

KENTUCKY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION



STATE RULES

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General

Purpose

The State Rules contained herein govern Member Organizations and all members of the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (KYSA) in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the KYSA State Bylaws, State Policies and State Procedures.

All competitions shall be governed by the rules stated herein, unless the rules of a specific competition state otherwise. The rules of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and/or United States Youth Soccer Association would supersede these rules.

These State Rules are intended to provide a uniform set of guidelines governing player eligibility and registration, team formation and player assignments, and playing rules for use by all Member Organizations. A recreational program is permitted to deviate from these rules for a self-contained, in-house recreational league with a written policy clearly defined and communicated to the participants of said league.

Member Organizations will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin and shall be open to any soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials not subject to suspension under USSF Bylaw 241, and to any amateur soccer organization in its territory.

Definitions

Section 1: General

- **MEMBER ORGANIZATION** means an association or entity formally affiliated with KYSA with rights to participate in governance of KYSA and receives benefits from that affiliation, also referred to as "Club".
- **REGISTRATION** means the signing of intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of a fee to become a member of this Association.
- **TEAM** means a recognized entity organized for the purpose of playing the sport of soccer.
- **ROSTERING** means assignment of a registered player to a team.
- **ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY** means registered, not under suspension.
- **SUSPENSION** means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges such as, but not limited to the right to play, coach, or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in the game of affiliated soccer. Any person or group (team, club, league, State Board, etc.) that has been suspended shall be in less than good standing for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.
- **ADD** means the addition of a player to a team's roster.
- **VOLUNTARY RELEASE** means the withdrawal of a player who has no intention of playing soccer with any other member organization affiliated with KYSA/USYSA from a roster during the current seasonal year at the request of the player or player's parent(s).
- **INVOLUNTARY RELEASE (DROP)** means the removal of a player from a roster during the current seasonal year without a request from the player or player's parent(s).



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- **TRANSFER** means the movement of a currently or previously rostered player onto the roster of another Member Organization with KYSA/USYSA. A transfer is subject to the transfer windows as determined by KYSA.
- **SEASONAL YEAR** means the twelve-month period between September 1 and August 31.
- **BIRTH YEAR** means the period between January 1 of the beginning year through December 31 of the ending year. Birth years are as defined by the United States Soccer Federation.
- **OUT OF STATE PLAYER** means a player who resides within the territory of one State Association but wishes to register in another.
- **PRIMARY** means the team for which a player intends to participate with above all others.
- **SECONDARY** means the team for which a player would participate if there are no conflicts with the primary team. A secondary rostering requires approval from all parties involved.

Section 2: Levels of Competition

The KYSA sanctions play among teams at three (3) distinct levels:

- **RECREATIONAL** – Recreational soccer programs are intended to provide the opportunity for all interested children within the area served by the Member Organization to participate in and enjoy the game of soccer without regard for athletic ability or soccer skills, up to the limits of the Member Organization to accommodate them. Teams are formed in a random manner. Special guidelines are contained herein for **Recreational Team Formation** and player assignment.
- **SELECT** – Select soccer programs are intended to provide players with an expressed desire to experience a level of competition beyond that afforded by a recreational program and teams are formed in a non-random manner. Team formation and player assignment guidelines, which govern recreational teams, do not apply to select teams/leagues. Special guidelines are contained herein for **Select Team Formation** and player assignment.
- **OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT** – Olympic Development teams may be formed to represent the KYSA in any competition approved by the KYSA and/or USYSA. The program is administered as proscribed in the State **Olympic Development Program Policies** as approved by the State Board.

Unless otherwise stated, these rules apply to all players and teams at all levels.

Section 3: Types of Teams

- **RECREATIONAL TEAM** – A team put together in a random manner in full compliance with the Recreational Team Policies of the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association as specified herein.
- **SELECT TEAM** – a team put together in a non-random manner that may use a “tryout” or “player ability test” to select players for the purpose of forming a team.
- **TOURNAMENT TEAM** - A team put together for the sole purpose of playing in a tournament or other sanctioned competition. The roster for this type of team includes guest players from one or more Member Organizations. This team can only play in tournaments that accept guest players. All members of the team must be properly registered with the KYSA.
- **US YOUTH SOCCER OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM** - A team selected by KYSA through open tryouts to participate in activities as designated by the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program. District and/or state Olympic Development teams may be formed to represent the KYSA in any competition approved by the KYSA and/or USYSA.



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Registration/Rostering

Registration and Fees for Players

Section 1: General

These rules apply only to Kentucky Youth Soccer Association Member Organizations and players except as specifically stated otherwise.

Section 2: Youth Players

“Youth player” means an individual who has not reached 19 years of age prior to August 1 immediately before the start of any seasonal year.

Section 3: Registration

- All players must register with their own Member Organization.
- Date of Registration with State Association – On or After June 15
 - On or after the above date, the player is officially registered from the moment the player or the player’s agent completes the registration process and pays the corresponding fees with a Member Organization. Partial payment as part of a payment plan for registration fees to the Member Organization will suffice to fulfill this requirement.
 - The team and players will be considered as officially registered with KYSA upon submission of the appropriate online team and registration process with the state association’s registration event.
 - KYSA’s registration event for players and teams officially opens on June 15.
- Once a player has registered with a Member Organization for a specific level of play, he/she must remain with that organization until a request for transfer is approved by the organization the player desires to register with, the organization the player is leaving and KYSA.
- Players wishing to compete in a state outside the state in which they reside must receive permission as an Out-of-State Player from:
 - The State Association where they reside; and
 - The State Association where they wish to play.
- These permissions **MUST** be obtained for each seasonal year, September 1 through August 31.

Section 4: Multiple Registration

- No player may be rostered/registered to play on more than one (1) select team, unless the player has received permission to register as a Secondary Player. A player may register with a second select organization if written approval is given by both member organizations as well as approved by the Kentucky Youth Soccer office.
- If a player is rostered/registered on two (2) select **and/or recreational** teams, they must declare a primary and secondary team. In the event of a conflict in match schedules a player must play with their primary team.
- If a player wishes to roster/register on both a recreational and select team they may do so, however, if there is a conflict in match schedule, that player must play for the team of the highest level of competition (i.e. Select before Recreational).
- A select player may only play in one state sponsored event per season (State Open, Presidents



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Cup, and Challenge Cup), whereas a recreational player is permitted to participate in both recreational tournaments sponsored by KYSA. An individual player must play in the event of the highest level of competition for which they are registered. Any player who is rostered/registered to play on two (2) select teams must play with their designated primary team in Cup competition unless their primary team does not enter State Cup, Presidents Cup, or Challenge Cup competition.

- Recreational Players who are rostered/registered to play on select team on or after September 15 are not eligible to participate in the fall recreational cup. Players who are rostered/registered on a select team prior to September 15 that remain rostered/registered to that team after the September 15 deadline remain ineligible to participate in the fall Recreational Cup.
- Recreational Players who are rostered/registered to play on select team on or after April 1 are not eligible to participate in the spring recreational cup. Players who are rostered/registered on a select team prior to April 1 that remain rostered/registered to that team after the April 1 deadline remain ineligible to participate in the spring Recreational Cup.

Section 5: Registration Fee

The player registration fee (per player) registering shall be set each year by KYSA. Said accumulated fees must be paid to the KYSA as provided in the By-Laws. The fee paid is for the full seasonal year; only new players in the spring playing period are required to pay registration fees.

The player registration fees beginning August 1, 2026 are listed below:

- Recreational Players: \$15.00/player
- Select Players: \$40.00/player
- Upgrade Player Fee: \$25/player
- Out-of-State Players: \$45.00/player

Players playing on more than one team (Secondary Players) within two separate Member Organizations shall pay the registration fee for each team to which they are rostered.

Player registration fees are charged by KYSA twice annually for all new/upgraded registrations. Fall date is September 15 and Spring date is April 15. Failure to pay those invoices will be charged late fees starting 30 days after the original due date. 10% penalty due 30 days after original due date, 15% after another two weeks, and so on until invoice is paid in full.

Section 6: Medical Insurance

All players **must** purchase medical insurance through the KYSA insurer. Fees will be determined prior to each seasonal year. Governmental organizations and certain non-profit national organizations having comparable insurance can request the KYSA Board to have the KYSA insurance fee waived.

Age Limit Definitions and Roster Limitations

Section 1: Seasonal Year

- The Seasonal Year shall be from September 1 through August 31 as defined by the United States Youth Soccer Association.
- The Age Group Year is not concurrent with the Seasonal Year. The age group year shall be from August 1 through July 31.



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Section 2: Age Division

- Age Groups shall be comprised of youth players who are born before the first day of August of the immediately prior seasonal year—
 - Under 19 years of age
 - Under 18 years of age
 - Under 17 years of age
 - Under 16 years of age
 - Under 15 years of age
 - Under 14 years of age
 - Under 13 years of age
 - Under 12 years of age
 - Under 11 years of age
 - Under 10 years of age
 - Under 9 years of age
 - Under 8 years of age
 - Under 6 years of age
 - Under 4 years of age
- Age Groups for Recreational play will be in multiple year groupings as defined below
 - Under 19
 - Under 16
 - Under 14
 - Under 12
 - Under 10
 - Under 8
 - Under 6
 - Under 4
- Age classification for the spring season will be the same as that used for the previous fall season. Players will not be moved up in age classification during the spring season unless approved by their member organization. Players eligible to play in an Age Group during the fall season will remain eligible to play in the same Age Group during the following spring season.

Section 3: Proof of Age

All players registering in the KYSA must provide proof of age. Proof of age shall consist of any of the following:

- A birth certificate,
- A valid driver's license,
- A Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the Uniformed Services of the United States, or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health records,
- Passport,
- Alien registration card issued by the United States government (i.e. I 94),



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- A certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age or a certificate of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency,
- A birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency or board of health records,
- An unexpired federal, state or local government identification card (if documentation of date of birth is required),
- A certification of a United State Citizen board aboard issues by the appropriate government agency.
- Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

Each Member Organization is responsible for proof of age of its registered players. If the age of a player is challenged through the appeals process, the Member Organization must furnish the Kentucky Youth Soccer Discipline Committee with proof of the player's age.

Section 4: Maximum Roster

No Under 12 and below teams shall be allowed more than twice the number of players on the field during games on its roster at any time during the seasonal year. (Example: An Under 12 team playing 9v9 may not have more than eighteen (18) players.

In the U13-U19 age groups, a team may roster no more than twenty-two (22) players on its "Team" roster and no less than seven (7). If a team carries more than eighteen (18) on its "Team" roster, they are required to provide a Game Day roster for each game they play. The Game Day roster may not have more than eighteen (18) players and they must be players who are listed on the "Team" roster. Teams are further subject to rules of specific competitions they compete in. Some competitions may require a smaller than eighteen (18) Game Day roster that teams must abide by in those specific competitions.

Section 5: Minimum Roster

No team playing full-sided shall be allowed to have less than seven (7) players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year. No team playing small sided 9v9 shall be allowed to have less than seven (7) players required on the field at games. No team playing small sided 7v7 shall be allowed to have less than five (5) players required on the field at games. No team playing small-sided 3v3 or 4v4 shall be allowed to have less than the number of players required on the field at games.

Section 6: Improper Registration

Any team playing a player who is over age or who is not registered or who is improperly entered on the team's roster shall forfeit the game(s) in which that player takes part. No player may play who is not registered. No player may play a team for which he is not properly rostered or listed as an approved "guest" player. Violations of this section may subject the team and/or players to appropriate disciplinary action.

Section 7: "Over-Age" Player Registration (FALL SEASON ONLY)

For fall seasons, Under 14 teams may add up to five (5) over-age (Under 15) players to their roster as long as league rules allow. The players must be a true U15 player and must be in 8th Grade to be eligible.

- The team will be rostered as an Under 14 team through Kentucky Youth Soccer.
- Over-age players cannot play with that team in an Under 14 tournament unless the tournament and/or league rules allow such a player.



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- The over-age players should be dropped from that U14 roster by December 1 unless the team plays in the age group appropriate to its oldest player. In this case all players will need to be issued new passes to reflect the correct age group of the team, and the team shall then be rostered at the appropriate age of the oldest player. The team will also need to be issued a new roster.

Except as noted in Section 7 above, players may not play in younger divisions than their age dictates except by approval of the Kentucky Youth Soccer State Board.

Team Formation

General Team Formation

Section 1: General

The following rules apply to all teams and organizations, at all levels of competition:

- All players on a team **MUST** be properly registered with the KYSA and the Member Organization.
- All Member Organizations with select teams are required to register the team with the KYSA State Office via the online system.
- Players may be added to a team roster by submission of the supplemental team registration form or **by a designated club official using the provided online Registration software** so long as maximum roster size is not exceeded. Additions **MUST** include the date of registration of the player(s).
- Team names shall not be used for more than one (1) team in the same age division within a Member Organization. Teams which use the same name; i.e., Club's name **MUST** be given a numerical prefix/suffix or other clearly distinguishable identification.

Section 2: Eligible Player

A youth amateur player who meets the age, registration and assignment requirements in these State Rules is considered an eligible player if playing on the team to which he/she is assigned.

Recreational Team Formation

The team formation process will be random in nature. "Special" requests by players, coaches, or parents for specific team assignments are strongly discouraged.

- Criteria for player assignment will include **NO** consideration for the ability of the player or the relative strength of the team.
- All forms of recruiting, invitations, and tryouts are specifically prohibited at the recreational level. Coaches will have no direct input to, or involvement with, the assignment of players to their teams.
- Deliberate creation of single birth year teams is not permitted. Team formation procedures will avoid assignment of a disproportionate number of players with the same birth year to the same team.
- Minimum half game playing time is strongly encouraged for all Member Organizations in recreational play.

Teams which fail to meet one or more of the rules for Recreational team formation and player assignment specified herein may be considered as select teams in any Association sponsored competitions, including tournaments. The team status/eligibility will be determined by the State Tournament Committee for all competitions conducted by KYSA.



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Section 1: Recreational Team Formation

Member Organizations shall assign players to recreation teams in the manner determined by the recreational Member Organization, so long as there is no tryouts held or players are not placed together on basis of ability.

- Deliberate creation of single age teams is not permitted. The random basis for team assignment should be in separate pools by birth year to facilitate the balancing of ages within age groups. Procedures should ensure that no more than two-thirds (2/3) of the players assigned to a team have the same birth-year (in the upper portion of the age group). The birth year of a player is determined by the player's age as of August 1 of the seasonal year.
- Tryouts are not permitted as part of the player assignment process. Other forms of player evaluation for the purpose of balancing the level of talent and ability among teams and resulting in a random assignment process are permitted. Players may be assigned to teams on the basis of geographic location of residence provided such assignment is otherwise random in nature.
- Children of the head coach and not more than one (1) assistant coach may be assigned to that coach's team regardless of the method of team formation, so long as the age requirements stated above are met.
- Deviations from Rules above may preclude participation in the KYSA-sponsored recreational competitions. Exceptions for valid reasons require the written approval of the KYSA.

Section 2: Players

Once a **recreational** player signs a team registration form, that player becomes bound to that member organization for one season. That player may not transfer to another member organization unless specified in the guidelines below.

Player Transfers - Recreational

- Fall - Any recreational player rostered to a team for the Fall season should remain with that team for the entire fall season unless he/she requests permission to transfer formally with an official of the Member Organization. No transfers will be approved on or after September 15 for the Fall season.
- Spring - Any recreational player rostered to a team for the Spring season should remain with that team for the entire Spring season unless he/she requests permission to transfer formally with an official of the Member Organization. No transfers will be approved on or after April 1 for the Spring season.

Closed Transfer Period – All Players

- No player will be permitted to transfer to another team between April 1 and June 1.
- Member organizations who are found to have manipulated their rosters to subvert this closed transfer period will be subject to a \$1000 fine.

At any time during the season, players may transfer to another team so long as it is within the same club and is approved by a club administrator. Any player, regardless of age group, wishing to transfer at any time may be bound to their current team until all appropriate fees have been paid to their current club. Special Transfer considerations must be approved by the Kentucky Youth Soccer Board of Directors.

Select Team Formation

Select soccer programs are intended to provide players with advanced skills and an expressed desire to



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experience a level of competition beyond that afforded by a recreational program.

- Team formation and player assignment guidelines, which govern recreational teams, do not apply to select teams/leagues.
- Member Organizations may establish their own criteria for player selection and team assignment provided there is no conflict with the KYSA Bylaws, State Policies, State Regulations and/or State Rules.

Section 1: Team Roster and Member Pass Approval

Every team registered as a select team under Kentucky Youth Soccer is required to have a state approved roster and member passes for all players and coaches affiliated with the team.

Each roster and member pass is required to have state approval before it is considered eligible for competition. It is the responsibility of the member organization who registers each team to review and approve all legal birth documents to ensure all players are of correct age for the team to which they are rostered.

By approving the roster in the official KYSA registration system, the club official of the member organization is confirming that all legal birth documents have been verified and that all players are eligible in accordance with the Kentucky State Rules on "Age Limit Definitions and Roster Limitation", Section 3 "Proof of Age" to compete for that specific team.

Once the team has been approved by the member organization, a state approved roster and player passes can be generated automatically through the official KYSA registration system. The team will then be eligible for competition.

Section 2: Penalties for Ineligible Players

Any Kentucky Youth Soccer Member Organization or team accused or identified as using an ineligible player will be investigated by Kentucky Youth Soccer. Member Organizations MUST follow the procedure below once an investigation has begun:

Within 24 hours of initial investigation, respond via email or telephone call to Kentucky Youth Soccer with information regarding player accused to be in violation.

Within 48 hours of initial investigation, provide an original copy of birth certificate or legal age verification document in accordance with the Kentucky State Rules on "Age Limit Definitions and Roster Limitation, Section 3, "Proof of Age" for the player(s) in question to the Kentucky Youth Soccer State Office

Within 48 hours of initial investigation, provide a copy of approved team roster and original member pass(es) of player(s) accused to be in violation to Kentucky Youth Soccer.

Pending a hearing in by the Kentucky Youth Soccer Discipline Committee, any Member Organization or team found guilty of using an ineligible player may be subject to the following penalties:



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First Member Organization Offense

- 1 year suspension of player(s) found in violation
- 1 year suspension of club registrar
- \$2500 Member Organization fine. Any fines not paid by date defined places Member Organization in bad standing with Kentucky Youth Soccer.

Second Member Organization Offense

- 1 year suspension of player(s) found in violation
- Lifetime suspension of Member Organization Registrar
- 2 year suspension of Member Organization President
- Entire Member Organization placed in bad standing for remainder of seasonal year
- \$5000 Member Organization fine. Any fines not paid by date defined places Member Organization in bad standing with Kentucky Youth Soccer.

Third Member Organization Offense

- 1 year suspension of player(s) found in violation
- Member Organization removed from KYSA membership

Section 3: Team/Player Transfers

A select team shall be limited to a total of five (5) transferred players from outside their club per seasonal year if they wish to be eligible to participate in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Kentucky State Open Cup and Kentucky Presidents Cup competitions.

Section 4: Player Obligation

Once a **select** player signs a club /team registration form, that player becomes bound to that team for one year. That player may not transfer to another club / team unless specified in the guidelines below.

Section 5: Select Tryout Policy- Player Commitment

Kentucky Youth Soccer will not recognize a player commitment to a member organization prior to June 15th for any player. Players who wish to be released from a commitment to a member organization prior to June 15th may be released by the state office without approval from a club. Players wishing to be released after June 15th will need to complete the player release form and receive approval from their current member organization.

Any Under 9 to Under 14 select player rostered to a member organization for the Fall season must remain with that member organization for the entire Fall season unless he/she requests special permission to be released or transferred by a communication to both the registering member organization and the state office.

If the special request is approved, the player can formally request the release/transfer by completing the Player Release Form or Transfer Request Form and obtaining an approval from the releasing club and the state office in case of a pure release or the requesting club, releasing club and state office in the case of a Transfer. The releasing/transferring club would then approve the Release Form or Transfer Forms online provided that all previously agreed upon financial obligations to the Member Organization are current..

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If previously agreed upon financial obligations have been met the releasing club has Ten (10) days to sign the release form. If the club in which the player wants to release/transfer from, does not approve the player release/transfer request within Ten (10) days the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association State Office has the authority to release/transfer the player without the releasing/transferring club approval Any player wishing to release/transfer prior to the Fall season must complete the Player Release or Player Transfer Form and submit it to the state office prior to August 1 of the upcoming seasonal year and seek approval of the releasing member organization. No transfers will be approved on or after August 1 for the Fall season unless there is a special exemption received by the player requesting the release/transfer from the state office.

Select Transfer Window – No Charge, November 1 – February 1

- Select players wishing to transfer or be released upon completion of their Fall season must file a notice of intent to transfer by completing the Player Release Form or Player Transfer Form and obtaining a signature from a member organization official. The Member Organization should sign the Release/Transfer Form provided all previously agreed upon financial obligations to the member organization are current. If previously agreed upon financial obligations have been met the releasing club has Ten (10) days to approve the release/transfer form. If the member organization in which the player wants to transfer from, does not approve the player release/transfer form within Ten (10) days the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association State Office has the authority to release/transfer the player without the releasing club signature. In order to be granted permission to transfer between seasons, paperwork the online request must be received by the state office between November 1 and February 1.

Select Transfer Window – Fee Incurred – February 1 – March 1

- Any select player wishing to be released or transfer to another team outside of their current club between February 1 and March 1 during the Spring season must file a notice of intent to release/transfer by completing the Player Release/Transfer Form and obtaining a signature from a member organization representative of the releasing club. The member organization shall approve the Release/Transfer Request provided that all previously agreed upon financial obligations to the member organization are current. If previously agreed upon financial obligations have been met the releasing/transferring club has Ten (10) days to approve the release/transfer request. If the member organization in which the player wants to release/transfer from, does not approve the player release/transfer request within Ten (10) days the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association State Office has the authority to release/transfer the player without the releasing club signature. A transfer fee of \$200 must accompany the request payable online via credit card.

Closed Transfer Period – All Players – March 1- June 1

- No select player will be permitted to transfer to another team between March 1 and June 1.
- A select player will be permitted to be released, meaning a player who has no intention of continuing to play soccer during the seasonal year, at any time.

Any player, regardless of age group, wishing to transfer at anytime may be bound to their current team until all appropriate fees have been paid to their current club. ***Special Transfer considerations must be approved by the state office.***



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Section 6: Player/Coach Club Pass

All players and coaches registered with the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association (KYSA) as a select player or as a recreational player who engages in interstate competition shall carry a US Youth Soccer Association Member pass. Select players who are registered with a club may use their player pass to play with any age-appropriate team in the club they are registered under.

- Teams/Clubs must follow specific competition rules that govern an event or League. Competition rules may prohibit the use of club pass players.

Section 7: Underage Players

- Any select team wishing to roster a U8 player or younger to their U9 academy or select team must receive approval from their member organization board of directors or director of coaching.
- It is the responsibility of the club to ensure the player is developmentally ready (physically, mentally, and technically) to play at the U9 level.
- If a member organization needs assistance evaluating younger players for their U9 Academy or select teams Kentucky Youth Soccer assist in this process.
- Kentucky Youth Soccer Strongly Recommends** No Under 6 or below players are eligible to play on a U9 Academy level team or select level team.
- No U10 or above select team(s) may roster, or register as guest players, more than three (3) players to their roster who have not turned nine (9) years of age before the first day of August of the immediately prior seasonal year without the written approval of the Member Organization Board of Directors submitted to the Kentucky Youth Soccer state office.

Rules of the Game

Section 1: FIFA Rules

Games played within the jurisdiction of the KYSA shall be officiated according to the rules of the International Football Association (Federal Internationale de Football, FIFA) providing there is no KYSA rule to the contrary. Interstate games shall be played according to the rules of the United States Youth Soccer Association.

Section 2: KYSA Rules of the Game for Inter Association Competition

The individual member organizations regulates internal member organization league play. However, when play is between member associations or is directly sanctioned by or hosted by the state association, play must be under the FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association in the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association's State Playing Rules and State Tournament Rules.

KYSA Rules for Competition shall supersede rules by any other organization or publication.

KYSA exceptions or additions to the FIFA Laws of the Game vary by the age of the team and are as described in the State Playing Rules listed below.

Section 3: KYSA Playing Rules

Members may form teams in alternative formats for internal member play; however, all competitions shall be governed by the rules stated herein, unless the rules of a specific competition state otherwise:

- US Soccer Official Under 6 Playing Rules (3v3)**
- US Soccer Official Under 8 Playing Rules (4v4)**

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- **US Soccer Official Under 10 Playing Rules (7v7)**
- **US Soccer Official Under 12 Playing Rules (9v9)**
- **Kentucky Youth Soccer Playing Rules – U13 & Above** - Recommended Playing Rules – Full Sided Soccer Under 13 and above (11 v 11)

Section 4: KYSA Rules of Competition

The State Board of Directors has approved the following Rules of Competition for competitions directly hosted by the State Association.

All teams playing in competitions directly hosted by the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association must play as described within these playing rules and as described below:

- **State Open Cup Policies and Rules of Competition (Revised 2/2026)**
- **Kentucky Presidents Cup Policies and Rules of Competition (Revised 2/2026)**
- **Challenge Cup Policies and Rules of Competition (Revised 2/2026)**
- **Recreational Cup Policies and Rules of Competition (Revised 2/2026)**

Other KYSA Rules of Competition

Section 1: Team Roster

In the event of a question regarding player eligibility, a coach is required to provide a copy of his team roster upon the request of the opposing coach. The roster **MUST** contain player names, team name, age division, club/league name, recreational or select designation, and birth years. If the team roster is not provided at the time of the request, the requesting coach may advise the opposing coach that he/she is playing the game under protest. This action does not, however, constitute a formal protest, which must be filed as specified herein.

Section 2: Penalties for Ineligible Player

Any coach and/or administrator on a Member Organization who allows an ineligible player to participate in a sanctioned game or games and any player who participates in a sanctioned game or games shall cause those game(s) to be forfeited and any such person or persons shall be suspended from all USSF affiliated activities for the remainder of the current seasonal year and the subsequent seasonal year as defined under the current USSF Administrative regulations. Penalties for Ineligible Player shall apply to all interstate and intrastate play.

Section 3: Play by Association Teams in Non-Association Competitions

The Kentucky Youth Soccer Association shall consist of such clubs, leagues, and associations in good standing with the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and with headquarters in the territory herein defined. Every club, league, and association with headquarters in this territory who is not a member of the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association the KYSA, the United States Soccer Federation, or of the United States Youth Soccer Association or one of its affiliate or one of its Affiliate organizations shall be deemed unaffiliated.

Section 4: Discipline / Completing Game Suspensions

The length of suspension for any Red Card infraction is subject to the policies of the competition in which the infraction occurred. Leagues and tournaments may have different lengths of suspensions for similar infractions. However, any send off event (Red Card) will incur a minimum one (1) game suspension. Until the suspension is served, the player/coach is suspended from any other team(s) to which the



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player/coach may be registered. If a player/coach changes teams before the suspension has been served they must serve their suspension with their new team. Games may not be scheduled to “work off” any suspension. Players may not serve suspensions as “guest players” (except as noted in #4 below) nor may they “guest play” with any other team(s) until such time as the original suspension is served. Send off events may be subject to more severe disciplinary action by Kentucky Youth Soccer.

- A. **League Games:** Suspensions issued during league play must be served under the jurisdiction of League Policies. If a suspension is issued during final game of League Play in which the suspension occurred, then the suspension must be served in next immediate game and there may be an additional game(s) suspension in League Play the next season depending upon League Rules.
- B. **Tournament Games:** Any Player/Coach suspended during tournament competition must serve their suspension during the remainder of the competition. If no competition remains, suspension must be served during the next scheduled league and/or tournament game(s) including KYSA State Sponsored competitions (Challenge, Presidents Cup, or State Open Cup, etc.), whichever comes first.
- C. **Friendly Games:** Suspensions issued during "friendly games" must be served during the next scheduled league, Cup or tournament game(s). "Friendly games" may not be scheduled to serve game suspensions nor if previously scheduled, used to serve a suspension given during league, cup, or tournament games.
- D. **National Championships (State Cup), Presidents Cup, and Challenge Cup:** Please refer to the US Youth Soccer National Championship Policies (Rule 225, Section 3), Kentucky Youth Soccer State Cup and Presidents Cup Policies (Team/Player Breach of rules/conduct Pg 5-6), and Challenge Cup Policies (Team/Player Breach of rules/conduct Pg 5-6) regarding suspensions in those competitions.
- E. **American/ Commonwealth Cup:** Suspensions issued during the American Cup or Commonwealth Cup must be served during the remainder of competition. If no competition remains, suspension must be served during next scheduled league and/or tournament game(s) whichever comes first.
- F. **Guest Player:** Red card suspensions received as a “guest player” must be served with the guest team if there are games remaining in the competition in which the red card was issued. If a red card is received in the last game of a competition as a guest player, the player must serve the suspension in their next immediate game no matter what the competition. If a red card is received in the final game of a player’s season, suspensions received as guest player may carry forward to the player’s primary team during the next seasonal year the player is registered.
- G. **Serving Suspensions:** Any coaches or players who receive a Red Card and fail to serve their suspension are subject to a longer suspension and may be placed in bad standing as a member of the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association.