

CHAPTER THREE RULES AND REGULATIONS

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE WEST VIRGINIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION AND ITS AFFILIATED LOCAL PLAYING ASSOCIATIONS AND LEAGUES.

[2/1/2019 CHANGES ARE in BOLD Approved by the WWSA BOD 1/28/19]

3.10 - YOUTH CONTRACTS AND RELEASES

3.10.0 (Definitions) – A “Youth Contract” is defined as an Agreement by a youth player or youth player’s representative to play for a WWSA Club for a seasonal year by online or written agreement. A “Free Agent” is defined as a youth soccer player that is not currently registered to any WWSA or other USYS Club. A “Release” is defined as a registered youth player for the current seasonal year being released from their Youth Contract. A “Transfer” is defined as a youth player moving their registration from one WWSA or other USYS Club to another WWSA or USYS Club during a seasonal year. A “Soccer Club” is defined as an approved WWSA or other USYS Travel Soccer Club. “Club Districts” are the six (6) WWSA districts. The District Map can be found on the WWSA website. An “ELA” is defined as Electronic Legal Agreement that is on the WWSA Affinity registration form. A “Guest Player” is defined as a Youth Player that is registered to a WWSA or other USYS Club for the current seasonal year that receives permission to play for another WWSA or other USYS Club for a specific event.

3.10.1 - No coach, assistant coach, trainer or team representative may practice or play with any player that does not appear on their current WWSA roster if the player is not considered to be a Free Agent by current WWSA rules and regulations, unless permission is granted by the player’s club. (Note: the above does not include indoor soccer. (11/94)) Unregistered players may not participate in any manner. (11/93)

3.10.2 Any player desiring to be free of their Youth Contract before the end of the seasonal year (September 1 through August 31) must obtain a written release from the club with which he/she is currently registered. **Any player requesting and failing to receive said release from their Youth Contract within seventy-two hours may request release directly from West Virginia Soccer Association. A WWSA Club must notify WWSA of the reason for any denial of the release. Players must meet all past due financial obligations to the club due at the time of the release.**

3.10.2.1 Releases must be approved by at least two persons who do not have a conflict of interest concerning the release. (verified by WWSA)

3.10.2.2 Each Travel club is to provide WWSA with a list of at least three approved persons to authorize any release.

3.10.2.3 A release does not automatically allow a player to transfer from one WWSA Club to another, except under 3.10.3.5.

3.10.2.4 At the conclusion of the WWSA Spring Cups, NCS or Open, whichever is held last, WWSA Clubs may hold tryouts and may contact players wishing to explore joining other WWSA clubs for the next seasonal year, without being in violation of 3.10.4

3.10.3 Transfers: No transfers to a different WWSA soccer club will be approved during the seasonal year, subject to the following exceptions:

3.10.3.1 The player has moved outside the Club's District or has a financial hardship. (Verified by WWSA)

3.10.3.2 The player has a risk management issue that has been reported to the WWSA soccer club and or WWSA Risk Management Coordinator and Verified by WWSA.

3.10.3.3 The player moves to team to compete in NCS State Cup or Presidents Cup -- if their current club team is not competing in NCS or Presidents Cup. This must be approved by both respective coaches and both respective clubs.

3.10.3.4 The player requests a transfer to or from another state.

3.10.3.5 There shall be an open transfer period for all age groups from January 15 to February 15 during each seasonal year. During this open transfer period, a player, at his or her option, shall be released from their Youth Contract and automatically transfer from one WWSA Club to another WWSA club after obtaining a release. So long as a player requests a release and transfer during the open period, WWSA is permitted to complete that transfer process after the conclusion of the open period.

3.10.3.6 The provisions of all other sections of 3.10 shall still be in full effect.

3.10.3.7 Informing Players or their representatives of any 3.10 provisions shall not be a violation of any other part of 3.10

3.10.3.8 Receiving Club approval in all of 3.10.3 must be by at least two persons of the receiving club without a conflict of interest. (Verified by WWSA)

3.10.4 No coach, manager or club official shall make contact with a player who is registered with a different WWSA Club, or that player's representative, during the current seasonal year. When speaking to any player, or that player's representative, that is not already registered with its club, the WWSA Club must inquire if the player is presently registered with another WWSA club. If the player is registered with another WWSA club, then the player or their representative may be given general information such as fees, club training schedule and planned events. There can be no other communication with the player or the

player's representative until permission is given, in writing, by the player's present club or a release has been obtained on a WWSA PTS, "Player Status Form" through the WWSA online registration system. Communications between players and communications between players' representatives are not covered by the scope of this rule.

3.10.5 No coach, assistant coach, trainer, team representative, registered player or club representative may approach any player to leave his present team or club without the express written consent of the present club. Persons denied such permission may appeal to WWSA.

3.10.6 Communications by a WWSA Club to a player or their representative requesting the player to be a Guest Player is permitted, so long as the WWSA Club has confirmed with the players club that there is no conflict and does not request the player to leave their present team or club. No WWSA Club may deny a Guest Player request unless the player is scheduled to participate in soccer activities with the player's current club. Any denial of a Guest Player request shall be grounds for a complaint, to be made in writing to the WWSA office.

3.10.7 Complaints of violations

3.10.7.1 All complaints shall be made in writing to the WWSA office. The complaint shall be investigated and forwarded to the Division VP who shall investigate and may hold a hearing prior to any disciplinary action being taken. Any decision may be appealed to the WWSA A&D Committee. **If the Division VP finds that a complaint or appeal are frivolous, a player transfer may be granted while the matter is being investigated.**

3.10.8 Verified complaints of violations of rule 3.10.4 or 3.10.5 may be reasons for WWSA to deny a transfer.

3.10.9 All WWSA Soccer Clubs shall provide a hyperlink to 3.10 paper of Youth Contracts to all WWSA players and the players' legal guardians prior to any registration for the seasonal year for which the Youth Contract pertains. The Affinity registration system shall include an ELA requiring acknowledgement and agreement to 3.10 and the Youth Contract at time of registration. Any club not using the Affinity system must obtain a written acknowledgement of the player and parent agreement to the Youth Contract by including this information on their registration form or include an ELA on their online system.

3.10.10 The changes to 3.10 approved by the WWSA BOD on 1/28/19 will go into effect on 2/1/19