

NEBRASKA STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
RULES AND REGULATIONS

II. TEAM FORMATION

At no time shall a player be offered pay or incentive for participation that would violate the Ted Stevens Act.

The soccer year is from August 1 to July 31. Passes for players and coaches are valid through July 31.

1. Member Team Formation Policy: Affiliated members will have a documented and published team formation policy consistent with the following guidelines:

A. At the time of formation of a team, the Affiliate Member must declare if the team will be registered on a yearly registration (soccer year) or seasonal registration (fall season or a spring season) basis.

1. Recreational Teams (U10 and younger teams):

a. May register on a yearly registration or seasonal registration basis.

1. Yearly Registration: Once a player registers to the Affiliate Member, they are committed for that upcoming soccer year, except for the reason explained below in Player Participation.

2. Seasonal registrations are binding on August 1 until October 31 for fall season and once they register for spring season until their season is complete. Players will be allowed to transfer between fall and spring playing seasons with submittal of the proper transfer form to the State Office.

b. Players will not participate with any team from another Affiliate Member until they are registered and transferred to that team or have permission of their Affiliate Member Coach (primary coach) or Affiliate Member designee.

c. Affiliate Members cannot invite or contact non-members for any activities without permission of their Affiliate Member Coach (primary coach) or Affiliate Member designee.

d. U8 and younger teams must be formed on a random basis using school district, zip codes, friend request, or any similar basis.

e. U9 and older teams can place players by ability as long as there is not a tryout where players are evaluated and then cut, and the Affiliate Member makes a good faith effort to place all players that register. Ideally, Affiliate Members would evaluate players during the previous season of play or during a camp or academy setting.

f. Penalty: Any Affiliate Member holding a team formation event where players are evaluated and then cut at the U10 and younger age groups will be subject to up to a \$1,000 fine and/or suspension, up to two years' probation and will not be allowed to advertise their team formation events for a minimum of one year with Nebraska State Soccer. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

2. Competitive Teams (U11 and older competitive non-select teams): May register on a yearly registration or seasonal registration basis. If registered on a yearly registration basis, fees should be collected at the start of each program (e.g. fall, winter, spring). If Affiliate Member collects fees for the year they will need to refund any fees for programs that have not started if the player leaves the team or transfers to another Affiliate Member.

3. Select Teams (U11 and older select teams):

Must be registered on a yearly registration basis. A select team is formed on the basis of selection, hereinafter defined as any process (e.g. tryouts, coach select, events to evaluate players), other than a random basis, where players are invited or selected to play on a team and other players are not.

3. Player Participation:

A. Unregistered players will not play in matches or practice with teams.

B. Participate in activities (e.g. training, practices, camps, clinics & etc.) of another Affiliate:

1. The player must have written permission from the primary coach or Affiliate Member designee, except during the Select Team Formation Period to participate in Select Team Formation Events.

C. Guest Player or Secondary Player for another Affiliate Member:

1. The player must have written permission from the primary coach or Affiliate Member designee.

2. Prior to contacting a player or the parent/legal guardian of the player the requesting coach must contact the primary coach or Affiliate Member designee for permission to talk to the player or parent/legal guardian.

D. Recreational Players: May register and roster to recreational teams with an Affiliate Member prior the Select Team Formation Period when the Affiliate Member Organization has an earlier registration, but no earlier than May 1 of each year. Any player rostered to a recreational team may still explore opportunities with other Affiliate Members for the following seasonal year during the Select Team Formation Period for the

respective age group under the provisions of these rules, and may opt to play for a select team without a transfer during that time period.

E. Affiliate Member Policy: Each Affiliate Member needs to communicate with their coaches if they choose not to allow the coach to give permission. If they choose not to allow the coach to give permission the Affiliate Member must have coach sign a form designating who will be the person to give permission. It is up to the Affiliate Member to police their coaching staff.

F. Penalty: Any Affiliate Member or any of their members that violate this section will be subject to up to a \$500 fine and/or suspension, and up to one year probation. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

#### 4. Select Team Formation Events:

A. Select Team Formation Events are any activity other than sanctioned games.

B. Affiliate Members with select teams desiring to participate in the Nebraska Soccer League or Nebraska, Regional, or National run leagues are required follow this policy and complete the "Select Team Age Group Formation Event Form" for each of their intended select Age Groups/Programs for the coming soccer year by May 1. If they do not complete the "Select Team Age Group Formation Event Form" application they will not be protected from players and coaches transferring.

#### 5. Select Team Formation Period

A. Players do not need permission from their current Affiliate Member to participate in a Select Team Formation Event with another Affiliate Member during this period.

B. Starts the first Wednesday after the Spring State Cup and will end for a player once they accept an offer. Affiliate Members may only schedule Select Team Formation Events or hold open training sessions during this period. Sanctioned games are not a Select Team Formation Event.

C. Affiliate Members may contact their current players and parent/legal guardians anytime during the Select Team Formation Period, but cannot contact any player or parent/legal guardian of any other Affiliate Member, by any means (e.g. verbally, electronically) after they leave the Team Formation Event site until the Offer and Acceptance date.

D. Penalty: Any Affiliate Member parent/legal guardian, player, coach (paid or unpaid), no staff member (paid or unpaid), administrator, board member, independent contractor and/or entities violating this section will be subject suspension and probation. If a parent/legal guardian violates this section, the player of the parent/legal guardian will also be subject to the same suspension. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

#### 6. Offers and Acceptance: Affiliate members can make a written offer to any player(s) or parent/legal guardian after 10:00 a.m. on the date set by the NSS Board of Directors. The date of offers will follow the conclusion of Midwest Regionals and will be set by the NSS Board of Directors during the year preceding the tryouts.

A. Penalty: Any Affiliate Member parent/legal guardian, player, coach (paid or unpaid), no staff member (paid or unpaid), administrator, board member, independent contractor and/or entities violating this section will be subject to up to one year suspension of the individual, up to \$1,000 fine to the club and/or individual. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

#### 7. Player Commitment

A. Select Team: Once a player registers to the Affiliate Member, they are committed for that upcoming soccer year or until they accept an offer during the next Select Team Formation Period. A player is considered registered to an Affiliate Member the moment the player (or for a player less than 18 years of age, the player's parent/legal guardian or guardian) personally or electronically signs the Affiliate Members registration form and submits a portion of, or the full amount of the fees required by the Affiliate Member. If the player qualifies for a scholarship, once they sign the registration and give written acceptance of the scholarship they are considered registered. Once the player registers to an Affiliate Member they can participate in their activities without permission from their current Affiliate Member.

B. Competitive/Recreational Teams: All players registered to a team, are considered committed to that team. A player is registered to the team until they have been transferred or released (dropped).

C. Penalty: Any Affiliate Member parent/legal guardian, player, coach (paid or unpaid), no staff member (paid or unpaid), administrator, board member, independent contractor and/or entities violating this section (e.g. player going to another Affiliate Member practice without permission) will be subject to minimum of a 3 month suspension and up to two years' probation. This can apply to both the player and parent/legal guardian, and the coach/club. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

#### 8. Transfers and Releases

A. Select Team Players: Are not allowed to transfer unless released by their current Affiliate Member or until they accept an offer during the Select Team Formation Period. The Dispute Resolution Committee can authorize a transfer if they feel the player has been treated unfairly if parent/guardian presents an appeal letter to the State Office. State staff will review any appeal letter and determine if the committee will hear the appeal.

B. Coaches: Once rostered to a select team a coach cannot coach a team in the same age group at another Affiliate Member without approval of the current Affiliate Member representative.

C. Penalty: An Affiliate Members or individual who intentionally submits false or inaccurate information relevant to a player or coach record or past or present club affiliation in order to register as a player or to affect a player or coach registration or transfer or to otherwise prevent a player or coach transfer shall be subject to the following:

1. Individual or Individuals responsible shall receive up to a 6 month suspension. If it is a parent/legal guardian, the player of the parent/legal guardian will be suspended for up to 3 months.
2. An Affiliate Member will not be allowed to transfer any players in from another club for up to a period of one year.
3. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.

9. Dissemination of Information

A. General Information: At any time in the year, individuals, teams, clubs, leagues or associations may distribute, mail, advertise or otherwise make available, any and all information, provided that such information is not designed to recruit any individual or team, is of a general character and is made available to the general population. General population refers to individuals in one or more zip code areas, schools, school districts, worship places or other natural geographical area.

B. Misrepresentation of Coaching Credentials or Information:

1. This would include any advertising of Affiliates Members, their administrators, board members, coaches (paid or unpaid and/or independent contractors).
2. If Nebraska State Soccer receives a complaint of any misrepresentation Nebraska State Soccer will use the following procedure to determine the facts of the complaint:
  - a. The State Staff will contact the coach against whom the complaint has been filed and will request the coach to submit documentation from the relevant organization that has provided the credentials within ten (10) days of the request.
  - b. Once it is proven that an Affiliate Member and/or individual has misrepresented a coaching credential and they have failed to correct the misrepresentation within the ten (10) days of being notified they are subject to the penalties below.

C. Penalty Any Affiliate Member parent/legal guardian, player, coach (paid or unpaid), no staff member (paid or unpaid), administrator, board member, independent contractor and/or entities violating this section will be subject to up to one year suspension of the individual, up to \$1,000 fine to the club and/or individual and the club and/or individual will not be allowed to advertise their team formation events for up to one year with Nebraska State Soccer. On any second or additional offense, all sanctions will double.