified from all soccer-related activities until completion of the litigation. The status of the person shall be reviewed by the suspending/disqualifying body at the completion of the litigation. Suspensions/disqualifications under this rule shall be determined by the IYSA.

**RULE 010. APPLICABLE BYLAW PROVISION REGARDING HEARING PROCEDURES**
A review or hearing is not required for a Risk Management disqualification unless IYSA wants to allow the disqualified person to participate.

This policy provides the minimum rights that each party would have at a hearing with respect to the right to assistance in presenting one's case at a hearing. These minimum rights apply to hearings conducted by the IYSA and its members. A copy of these minimum rights should be delivered to the parties with the notice of hearing.

A. Each party at a hearing shall have the right to have an individual present at the hearing to assist the party in presenting the party's case. Such individual may, but shall not be required to be, an attorney.
B. If the member association is represented by another individual at any hearing and the hearing panel allows that individual to speak, question the parties and/or witnesses, or grants that individual any other rights, then it shall afford all other parties, or the individual representing the party, including an attorney, the same rights during the course of the hearing as allowed to the individual representing the member association.
C. If an attorney is present at a hearing to assist a party in presenting the party's case, it shall be made clear at the commencement of any such hearing that the hearing shall proceed in accordance with the IYSA hearing rules and procedures. All Federal, State, and local Rules of Evidence or Civil Procedure shall not be applicable.
D. The Hearing Panel Chair shall determine if an individual assisting a party may be allowed to speak on behalf of the party, make requests or ask questions at the hearing.
E. Regardless whether the IYSA or a member association allows the individual assisting the party the rights to speak, make requests or ask questions, as noted in Paragraph E above, an individual assisting the party in presenting the party's case shall have the right to be physically present in the hearing room, and so as not to interfere with the hearing procedure, it is also recommended that the individual be seated close to the party (either behind or next to the party) so that the party may seek assistance when desired during the course of the hearing.
F. During the course of the hearing, a party may confer briefly with the individual who is assisting before making a statement or request or prior to responding to a question. The panel conducting the hearing may limit the frequency and duration of the conferences so as not to unduly interfere with the proceeding.
G. If there is confusion or concern, the party may request a recess to confer with the individual assisting the party. Such a request should be granted unless the number of requests by a party becomes unreasonable or the length of a requested recess is deemed by the hearing panel chair to be unreasonable.
H. An individual assisting a party may prepare written materials for the party and collect documents for the party. However, the party and not of the individual assisting must submit or present the materials and documents as materials and documents of the party. The party has complete responsibility for those materials and documents and is subject to questioning about them.
I. Nothing contained in this policy shall prevent the IYSA or member association from allowing greater rights to assistance than those set forth in Paragraphs A-H above.
J. The rights, either mandatory or permissible under this policy, shall be consistently applied, and the IYSA or member association should not arbitrarily allow or disallow the rights set forth above to those individuals assisting a party in the presentation or defense of the party's case.

**RULE 011. APPLICABLE BYLAW PROVISION REGARDING APPEALS**

No decision which arises out of the application of the rules of competition which is made in the course of the competition, and has no consequence beyond the competition, shall be appealable. For purposes of this policy, the term competition may include games, tournaments, league play or regular season. An appeal is not required for a Risk Management disqualification unless the IYSA wants to allow the disqualified person to participate.

The IYSA President shall appoint an Appeals Panel (AP) Chairperson and members as the need arises.

1. The AP shall consist of at least three (3) disinterested and impartial members. The Chair is responsible for ensuring that the appeal is considered and determined within the time periods prescribed by the bylaws.
2. The AP shall decide the matter based upon the official appeals record and parties' written arguments. The AP shall meet in person or by telephone conference call at the Chair's direction; it shall be closed to the public.
3. The Appellant shall bear the burden of showing that the decision being appealed is clearly erroneous.
4. No new evidence may be presented to the AP unless circumstances have materially changed, or new facts are discovered that were unavailable at the time of the original hearing from which the appeal is being taken. In such cases, the AP may allow that such new evidence be presented to it provided all parties to the appeal have been given notice and are given an opportunity to respond to the materially changed circumstances or previously unavailable or undiscovered facts.
5. The AP has the power to call for the production of any documents and evidence the AP may require. If the appellant fails to submit arguments by the deadline for submitting appellant's arguments, and no continuance has been granted by the AP, the appeal shall be considered abandoned.
6. The AP shall where practicable issue a final written decision within ten (10) business days after it has considered and determined the appeal, however, no more than 20 days after initial consideration except for just cause.

**APPEALS RECORD**

The member association whose decision is being appealed shall within the ten (10) days of the date of the notice of appeal forward to the Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA) and to the Appellant with the Index of Documents the official record utilized by it in making its decision. The Appellant shall mail to the Illinois Youth Soccer Association and the Appellee any argument in support of his/her appeal within the deadline indicated in the IYSA Notice of Appeal acknowledgment.

The member association shall submit to the Illinois Youth Soccer Association one original and three (3) collated copies of the appeals record using the following format. The appeals record shall contain, at minimum, the following:

1. All documents, exhibits and other evidence in the case with the Index of Documents.
2. Copies of all rules, procedures, and bylaws used to support the charges and to conduct the hearing.
3. The notice of charges and/or hearing provided the defendant/appellant.

The record shall:

1. Be numbered in chronological order
2. Be indexed
3. Contain only one copy of each document in each copy of the appeal record. If video tapes are made part of the record, there must be four (4) copies of any such tape delivered to the IYSA. If audio tapes are made part of the record, there must be four (4) copies of the transcripts delivered to Illinois Youth Soccer Association.

If a written transcript has been prepared, it shall be included as part of the record.

The record must be in English. Party submitting documents in other language is responsible for providing English translations of the documents prepared by a neutral translator agreed to by the parties.

If the record is not submitted in accordance with this procedure, the appeal timetable may be put on hold pending the completion of the record OR the appeal may be dismissed.

If the Appellant wishes to add additional materials to the record, Appellant shall have the opportunity to augment the record using the format as specified above as part of their argument.

**RULE 012. SUSPENSION**

(A) The Board of Directors may disqualify, fine, or terminate (or any combination thereof) the membership of any Member of the IYSA if the Board determines that (1) the conduct of the Member is adverse to the best interests of soccer or the IYSA, or (2) the Member has not complied with the requirements of its membership in the IYSA. The Board may act only after a hearing, reasonable notice to the Member of the time and place of the hearing, and providing the Member with a reasonable opportunity to present evidence in support of the Member's position.
(B) A suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by the IYSA shall be recognized by all Members of the IYSA. Suspensions and other disciplinary actions taken by Members shall be recognized by the IYSA and all other IYSA Members upon proper notification to the IYSA and determination by the IYSA that the party subject to the action received hearing and procedural rights to those set forth by the IYSA.
(C) A hearing is not required for a Risk Management disqualification unless the IYSA wants to allow the disqualified person to participate.

**RULE 013. NOTICE FOR U11 TEAMS TRAVELING TO TOURNAMENTS**

Section 1. Except as provided by USYSA or its State Associations, the FIFA "Laws of the Game" apply to all competitions sponsored by USYSA. Players under 11 years of age may play soccer in accordance with the rules of USYSA's Development Player Program-Modified Playing Rules for Under11, Under 8, and Under 6.

**RULE 014. PERMISSION TO TRAVEL - See Application for Travel Form**

Residents of Illinois must obtain the IYSA authorized Travel Permit from the IYSA to participate in a USYSA sanctioned tournament or games outside of Illinois. To be eligible to obtain IYSA Permission to Travel the team must be registered with the Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA) and in good standing. The Permission to Travel is granted for US Youth Soccer sanctioned outdoor tournaments or games only. Contact IYSA office or visit IYSA website www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org for instructions, forms or e-travel submission. An incomplete application will be returned. A falsified submission will be considered void. Only the IYSA may issue Travel Permits. Contact IYSA office for travel permits for tournaments outside of the United States; these must be submitted 90 days prior to date of travel to the tournament. Failure to obtain a Travel Permit or a submission with false information will void participants insurance coverage, jeopardize the team's ability to obtain future permission to travel, and place the team's coach(es) in bad standing with the IYSA and USYSA.

**RULE 015. TOURNAMENT GUEST PLAYER PERMIT - See Guest Player Permit Form**

A coach that wants to use an IYSA currently registered player for participation in an event with his/her team must obtain permission on the IYSA Tournament Guest Player Permit Form from the player's lending IYSA currently registered team coach. To be eligible to obtain the IYSA Guest Player Permit the borrowing team must be registered with the IYSA and in good standing. If the player is not IYSA currently registered, player must obtain a Tournament Pass from the IYSA. Contact IYSA office or visit IYSA website www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org for instructions, forms or e-travel submission. An incomplete application will be returned. A falsified submission will be considered void. For tournaments outside of Illinois, this form must be submitted to the IYSA prior to date of travel. For Illinois (IYSA) sanctioned tournaments, this form must be submitted to the tournament prior to the start of the tournament. Failure to obtain permission from the guest player's coach or a submission with false information will void participants insurance coverage, jeopardize the team's ability to obtain future permission to travel, violate IYSA's Tampering Rule and may place the team's coach(es) in bad standing with the IYSA and USYSA.

**RULE 016. TOURNAMENT PASS**

The IYSA Tournament Pass is available from the IYSA to allow an unregistered/unaffiliated or affiliated recreational player/coach to participate in IYSA/USYSA sanctioned competitive tournaments. The Tournament Pass also allows a player to function as a Guest Player on an IYSA registered team for participation in IYSA/US Youth Soccer sanctioned tournaments only. It is valid for the current soccer year only and expires on July 31 of the current year. Leagues may not issue Tournament Passes. The Tournament Pass becomes void as soon as the player/coach registers with an IYSA/USYSA affiliated league club/team, at which time, the Tournament Pass must be returned to the IYSA. The Tournament Pass player/coach is not eligible to participate in the Illinois Youth Soccer State Cup, Midwest National League or club/travel/competitive league play. Please contact the IYSA for information.

**RULE 017 (A). IYSA PERMISSION TO HOST TOURNAMENT IN ILLINOIS**

The hosting organization/applicant must obtain permission from the IYSA to conduct a tournament in Illinois. To be eligible to host an IYSA sanctioned tournament the tournament applicant/hosting organization must be in compliance with IYSA Rule 026 and the bylaws, policies and requirements of Illinois Youth Soccer Association. A Tournament Team is not eligible to host a tournament.Hosting an IYSA sanctioned tournament is a privilege and not a right. If the host is domiciled in one state and the tournament is to be conducted in another state, the host must have approval from both State Associations. The Tournament Host Applicant must complete and submit to the IYSA the required IYSA/USYSA documents and fees by the IYSA Tournament Host Application deadline. Tournament Application submitted to the IYSA after the application deadline is subject to a late fee. IYSA is not required to accept or approve any application that is incomplete, non-compliant and/or submitted to the IYSA after the application deadline. The IYSA shall not approve an application that is submitted to the IYSA in thirty (30) or less days in advance of the proposed date(s) of the tournament. The Tournament Host Applicant must attend the mandatory, annual IYSA Tournament Host meeting. Failure to obtain permission from the IYSA will void IYSA insurance for tournament participants and hosting organizations, subject the hosting organization to a penalty of up to and including $1000, and place the hosting organization in jeopardy of losing its privileges with the IYSA/USYSA which may include its ability to host tournaments for up to two years. In all matters not provided herein, the IYSA Tournament Director's decision shall be final.

**RULE 017 (B). IYSA PERMISSION TO HOST FRIENDLY GAMES IN ILLINOIS**

The hosting team/organization/applicant must obtain permission from the IYSA to conduct friendly games in Illinois. To be eligible to host an IYSA sanctioned tournament or games the tournament applicant/hosting organization must be in compliance with IYSA Rule 026 and the bylaws, policies and requirements of the IYSA. Hosting IYSA sanctioned friendly games is a privilege and not a right. The friendly games must not involve more than four teams and the teams must be of one age group, application/participation fees must not be charged and trophies may not be presented. If more than four teams in one age group are involved, the event is no longer considered friendly games and the host must apply for tournament status even if the host does not provide trophies or collect fees. The Friendly Game Host Applicant must complete and submit the applicable IYSA Friendly Individual Game Tournament Host Agreement, the USYSA Permission to Host Tournament or Games form to the IYSA prior to scheduling the friendly games. The IYSA is not required to approve an application that is submitted to the IYSA in seven (7) or less days in advance of the proposed date(s) of the friendly games. Failure to obtain permission from the IYSA will void IYSA insurance for friendly games

participants and hosting organizations, subject the hosting organization to a penalty of up to and including $1000, and place the hosting organization in jeopardy of losing its privileges with the IYSA/USYSA which may include its ability to host tournaments for up to two years. In all matters not provided herein, the IYSA Tournament Director's decision shall be final.

**RULE 018. IYSA YOUTH PLAYER AMATEUR GAMES ELIGIBILITY**

Section 1. A youth player may play an unlimited number of adult games without losing his or her youth eligibility. The youth player must notify his or her youth coach or other authorized team official of the player's intention to play adult games. The youth player shall request, in writing, (1) eligibility clearance from the Youth State Association through which the player is registered, and (2) permission from the appropriate Adult State Association. When the clearance and permission have been granted, the Adult State Association has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play adult games and will be responsible for establishing the procedures under which the youth player will be allowed to play. In the event of a conflict between an adult game, the youth game shall take precedence. A youth player who is required to sign an adult form shall retain youth eligibility.

Section 2. A youth team with the written permission and mutual consent of both the Youth and Adult State Associations may play in an adult approved league and not lose its youth eligibility to complete in the U.S. Youth soccer National Championships competitions. If the youth team's players are required to sign an adult form, the team shall retain its youth eligibility.

IYSA Requirement and Clarification: In the event of a conflict between an adult game and a youth game, the youth game shall take precedence. A youth player who is required to sign an adult form shall retain youth eligibility. IYSA registered players must obtain an IYSA/Adult Games Eligibility Clearance in order to participate in the amateur games. IYSA Adult Games Eligibility Clearance Request Form must be completed by the player, player's IYSA registered team coach granting permission for player to participate in amateur games, coach requesting clearance, an officer of the league with whom the player is currently registered before submission for clearance to the IYSA. Youth games shall take precedence over amateur games. This clearance does not extend IYSA insurance coverage to the IYSA registered youth player for amateur game activities. The youth player must obtain insurance coverage through the Adult Association. Adult game clearance is valid for the current seasonal year only.

**RULE 019. IYSA RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Original policy effective 5/9/98

IYSA and Local Affiliated Organizations ("LAO") must comply with US Soccer Safe Soccer policies and the state and federal laws including but not limited to Public Law 115-126 Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017 that was passed by Congress on February 14, 2018.

**Requirements**

All representatives, board members, administrators, employees, coaches, independent contractors, volunteers, referees, participants in IYSA affiliated activities (collectively referred to as "Participants") aged 18 years and older must complete the following three phases of US Soccer's Safe Soccer Clearance Program:

Phase 1 (completed annually)
- SafeSport Training
- Introduction to Safe and Healthy Playing Environments
- Code of Conduct
- Up to date profile information

Phase 2 (completed annually)
- Positive Soccer Environments
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging

Phase 3 (completed every 2 years)
- USOPC Nationally Recognized Background Screening (valid for 2 years)

All participants must successfully clear their background search through US Soccer prior to being authorized by IYSA or LAO to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor and/or to have access to the data of a participant who is a minor. US Soccer determines the background screening company, disclosure requirements and search procedures.

All appeals to a flagged background screening must go through US Soccer and follow US Soccer's appeal process.

**Programs Operated by LAO**

Each LAO must sign and submit to the IYSA prior to the start of the current league season, the most recent IYSA Organization Statement of Understanding and Agreement. Clubs must sign and submit the Agreement to their LAO(s).

IYSA does not control the day-to-day operations of LAOs (leagues, clubs). LAOs are independently owned, organized and operated business organizations. Each LAO must maintain its own risk management program and comply with state and federal laws including the SafeSport Act, US Soccer Safe Soccer policies, and IYSA policies including IYSA Rule 019 and IYSA Rule 029 Athlete & Participant Safety Policy.

**Risk Management Coordinator**

The IYSA will designate a Risk Management Coordinator to form a Risk Management Committee as required and to supervise the implementation of this policy at the State Association level.

Each LAO shall in turn designate a Risk Management Coordinator for that organization to supervise the implementation of this policy at the league/club/person level. It shall be the responsibility of the club to ensure that all adult participants involved in that organization have been submitted to the league and are cleared to participate in IYSA and LAO programs. Each league shall in turn certify to the IYSA that each of its members has strictly adhered to these requirements.

**Disqualification due to Litigation**

Any person participating in any IYSA program who becomes a defendant in any litigation, the outcome of which would subject the litigant to exclusion under this policy or any litigation based on activities otherwise detrimental to the welfare of minors shall be subject to disqualification from all soccer-related activities until such litigation is resolved by court order.

A review, hearing and/or appeal is not required for a Risk Management disqualification by IYSA. The decision of the Risk Management Committee shall be binding.

**Prohibited Conduct**
The below listed Prohibited Conduct has been adopted from and is consistent with U.S. Soccer's Prohibited Conduct Policy, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code and the State of Illinois disqualifying offenses and includes but is not limited to the following.

- All Sex Offenses & any conviction or registered status on a sex offender registry;
- Any felony involving bodily harm including murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, robbery and aggravated assault and crimes punishable by greater than one year in jail or prison;
- Crimes against a minor or vulnerable person including but not limited to offenses such as child abandonment, child endangerment/neglect/abuse, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, exploitation or endangering the welfare of a child, severe cruelty to a child under Illinois' Compiled Statutes, DUI with a minor, and multiple DUI/DWI convictions;
- All sexual crimes and criminal offenses of a sexual nature including but not limited to rape, child molestation, sexual battery, lewd conduct, possession and distribution of child pornography, possession and distribution of obscene material, prostitution, indecent exposure, public indecency, and any sex offender registrant;
- Violence against a person, force or threat of force, and crimes involving a deadly weapon and domestic violence;
- Stalking, harassment, blackmail, violation of a protection order, and/or threats;
- Any drug related offenses;
- Destruction of property, including arson, vandalism, and criminal mischief;
- Animal abuse, cruelty, or neglect;
- Any Safe Sport violation of minor athlete abuse prevention policies including one-on-one interactions and/or unauthorized electronic communications with a minor;
- Active warrants or pending charges for disqualifying crimes, prior suspension, or removal for misconduct involving children from another youth organization.
- Refusal to consent to a background screen or not successfully clearing the US Soccer background screen.

**Recognition by all Organization Members**
Disqualification or other disciplinary action for violation of risk management policies imposed by a US Soccer Organization Member against a person participating or seeking membership in a program of the Federation, an Organization Member, or a program of an Organization Member shall be recognized by all Organization Members.

**RULE 020. MISCONDUCT TOWARD GAME OFFICIALS**
This policy adheres to US Soccer Policy 531-9.

Section 1. General

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

Section 2. Rule Application

(A) This policy shall supersede all rules of Organization Members that pertain to assaults or abuse upon Federation referees, the manner and means of hearings, appeals, and re-hearings in matters pertaining thereto.

(B) Nothing in this policy rule shall be construed to restrict or limit any league, event/tournament or State Association from applying equal or greater restrictions to anyone not listed in section 4(a)(1) of the policy (i.e., a spectator associated with a club or team). (Policy 4(a)(1) states "When any amateur or professional player, coach, manager, club, official or game official assaults or abuses a referee, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in the responsible State Association which is affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation."

Section 3. Terms and References

As used in this policy –

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

2) "Hearing" means a meeting of at least three neutral members, one of which is designated or elected to serve as chairman. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to guidelines established by the State Association.

3)
   (a) Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee. For purposes of this policy, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interest of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.
   b) Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing an object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.

(4)
   a) Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.
   b) Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; or verbally threatening a referee.
   c) Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as "I'll get you after the game" or "You won't get out of here in one piece," shall be deemed referee abuse.

Section 4. Jurisdiction and Hearings

When any amateur or professional player, coach, manager, club official or game official assaults or abuses a referee, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in the responsible State Association which is affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation.

Section 5. Penalties and Suspensions

(A) Abuse
The minimum suspension period for referee abuse shall be at least three (3) scheduled matches within the rules of that competition. The State Association adjudicating the matter may provide a longer suspension when circumstances warrant.

(B) Assault
When an allegation of assault is verified by the State Association the person is automatically suspended until the hearing on the assault. Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension.

The player, coach, manager or official committing the referee assault is automatically suspended as follows:

a) for a minor or slight touching of the referee or the referee's uniform or personal property, at least 3 months from the time of the assault;
b) except as provided in clause (c) or (d), for any other assault, at least 6 months from the time of the assault;
c) for an assault committed by an adult and the referee is 17 years of age or younger, at least 3 years; or
d) for an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least 5 years.

**RULE 021. IYSA CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES**

This Code of Conduct 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, Team Representative or Parent.)

Article I Responsibilities to Players

1. The coach's responsibility is to the health and safety of all participants.
2. Coach must abide by IYSA'S Policies and Procedures including but not limited to IYSA's Risk Management Policy, Goal Safety Policy, Concussion Awareness and Abuse Prevention.
3. The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players.
4. Coach should know and understand the Laws of the Game and instruct players to play within the laws and the spirit of the game at all times.
5. Coach should be positive role model and set the standard for sportsmanship.
6. Coach should keep sport in proper perspective.
7. Coach shall say "no" to drugs.
8. Under no circumstances should coach authorize or encourage the use of, but not limited to, medicinal or performance enhancing drugs.
9. Coach should always inspect fields, goals and players equipment for safety. Prior to every practice, game and soccer event inspect the goals for safety and make sure that they are properly anchored. Do not allow the players to play, hang or climb on goals and never leave children unsupervised. See IYSA Rule 021-A.
10. Coach is a teacher who should continue his/her own education in the sport in order to be able to educate the players in technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of the game for their level.
11. Coach should encourage moral and social responsibility.
12. Coach should be sensitive to each child's developmental needs, strive to have each player reach his/her full potential and be prepared to move to the next stage of development.
13. Coach should develop the child's appreciation of the game. Players should have fun and receive positive feedback.
14. Coach should supervise and control his/her players to avoid injury situations. 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.
15. It is recommended that the coach become certified in basic first aid and be prepared to handle medical emergencies at all practices and games.
    a) Coach should bring properly supplied first aid kit and ice to all practices and games.
    b) Coach should know 911 and emergency phone numbers and procedures.
    c) Coach should know location of nearest emergency medical facilities.
    d) Coach should bring IYSA Medical Release and Liability Waiver to all practices and games.
14. The coach must behave in an ethical and legal manner.
15. The Coach must submit and pass an IYSA background search, annual SafeSport training and concussion training.

**Article II Responsibility to IYSA and Member Organizations**

1. Coach should work in the spirit of cooperation with the officials, administrators, coaches, spectators and participants.
2. Coach should know and follow all rules set forth by the IYSA, leagues and clubs.
3. Coach must strive to maintain integrity within the sport.
4. Coach should contact club official or league to resolve conflicts with another coach.

**Article III Responsibility For The Laws of The Game**

1. Coaches should know the Laws of the Game, their intent, interpretation and correct application.
2. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the laws of the game.
3. If a coach permits, encourages, or condones performance which is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, coach is derelict in his/her responsibility to players, Member Organizations, IYSA and the sport worldwide.

**Article IV Responsibility to Officials**

1. Coach must not criticize game official and set an example of behavior.
2. Coach must instruct his/her players, parents and spectators to refrain from criticizing officials.
3. Coach should treat officials with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as "Referee" and not by name.

4. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between officials, coach, or player.
5. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.
6. Coach is responsible for and will be held accountable for the conduct of his/her players, parents, and spectators.
7. Coach should submit comments in writing regarding an official to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

**Article V Responsibility Regarding Recruiting**

1. Coach and team representative shall strictly adhere to league rules pertaining to recruitment.
2. It is unethical for a player to be recruited or enticed from the Olympic Development Program (ODP) setting, either by his ODP coach or any other coach, manager, parent, or team representative.
3. The coach has an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams, and organizations when discussing the advantages of his/her organization.
4. It is unethical for any coach to make a statement or offer to a prospective athlete that cannot be fulfilled.
5. Documentation of recruiting violations must be submitted in writing to the applicable member league. Allegations of unethical recruiting should be based on concrete facts rather than hearsay and innuendo.

**Article VI Responsibility for Public Relations**

1. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public.
2. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents, or the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.
3. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly while representing their team, league, and IYSA in public.
4. Comments blaming officials, organizers, players, etc. for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and must be avoided.

**Article VII Game Day And Other Responsibilities**

1. A coach's behavior must bring credit to him/herself, his/her organization, and the sport of soccer.
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.
3. The coach must confine him/herself to the technical area and only provide technical instruction.
4. A coach shall exhibit a respectful attitude towards players, officials, spectators, opposing players and coaches.
5. Verbal abuse or physical assault is unethical and shall be punishable by fines and/or suspension from the program.
6. The coaches foremost post game responsibility is to his/her team.
7. Coach should use his/her influence to control the behavior of his players, parents and spectators.

All Member Associations are directed to form their own Conduct & Ethics Committee and to hold hearings – WITH THE PARTIES HAVING THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT – on alleged violations of the IYSA Code of Conduct when properly submitted in writing. (Approved 08/05/00)

**RULE 021-A. GOAL SAFETY POLICY**

Each coach, manager and/or official of a team/club/organization must INSPECT & ENSURE prior to any activity that the fields, goals and portable equipment that they are using are safe and that the goals are anchored and STORED according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission's and the goal manufacturer's guidelines for the environmental conditions and that all of the goals have labels warning of climbing hazards. All unused goals must be securely anchored and/or chained to a substantial or permanent structure or to another goal. All portable equipment including but not limited to fences, tents and signs must be anchored and stored according to the manufacturer's guidelines for the environmental conditions.

Any person who is younger than 18 years of age is prohibited from moving goals. Only trained, capable adults may move goals and anchor them according to the goal manufacturer's specifications for the environmental conditions in their new location even if that location is temporary.

Each club/team shall provide a copy of IYSA Goal Safety Policy to its club/team coaches, assistant coaches, trainers or other responsible persons.

Each club/team shall communicate to its club/team parents/guardians the dangers of unsecured goals and their responsibility to assure that goals are secured according to the manufacturer's instructions for the environmental conditions.

For every club/team practice/game/activity, each club/team shall maintain a written record from each of its coaches, assistant coaches, trainers or other responsible persons certifying that he/she has performed a physical inspection of the goals used in his/her practice/game/activity to verify that the goals were securely anchored for the environmental conditions.

Each league shall require each club or individual team unaffiliated with a club to certify in writing that it has in place a program to ensure that goals it uses are adequately secured, that its goals have been and will be inspected by a member of the club or team prior to each game/ practice/activity. Each club and team shall further certify to the league that it has communicated to the parent or guardian of each player the dangers of unsecured goals and their responsibility to assure that goals are secure for the environmental conditions. Each league shall certify to the IYSA that its clubs and teams have complied with these requirements prior to their annual registration.

Any coach who participates in practice/game/activity where the goals are not securely anchored shall be fined not less than $200 and suspended for a minimum of not less than one (1) calendar year from the date of the practice or game involved. In the event the goal is not securely anchored, the entity (team, club, league, state) that has primary responsibility for the field or event upon which the unsecured goal is situated shall be fined $1000. Coach means the head coach, any assistant coach, trainer or any other team official present at the time of the violation. The entity against which a fine is imposed shall be in bad standing until the fine imposed is paid.

**RULE 021-B. CONCUSSION AWARENESS POLICY**

Each coach must have a Concussion Training Completion Certificate from the National Alliance for Youth Sports or Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Heads Up Concussion in Youth Sports and use and abide by the Illinois Youth Soccer Association Concussion Notification Form.

Each IYSA Member League and each IYSA approved tournament will use and abide by the Illinois Youth Soccer Association Concussion Notification Form and ensure that each team participating in its activities abides by the IYSA Concussion Awareness Policy.

Based on the advice of the US Soccer Medical Committee, effective 2/11/16 Illinois Youth Soccer has banned heading for players aged 10 and younger **(U11 and younger age brackets)** at all Illinois Youth Soccer activities including but not limited to Illinois Youth Soccer Member League play, practices and tournaments. 11 year olds playing U11 are prohibited from heading the ball. If a player is playing in an older age group, players 10 and younger should not be heading the ball regardless of the age group in which they play. A purposeful header by a player in a U11 or younger age bracket shall result in an indirect free kick awarded to the opponent.

**RULE 021-C UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (DRONES)**

Based on US Youth Soccer's Policy on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones), the use of drones is strictly prohibited at all IYSA member events. It is the responsibility of the Event/Home Site Host to ensure that this policy is strictly enforced.

**RULE 022. COACHING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The US Soccer (USSF) shall issue coaching licenses and these courses shall be conducted solely by tUSSF except as provided in the policy. The course contents and all policies governing all Federation licensing and certificate courses will be determined solely by USSF. State Associations are permitted to conduct courses through their state coaching programs with approval and oversight by USSF.

Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA) has been designated as a coaching education provider in Illinois. IYSA coaching courses are conducted by USSF licensed coach educators according to USSF course contents, procedures and policies. The IYSA Coaching Education Program (CEP) offers instruction to anyone regardless of their coaching or playing background.

The following course levels have been established by USSF to provide instruction to coaches. These licenses are nationally recognized by US Soccer and US Youth Soccer (USYS).

**Courses**

The content of each course is arranged so that instruction relates to a specific age group and playing format. The 4v4 (ages 6-8), 7v7 (ages 9-10), 9v9 (ages 11-12), 11v11 (ages 13+) Grassroots courses relate to the playing formats. The 'D' license course is for student coaches who are coaching ages 6 thru 12. The 'C' course (ages 13+) and 'B' Licenses are hosted by Illinois Youth Soccer. The 'A' License is hosted by USSF.

The USSF Director of Coaching course which is part of the Leadership Pathway is available to 'B' Licensed coaches.

The IYSA recreational coaching clinic is available to IYSA Member Organizations.

**Eligibility**

Anyone can participate in the US Soccer 4v4, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11 grassroots courses. For the 'D', 'C', 'B' and DOC courses hosted by Illinois Youth Soccer, see the course details at USSF Learning Center. Contact USSF for 'A' License course information.

**D Course Requirements**

There is no wait time for an applicant to attend a 'D' course once the applicant has successfully completed the following pre-course requirements: choice of two (2) in-person IYSA Grassroots courses (4v4, 7v7, or 9v9 or 11v11) and one (1) USSF online course. All courses are administered through the USSF Learning Center.

**Enrollment**

To participate in a coaching course, an applicant must complete and submit the online Course Registration through the USSF Learning Center with payment at least seven (7) days prior to course date.

**Hosting a Course**

To host a coaching course, the organization must submit to IYSA at least three (3) weeks prior to the requested course date a detailed statement certifying that it meets the IYSA course hosting requirements.

Please see following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDNC1D8L1PeUN8E2Uw8TFLVfzf5faTcKd297l6DeuwAK6m_g/viewform

Minimum number of participants to host a course: Eight (8) for In-Person Grassroots course and twelve (12) for the 'D' course.

**Cancellation**

CEP courses are subject to cancellation if a minimum number of participants are not pre-registered prior to deadline.

**RULE 023. ILLINOIS YOUTH SOCCER CUP COMPETITIONS**

The statewide Illinois Youth Soccer Cup competitions, including but not limited to the Illinois State Cup, Illinois Presidents Cup, Illinois Cup & Illinois Junior Cup, are open to all teams and players that meet the eligibility requirements as stated in the event rules. Teams are required to meet all requirements, deadlines and follow all rules for each event. In all matters provided or not provided in the event rules, the decision of the Cup Director, Cup Committee & IYSA shall be final and binding. The Cup Director, Cup Committee and IYSA have the authority to deal with all breaches of this policy and event rules. The Cup Director, Cup Committee and IYSA have the authority to modify any rules or policy as deemed necessary to ensure the orderly progression of the events.

**RULE 024. IYSA OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

The Olympic Development Program or ODP is a national identification and development program for elite players under the direction of US Soccer Federation (USSF) and the US Youth Soccer Association (USYSA). The objective is to identify, develop and prepare the best players in Illinois. Illinois Youth Soccer Association's (IYSA) ODP is for the serious soccer player who loves the game and has hopes of playing in college, professionally and for the U.S. National team. Each player is expected to take his/her participation in the program seriously, and should be committed to improving his/her individual skills and as a team player. Each player is subject to the IYSA ODP Code of Conduct upon entry into the program and may be removed from the process at any time for misconduct.

**Program History & Description**

1. The IYSA has a history of producing National Team players
2. The IYSA's program has existed since 1979
3. The IYSA has a multi-level player selection process
4. The IYSA creates Illinois State Select Teams
5. The IYSA process is compatible with the National Team program
6. The IYSA's program includes male and female development tracks
7. The IYSA's program has multiple age groups
8. The IYSA offers opportunities at multiple locations throughout Illinois

**Authority**
The Amateur Sports Act is a federal law enacted by Congress in 1978 naming the US Olympic Committee (USOC) as the coordinating body for activity in the United States directly relating to international Olympic family competition. The USOC recognizes USSF as the national governing body for the sport of soccer in the United States and authorizes USSF to use the grassroots athlete development programs that are implemented by its State Associations as Organization Members.

All Olympic program competitions or events organized by an Olympic member in its selection procedure is protected by the federal law. No one may deny or threaten to deny any amateur athlete the opportunity to compete in the protected competition, censure, or otherwise penalize (1) any such athlete who participates in such competition, or (2) any organization which the athlete represents. The USOC shall, by all lawful means at its disposal, protect the right of an amateur athlete to participate if selected (or to attempt to qualify for selection to participate) as an athlete representing the United States in protected competitions.

**Eligibility**
Any soccer player is eligible for consideration in the ODP provided that he or she meets the age requirements for the established age group. US Soccer Federation and US Youth Soccer determine the age groups and FIFA determines the year span (birth or calendar year rather than U-age). A player may not tryout for the ODP in more than one State Association.

**ODP Enrollment**
Every player must enroll in the program each year. In order to enroll in the IYSA ODP process, the player must complete and submit the following by deadline to the IYSA: the new year IYSA ODP Enrollment Form, IYSA Emergency Medical Release & Liability Waiver form, and IYSA ODP Enrollment Fee payment including applicable late fees prior to participation.

**Selection Process**
Players are evaluated on four components that make up a soccer player: (1) technique, (2) tactics, (3) fitness and athletic ability and (4) psychological component (attitude) at the IYSA ODP Winter Trainings/Tryouts and Select Events. Please see ODP page on the IYSA website www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org.

**Injured Player**
The injured player must submit a completed IYSA Injured Player Exemption Form, attending physician's written notice, IYSA Emergency Medical Release & Liability Waiver, the new year IYSA Enrollment Form, and the IYSA Enrollment Fee payment to the IYSA prior to deadline in order to be considered for a medical exemption. Before the injured player may resume participation in the IYSA ODP process, IYSA must have a written release on file from the player's attending physician. If an injured player is unable to participate in any of the IYSA ODP Winter Trainings/Tryouts, the player will be released from the IYSA ODP process unless the player is currently listed as a regional or national ODP player.

**Reduced or Free ODP Fees**
A limited number of free or reduced ODP fees and payment plans are available. Please contact the IYSA office for required submissions and deadline.

**Refunds**
No refunds will be forthcoming for any reason including but not limited to an injury or illness.

**National ODP Player Fee Waiver**
An IYSA ODP participant who is currently listed as a U.S. Soccer National Team pool player as confirmed in writing by USSF/USYSA is exempt from having to pay the IYSA ODP Enrollment Fee.

**Out-of-State ODP Participants**
**Section 1.** A player wishing to try out for the Olympic Development Program may only try out and be selected for the Program through the State Association in which he or she resides with his or her parent(s) or guardian(s), or, for a student in residence at a boarding school or college, the state in which the boarding school or college is located.
**Section 2.** To be eligible to try out for another State Association, the player must receive written permission from:
(1) the State Association where the player resides; and
(2) the other State Association where the player wishes to try out.
**Section 3.** A player may only try out for the Olympic Development Program in one State Association. A player is responsible for all Olympic Development Program fees of the State Association in which the player tries out.

**RULE 025. REGISTRATION AND FEE PAYMENT**
Each IYSA Member League shall register by team with the IYSA those players, head coaches, assistant coaches, team managers wishing to participate. Those registered with the IYSA shall receive IYSA benefits including IYSA insurance coverage. The league shall not deny or otherwise prohibit registration with the IYSA.

For purposes of this rule, the words "registered" and "rostered" shall be synonymous and refer to those players, coaches, assistant coaches, team managers who are registered with the IYSA and for whom the League has issued a pass and whose names appear on an IYSA Registration Form and other league documents.

Each League shall submit to the IYSA by August 1st of the current soccer year the completed and signed most current IYSA Organization Statement of Understanding and any other documents required by IYSA.

Each League shall submit to the IYSA by August 1st of the current soccer year a copy of their current playing rules and procedures or have them posted on their website.

Each League shall submit to the IYSA by September 1st of the current soccer year a list of its League Directors and Officers consisting of each person's first name, last name; title; street address, apt/unit # if applicable, city, state, and zip; cell/primary/work phone number with area code; home phone with area code; and email address. Each League shall submit to the IYSA any changes to its Directors and Officers within seven (7) days of the change.

Each league shall submit to the IYSA by September 1st for the Fall season and April 15 for the Spring season of the current soccer year an IYSA compatible electronic file in Excel or .csv, consisting of all IYSA registered players, head and assistant coaches, team managers, containing the following required information (each item must be listed in a separate field): first name, last name; street address, apt/unit # if applicable, city, state, and zip; phone number, area code; email address; gender; birth date; U-age; club name, team name, team code. Each league shall report to the IYSA the required information for any added/released players/coaches within seven (7) days of being processed by the league. Upon request by the team and/or IYSA, the league shall submit to the IYSA a team IYSA Registration Form with IYSA Add/Release Transfer Form. Any League failing to submit a compatible electronic file to the IYSA by deadline will be assessed the current input rate charged by a data entry company.

Each League shall submit to the IYSA by October 1st for the Fall season and May 1st for the Spring season of the current soccer year full payments, including player registration/insurance/league affiliation fees.

For insurance, recruiting, liability compliance, and to protect IYSA's core values, leagues shall not register any youth team that uses the same or a deceptively similar name in any other US Soccer Federation sanctioned competitive youth league.

No claim for medical coverage or liability coverage will be honored for any player, coach or other person associated with any team/club who has not been listed and submitted to the IYSA on a compatible electronic file for which payment of fees as required above have been received by the IYSA. Evidence of insurance compliance shall be presented by the League to IYSA via the IYSA completed insurance claim forms, a copy of the claimant's IYSA Medical Release and Liability Waiver and a copy IYSA Registration Form and/or electronic file upon which the claimant appears. Any League failing to comply with the above requirements shall be placed in bad standing and subject to further fines as determined by a simple majority of the members of the IYSA Board of Directors voting at a regular or special meeting of the IYSA. Any further fines or other conditions as may be set by the IYSA Board shall be paid/met prior to reinstatement to good standing. (Revised 7/11/09)

**RULE 026. MEMBERSHIP**

1. Each applicant desiring to administer an IYSA sanctioned league shall file a league application to the IYSA. The application shall include:
    (a) Completed IYSA League Membership Application.
    (b) Signed statement by the applicant's chief executive officer that:
        1) The applicant will maintain a board of directors or governing authority that is independent from any other organization except in the event of a sponsoring governmental organization (i.e. park district) or a sponsoring entity that is a non-profit corporation with a 501(c)(3) ruling and an annual certified audit;
        2) The applicant will maintain its own bank accounts or that is has direct control over its finances, except where evidence is provided that the sponsoring entity by ordinance, statute, charter, or policy prohibits the applicant from having direct control over its finances (i.e. government sponsored organizations or non-profit entities with a 501(c)(3) ruling and an annual certified audit). Any applicant requesting waiver of this requirement shall attach to its application evidence to support its request;
        3) The applicant will abide by all bylaws, policies, rules and regulations of the IYSA, US Youth Soccer, and US Soccer.
        4) The applicant shall schedule and maintain regularly scheduled league play among at least four (4) IYSA only teams in a minimum of five (5) IYSA only age divisions per applicable gender within its association. Each division within the league will have a structured group of at least four (4) IYSA teams joined for the purpose of inter-club play under a common set of administrative and competition rules. A series of round robin tournaments are not considered "regularly scheduled league play".
2. Each applicant desiring to participate in an IYSA sanctioned league shall file an application with the league in which the applicant desires to participate. The application shall include:
    (a) Completed IYSA League Application Form;
    (b) Signed statement by the applicant's chief executive officer that:
        1) The applicant will maintain a board of directors or governing authority that is independent from any other organization except in the event of a sponsoring governmental organization (i.e. park district) or a sponsoring entity that is a nonprofit corporation with a 501(c)(3) ruling and an annual certified audit;
        2) The applicant will maintain its own bank accounts or that is has direct control over its finances, except where evidence is provided that the sponsoring entity by ordinance, statute, charter, or policy prohibits the applicant from having direct control over its finances (i.e. government sponsored organizations or non-profit entities with a 501 (c)(3) ruling and an annual certified audit) (any applicant requesting waiver of this requirement shall attach to its application evidence to support its request);
        3) The applicant will register all of its players, teams, coaches, administrators, and volunteers with IYSA provided, however, that if some of the applicant's members do not wish to participate in IYSA sanctioned activities, then only those players, teams, coaches, administrators, and volunteers that wish to participate in sanctioned activities shall register with the IYSA (any applicant that does not register all of its members may not be eligible for IYSA insurance coverage in the event of inter-league or inter-club play with teams or members not registered with IYSA);
        4) The applicant will abide by all bylaws, rules and regulations, and Policies of the IYSA, US Youth Soccer, and US Soccer Federation.

**RULE 027. INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUES - PLAYER REGISTRATION**

In order for an Organization that plays indoor soccer to be considered for membership as an IYSA Member Indoor Soccer League ("Indoor League"), Organization shall complete and submit to the IYSA, the IYSA application for league membership, IYSA league affiliation fee, copy of the Indoor League's constitution/bylaws or playing rules, copy of Illinois Secretary of State corporate status, required information for the Indoor League's directors and officers and all other IYSA requirements which are subject to change. Once membership is accepted, Indoor League must submit list of players and coaches including full name, address, phone number with area code, gender, birth date, email address and the IYSA per player fee. The IYSA Member Indoor League status does not imply that the IYSA has inspected, endorsed or guaranteed the safety or security of the facility.

In order to be eligible for IYSA benefits, each participant must be currently registered with the IYSA Member Indoor League, on file with the IYSA and participating with the Member League against currently registered Indoor League players for whom the registration payments and data have been submitted to the IYSA. The period of player registration shall be the annual playing season from August 1 of the current year through July 31 of the following year. A player is affiliated with the IYSA through the IYSA Member Indoor League with which he/she is registered.

Player Registration is valid for one Indoor League only and does not extend to any other Indoor League.

**Rule 028. NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Membership in the IYSA is open to all soccer leagues, clubs, teams, players, coaches, referees and administrators without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status.

**Rule 029. ATHLETE & PARTICIPANT SAFETY POLICY** Approved 7/13/19 Updated 2/26/21

It is the policy of the Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA) to comply with US Soccer Safe Soccer policies and Public Law 115-126 Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 that was passed by Congress on February 14, 2018.

**Section 1. Introduction, Purpose, and Applicability**

This policy should not be viewed as creating a legal standard of care or a model of best practice. Illinois Youth Soccer Association ("IYSA") does not control the day-to-day operations of its Local Affiliated Organizations ("LAO"), who are independently organized, nor does it control Organizations who operate individual clubs. Each LAO and organization must maintain its own risk management programs and comply with the SafeSport Act and US Soccer Bylaws and Policies.

a. The IYSA Athlete & Participant Safety Policy establishes the ethical standards for IYSA and its LAOs including but not limited to their representatives, board members, administrators, employees, coaches, referees, independent contractors, volunteers and participants (collectively referred to as "Participants") within any and all IYSA sanctioned or LAO programs, events, activities and competitions. Amateur Athlete who is a minor also includes other participants including referees who are minors.
b. The IYSA Athlete & Participant Safety Policy applies to any individual designated as "Participant" which means any adult authorized by IYSA or a LAO to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor and/or to have access to the data of an amateur athlete who is a minor. For IYSA, Participant includes individuals who are involved or engaged with any sanctioned IYSA or LAO soccer program, event, activity or competition.
c. A minor athlete (aged 17 or younger) that reaches the age of majority (18) must successfully complete his/her background check and SafeSport training before participating on a team with minor athletes.
d. The purposes of the IYSA Athlete & Participant Safety Policy is to provide evidence of IYSA's commitment to the lawful and ethical conduct of its Participants and to protect those who report violations of the IYSA Athlete & Participant Safety Policy.
e. The IYSA Athlete & Participant Safety Policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state or federal laws governing behavior. This Policy does not provide legal advice and is subject to change.
f. LAOs and Participants must respect and comply with IYSA rules and regulations, observe high standards of conduct, and participate in establishing and maintaining such high standards.

**Section 2. Zero Tolerance**

IYSA maintains a zero tolerance regarding abuse. The IYSA Zero Tolerance for abuse extends to IYSA, its LAOs and the Participants in all IYSA and LAO sanctioned programs, events, activities and competitions. IYSA requires every Participant to assist in creating a safe environment for minor athletes at and during any and all sanctioned IYSA and LAO programs, events, activities and competitions.

**Section 3. Appropriate Background Screening**

Adult Participants must take the appropriate background screening prior to taking on a role that gives them regular contact with IYSA and LAO Participants who are minors. At minimum, the policy must meet US Soccer and National Council of Youth Sports screening requirements. See IYSA Rule 019.

**Section 4. Education & Training**

Adult Participants must successfully complete every year the US Center for SafeSport Training as a condition of their participation with the IYSA and its LAOs before regular contact with Participants who are minors. The IYSA and its LAOs must offer the Center for SafeSport Parent Training and Minor Athlete Training on an annual basis and document how and when these trainings were offered.

**Section 5. Mandatory Reporting**

LAOs must maintain a procedure for reporting misconduct to the extent required by the SafeSport Act. Adult Participants must <u>immediately</u> report suspected child abuse or sexual misconduct to both Law Enforcement Authorities and the US Center for SafeSport. Adult Participants are required to report emotional and physical misconduct (bullying, stalking, hazing, and harassment) to the organization with which the Participant is affiliated. Reporting may be made anonymously to the Center and retaliation against individuals making good faith reports of child abuse is expressly prohibited.

**Section 5. Prohibited Substances**

IYSA prohibits smoking and the use and possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, cannabis, tobacco by Participants at IYSA sanctioned programs, events, activities and competitions.

**Section 6. Prohibited Activities and Sexual Misconduct**

a. IYSA prohibits any sexual activity with a child.
b. IYSA prohibits any sexual interaction between an athlete and any individual with evaluative, direct or indirect authority.
c. IYSA prohibits nudity and any indecent exposure by a Participant at all sanctioned programs, events, activities and competitions.
d. IYSA prohibits a Participant from engaging in sexually oriented conversations at all sanctioned programs, events, activities and competitions. This includes sharing information about one's own personal relationships, dating or sexual activities.
e. IYSA prohibits the possession of any sexually oriented materials including magazines and videos while participating at any sanctioned program, event, activity and competition.

**Section 7. Physical Contact**

Physical contact with athletes must take place in public, have no potential for or actual physical or sexual contact during the physical contact, must be for the benefit of the athlete and must not meet an emotional or other need of an adult. IYSA prohibits a Participant from engaging in any other form of physical contact with and or between athletes.

**Section 8. One-on-One Interactions**

IYSA requires LAOs to establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between Youth Participants and Adult Participants. One-on-One interactions between a minor and an adult who is not the minor's parent/legal guardian are permitted if they occur at an observable and interruptible distance by another adult. Isolated, one-on-one interactions between minors and an adult who is not the minor's parent/legal guardian are prohibited, except under emergency circumstances.

a. <u>Meetings</u>
    1. Meetings between adults and minors may only occur if another adult is present, except under emergency circumstances. Such meetings must occur where interactions can be easily observed and at an interruptible distance from another adult.

2. If a one-on-one meeting takes place in an office, the door to the office must remain unlocked and open. The office must have windows (if available) with the blinds and/or curtains remaining open during the meeting.

b. Individual Training Sessions
   1. Individual training sessions between adults and minors are permitted only if the training session is observable and interruptible by another adult.
   2. Written consent must be obtained prior to each individual training session from the parent/legal guardian.
   3. Parents, guardians, and other caretakers must be allowed to observe the training session.

c. Out-of-Program Contacts

   Participants are prohibited from interacting one-on-one with unrelated minor athletes in settings outside the program including but not limited to one's home, restaurants and individual's transportation.

**Section 9. Massages and Rubdowns**

a. Any massage or rubdown by an adult on a minor athlete is prohibited unless such adult is a licensed massage therapist.
b. Even if the coach is a licensed massage therapist, the coach shall not perform a massage or rubdown on an athlete under any circumstance.
c. Any massage or rubdown must be conducted in an open and interruptible location and may not be done with only the minor athlete and professional alone in a room.
d. Written consent must be obtained from the parent/legal guardian before performing a massage or rubdown on a minor athlete.
e. Parent/legal guardian must be permitted in the room as an observer.

**Section 10. Locker rooms, Rest Rooms and Changing Areas**

a. Use of Recording Devices
   Use of any device including a cell phone with recording capabilities and voice recording, still cameras and video cameras in locker rooms, rest rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces is prohibited.
b Undress
   Adults are not permitted to shower or be in the shower with minor athletes.
   An unrelated adult must never be undressed (disrobed or partial or full nudity where private body parts are exposed) in front of participants who are minors.
c. Isolated one-on-one interactions
   At no time are unrelated adults permitted to be alone with a minor in a locker room, rest room, or changing areas except under emergency circumstances.
d. Monitoring
   LOAs are required to regularly and randomly monitor the use of locker rooms, rest rooms and changing areas at facilities under their jurisdiction to ensure compliance with these policies.
e. Non-exclusive facility
   If the LOA uses a facility not under its jurisdiction (for, e.g., training or competition or similar events) and the facility is used by multiple constituents, adults are nonetheless required to adhere to the rules set forth herein.

**Section 11. Social Media and Electronic Communications**

a. Professional Content
   All electronic communication originating from participating adults to amateur athletes who are minors must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or team-oriented communications.
b. Open and Transparent
   1. If a participating adult needs to communicate directly with an amateur athlete who is a minor via electronic communications, another participating adult or the minor's parent/legal guardian must be copied.
   2. If a minor athlete communicates to the participating adult privately first, the participating adult must respond to the minor athlete with a copy to another participating adult or the minor's parent/legal guardian.
   3. A participating adult communicating electronically to the entire team must copy another participating adult.
   4. Amateur athletes who are minors may "friend" the organization's official page.
c. Prohibited Electronic Communications
   1. Participating adults are not permitted to communicate privately via electronic communications with amateur athletes who are minors, except under emergency circumstances.
   2. Participating adults are not permitted to "private message," "instant message," "direct message", or send photos via Snapchat or Instagram to a minor athlete privately.
   3. Participating adults are not permitted to maintain social media connections with minors; such adults are not permitted to accept new personal page requests on social media platforms from amateur athletes who are minors and existing social media connections with amateur athletes who are minors shall be discontinued.
d. Request to Discontinue

   Parent/legal guardian may request in writing that their child not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by the organization or by the organization's participating adults. The organization will abide by any such request that their child not be contacted via electronic communication, absent emergency circumstances.

**Section 12. Local Travel**

Local travel consists of travel to training, practice, and competition that does not include coordinated overnight stay(s).

a. IYSA does not arrange local travel.
b. Participating adults who are not also acting as a legal guardian, must not ride in a vehicle alone with an unrelated athlete who is a minor, absent emergency circumstances, and may only drive with at least two other minor athletes or another adult at all times, unless the minor athlete's parent/legal guardian provides written consent prior to each local travel.

**Section 13. Team Travel**

Team travel is travel to a competition or other team activity that the organization plans and supervises.

a. Team Travel
    1. When only one participating adult and one minor athlete travel to a competition, the minor athlete must have his/her parent/legal guardian's prior written consent to travel alone with the participating adult for each competition.
    2. Organization's Team Travel Policy must be signed and agreed to by all minor athletes, parents/legal guardians, and participating adults travelling with the organization.
    3. Participating adults who travel with the organization must successfully pass the appropriate background search (see Section 3) and other organization requirements.
b. Hotel Rooms
    1. Participating adults must not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a minor athlete (unless the participating adult is the parent/legal guardian, sibling, or is otherwise related to the minor athlete).
    2. Room checks and all other activities must be conducted consistent with IYSA policy for one-on-one interactions (see Section 8).
c. Meetings
    1. Meetings must be conducted consistent with IYSA policy for one-on-one interactions (See Section 8) – i.e., any such meeting shall be observable and interruptible.
    2. Meetings must not be conducted in a hotel room.

**Section 14. Harassment**
IYSA prohibits LAOs and their Participants from engaging in unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical or visual, that is based on a person's protected status at any sanctioned program, event, activity of competition.

**Section 15. Bullying**
IYSA prohibits LAOs and their Participants from engaging in any activity designed to cause fear, humiliation or physical harm in an attempt to socially exclude, diminish or isolate the targeted person as a condition of membership.

**Section 16. Hazing**
IYSA prohibits LAOs and their Participants from engaging in any activity that could be defined as hazing at any sanctioned program, event, activity or competition.

**Disclaimer**
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**Recognition by all Organization Members**
Disqualification or other disciplinary action for violation of risk management policies imposed by an US Soccer Organization Member against a person participating or seeking membership in a program of the Federation, an Organization Member, or a program of an Organization Member shall be recognized by all Organization Members.