

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH SOCCER
Rules of the Appeals Committee

1.0 Appeals Committee and Panels.

1.01 These rules apply to the Appeals Committee and Panels established by under the Constitution and By-laws of organization known as Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer.

2.0 FIFA Laws of the Game Apply.

2.01 The “Laws of the Game” as issued by the International Football Association Board, and as modified for the specific age and competition, shall apply.

3.0 Autonomy and Equal Opportunity.

3.01 In accordance with all applicable Federal and State laws, the requirements of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and *Federation Internationale de Football Association* (FIFA), Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer shall be autonomous in its governance of the sport of youth soccer within the boundaries of Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer as established by USSF and shall not delegate its governance responsibilities.

3.02 The Appeals Committee and any Panels established hereunder have the authority to sustain, revise or reverse any penalty imposed upon any team, club, league, player, coach, trainer, official, referee within the territorial boundaries of Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer as established by the USSF.

3.02 Nothing stated herein shall conflict with the rules or regulation of FIFA, the USSF and/or US Youth Soccer whose rules and regulations shall always take precedence.

3.04 Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer as an entity and the Appeals Committee, as a standing committee of Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer, shall provide an equal opportunity to athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, referees, administrators and officials to participate in amateur youth soccer competitions and, if needed, this appeals process without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, sex or national origin.

3.05 Individuals serving on the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Appeals Committee or Panels shall be selected without regard to that individual’s race, color, religion, gender, sex or national origin.

3.06 The President of the Board of Directors shall appoint no less than five individuals to serve on a yearly basis on the Appeals Committee. The identity of the duly appointed Committee members shall be made public either by posting at the State Office, Official Website

or other means. The President shall, if requested, appoint additional members to the Committee or Appeal Panel if required to effectuate consistency with the provisions outlined herein.

3.07 Any Appeals Panel created under these provisions shall consist of at least three (3) members.

3.08 The decision of the Appeals Committee and/or Appeals Panel, where applicable, shall constitute the full and final decision on the issue before them. There shall be no further appeal to the Board of Directors or other entity.

4.00 Roberts Rules of Order.

4.01 Unless specifically stated otherwise all meeting shall be conducted in accordance with the latest authorized edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

4.02 At no time and for no purpose shall any Federal, State Rule of Civil Procedure or Rule of Evidence apply to hearings conducted hereunder.

5.00 Definitions.

5.01 Associate – an organization formed to advance a particular aspect of soccer, but not responsible for recruiting, training, fielding and/or funding of soccer players

5.02 Athlete – means the individual youth soccer player.

5.03 Board of Directors – means the duly elected Board of Directors of Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer.

5.04 Club – means an organization of one or more soccer teams usually playing within a geographic area.

5.05 Federation – means the United States Soccer Federation, Inc. the national governing body for soccer.

5.06 FIFA – means the *Federation Internationale de Football Association*, the international governing body of soccer, of which the United States Soccer Federation is a national association member.

5.07 League – means an organization that conducts competitions among soccer teams.

5.08 Member –(Constitution, Article VI, sections 2-5) Membership in this organization shall be in one of four classes: Individual Non-voting Member, Full, Provisional or Associate

5.09 Referee – means any official acting in the capacity of a Referee, Assistant Referee, or Fourth Official for any competition conducted within Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer territory including, but not limited to, intramural, recreational, travel, indoor competitions be they friendlies, league or tournament. It also includes any individual serving on the joint “Referee Committee” of Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer and Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association.

5.10 Team(s) – means a group of soccer players playing on the same side in a soccer match.

6.00 Appeal Hearing Procedure.

6.01 It is anticipated and understood that any person sanctioned/penalized by any Team, Club, League or Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer, shall have the right to file an appeal to the Appeal Committee. This would include, but not be limited to, decisions of clubs regarding Player(s) ability to change Leagues, Clubs, and/or Teams; decisions regarding Player(s) eligibility for any League, Club, Team or Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer competition; decisions regarding referee abuse from any League, Club, Team or Player(s); decisions regarding discipline of Coaches, Managers, Trainers or Administrators.

6.02 An appeal from a decision of any team, club, league, Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer State Tournament, or subcommittee thereof, including but not limited to the Referee Committee shall be made in accordance herewith:

6.021 An appeal is commenced with the submission to the Chief Executive Officer, a Notice of Appeal within ten (10) days from the date of the decision rendered to the party making the appeal. Copies of the Notice shall be sent to all “opposing” parties or other team, club, league, committee or body whose decision is being appealed.

6.022 The Notice of Appeal shall be accompanied by an appeal fee in an amount determined by the Board of Directors. The appeal fee shall be retained by Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer.

6.023 The Appeals Committee shall within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Notice schedule a hearing on the appeal.

6.03 In all appeal hearings conducted under these bylaws the parties shall be accorded the following:

6.031 Notice of the specific charges or alleged violations in writing and the possible consequences if the charges are found to be true.

6.032 Reasonable time between the receipt of the notice and the hearing.

6.033 The right to have the hearing conducted either in person at the state offices or by telephonic conference.

6.034 The right to have the appeal heard before a panel of disinterested and impartial members.

6.035 The right to be assisted in the presentation of one's appeal.

6.036 The right to call witnesses, present oral or written evidence and argument.

6.037 The right to confront witnesses, including the right to be provided with the identity of witnesses in advance of the hearing.

6.038 The right to have a stenographic record of the hearing at their cost, if desired.

6.039 A written decision, with reasons therefor, based solely on the evidence presented issued in a timely fashion.

7.00 Opportunity to Participate.

7.01 As noted above, fair notice and an opportunity for a hearing shall be accorded to any Player, Coach, Trainer, Manager, Administrator, League, Club, Team, Referee before that individual may be declared ineligible to participate in an Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer sanctioned event.

8.00 Litigation.

8.01 No member, team, club, league, player, coach, trainer, administrator, official or referee may invoke the aid of the courts in the United States or any State without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organization and Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer.

8.02 Violation of this provision shall result in the offending party being subject to suspension and fines and shall be liable to Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer for all expenses incurred by Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer and its officers in defending each court action. Such expense shall include but are not limited to the following:

8.021 Court costs,

8.022 Attorney's fees,

8.023 Reasonable compensation for time spent by Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer officials and employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances,

8.024 Travel expenses.

9.00 Savings Clause.

9.01 Failure of literal or complete compliance with provisions of these rules and procedures by the Appeals Committee or Panel formed hereunder, with respect to dates and times of notice, or the sending or receipt of the same, or errors in phraseology of notice which in the judgment of the Committee or Panel held do not cause substantial injury to the rights of the appellant, shall not invalidate the actions or proceedings of the Committee or Panel so affected.

10.00 Penalties.

10.01 At a minimum the following penalties may apply to the following category of infractions if so found:

10.011 Use of Ineligible Player(s) shall result in a forfeiture of all games played plus a fine (payable by the club) of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per game for the first offense and Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per game for any subsequent offenses during a given registration year.

10.012 Misconduct toward Game Officials. Recognizing that misconduct toward or against a game official may occur before, during and after the match, USSF has adopted minimum penalties for assaulting an official, they are mandatory and are incorporated herein by reference.

10.013 Conduct Detrimental to the Good and Welfare of Soccer may result in a suspension from participation in Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer sanctioned Leagues, Clubs and/or Teams for a period of up to two (2) years.

10.014 Approaching of Player(s) by another Club, Team, Coach, Manager, Administrator or any other person for the purpose of inducing that Player(s) to leave his current club will result in a suspension from participation in Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer of the Club, Team, Coach, Manager, Administrator or other person or six months on the first offense and at least one year on the second offense.

11.00 Amendments.