

16 - GENERAL POLICIES

STYSA Policy on Under-10 Teams

Players eligible to participate on newly-formed Under-11 teams participating in a fall season league may begin practicing and participating in tryouts, tournaments, scrimmages and friendly games on May 1 or the day after the end of each Associations' spring season, which ever is later. An existing Under-10 team may participate in an invitational tournament in an Under-11 age group in 8-a-side play during spring season play only. Under-10 teams are not eligible to participate in 11-a-side tournaments in any age groups.

Adopted by the STYSA Executive Committee: January 14, 2011

Alcohol and Tobacco Product Policy

It is the policy of South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) that no alcohol be sold at, brought to or consumed at STYSA-sanctioned league games or tournaments. No tobacco or alternative tobacco products (electronic cigarettes / vaping devices) may be sold at STYSA sanctioned league games or tournaments. The use of tobacco or alternative tobacco products is prohibited at or near the playing fields and is limited to designated smoking areas or to the parking lot(s) of the event facility. It is the responsibility of the organizers of STYSA events to ensure that this policy is strictly adhered to.

Adopted by the STYSA Executive Committee: May 12, 2016

Advertising / Sponsorship

South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) prohibits solicitation and/or sponsorship by distributors or manufacturers of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products. This includes imprinting the brand names of tobacco products or alcoholic beverages on any player's equipment and/or uniforms.

Adopted by the STYSA Executive Committee: March 11, 2001

Player / Team Gear Logo Policy

At every level of South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) competitions, each player or team official at a game may only have on his/her/their apparel the name, logo, or other identifying mark of a member directly or indirectly of STYSA or US Youth Soccer

A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any youth soccer organization other than STYSA or US Youth Soccer or its member must be removed, replaced, or covered before a player, team, or team official may participate in a STYSA sanctioned Fall league or Spring Cup competition.

Adopted by the STYSA Executive Committee: January 30, 2014

STYSA Policy on Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Section 1. Commitment

As an organization committed to providing a developmental, healthy, and safe environment, STYSA recognizes that the safety of its youth players is paramount. Therefore, the use of unmanned aircrafts is not permitted at any STYSA events. It is the responsibility of the Competition Authority of STYSA events to ensure that this policy is strictly enforced.

Section 2. Definition

“Unmanned Aircraft Systems” (UAS) an aircraft which is intended to operate and its associated element which are operated with no pilot on board or can fly autonomously based on pre-programmed flight plans or more complex dynamic automation systems.

Section 3. Prohibitions

- (a) The use of non-approved UAS at any event that is sanctioned by STYSA is strictly prohibited.
- (b) The use of UAS at STYSA events may be approved by STYSA
 - (1) for a specified promotional activity at an event, and
 - (2) in a designated area or areas that are away from youth soccer players, spectators and over any field of play or practice.

Section 4. Enforcement

- (a) Any person violating Section 3(a) of this policy shall be immediately removed from the event by the STYSA competition official managing the event.
- (b) If a person is removed from an Event for a violation of this policy, the party may appeal as provided by Section 4, Discipline, Protest, and Grievance Procedures, of the STYSA Administrative Handbook.
- (c) No soccer match will be allowed to start or continue if there is a UAS flown above or in the immediate area of the field. The referee will have full discretion to determine the area surrounding the field.

Adopted by the STYSA Executive Committee: October 23, 2016

STYSA Open Carry Policy

- (a) The open display of any firearm or weapon at any STYSA sanctioned competition, practice, meeting or other event, other than by a licensed law enforcement officer, shall be considered a dangerous condition such as would preclude the safety of participants, officials and spectators.
- (b) No STYSA member association shall permit the start or continuation of any STYSA sanctioned game, practice, meeting or event if a dangerous condition exists under paragraph (a) of this Rule.
- (c) Any designated official of a member association, or in the absence of such, the referee, shall be the sole judge of whether an open display is at the competition, practice, meeting or other event.
- (d) Nothing in this rule shall be construed as limiting the referee's authority to abandon or delay a match.

Adopted by the STYSA Executive Committee: October 23, 2016

STYSA Inclement Weather Policy

This Inclement Weather Policy applies for all STYSA sanctioned activities. This policy is intended to be a minimum requirement; more stringent policies at local organizations or facilities may apply. Monitoring weather conditions is the responsibility of game officials, coaches, tournament directors and club administrators. Everyone should be aware of the potential dangers posed by different weather conditions and work together to keep the players and other participants as safe as possible. It is strongly recommended that clubs purchase weather radios and lightning detectors and have them available for on-site monitoring. Coaches may wish to consider obtaining their own weather radios and lightning detectors.

Severe Storms

Severe storms can produce high winds, heavy rain, hail, lightning, thunder and tornados. If a severe storm approaches the playing area, the safety of the players must be the number one priority for coaches and referees, and may require that the game be suspended while shelter is sought. In the event the game is suspended; all participants must clear the field immediately and seek appropriate shelter.

Lightning and Thunder

Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from a thunderstorm. The danger from lightning can persist for 30 minutes or more after a thunderstorm has passed. The National Weather Service does not issue watches or warnings for lightning by itself; however, the National Weather Service does advise that if you see a lightning bolt and hear the thunder in 30 seconds or less, you seek shelter immediately and wait 30 minutes before resuming outdoor activity. Should a lightning detector be available, it should be monitored regularly throughout the duration of the event. Activity should be suspended so that the fields can be cleared by the time lightning reaches 10 miles away from the event location.

When lightning is observed as detailed above, all soccer activity must be stopped immediately. The fields must be cleared and all participants must seek shelter in a safe place such as a car or building. Keep car windows rolled up and avoid contact with metal and other conducting materials. Avoid open structures, tents, canopies, trees, and other unprotected areas. Soccer activity shall not resume for a minimum of 30 minutes following the last lightning or thunder observed.

Adopted by the STYSA Executive Committee: February 17, 2017