

RULES AND PROCEDURES

PLAYER / COACH REGISTRATION

Updated 2.24.16 with changes approved at the February 21, 2016 GBM

3.1 DEFINITIONS

- 3.1.1 **ADD** means the addition of a registered player who has not been rostered to any team during the current registration period.
- 3.1.2 **COACH** is defined as a head coach, assistant coach, trainer or any other individual who coaches or trains a youth soccer team.
- 3.1.3 **ELIGIBLE ADULT**, not otherwise covered means an individual who has submitted to STYSA the requisite information and whose STYSA background check has been completed and approved. Only eligible adults are allowed to participate in STYSA-sanctioned event.
- 3.1.4 **EL PASO** shall mean a STYSA Member Association in good standing from the geographical area of El Paso, Texas.
- 3.1.5 **ELIGIBLE PLAYER** means a player who is properly registered and rostered to a team and is not suspended.
- 3.1.6 **GUEST PLAYER** means a registered player participating in a competition for a team that is not the team to which the player is rostered. A Guest Player is permitted only for invitational tournament teams or for a team that is not participating in a competition leading to Fall Championship or leading to cup play. **(Changed 2.21.16)**
- 3.1.7 **CLUB PASS PLAYER** is a registered player competing with a team in the same Club other than the team to which they are rostered. **(Changed 7.19.15)**
- 3.1.8 **LEAGUE TEAM** means a team which participates in regularly scheduled league play. This regularly scheduled league play does not necessarily have to be a part of a STYSA sponsored season (i.e. spring leagues).
- 3.1.9 **PREVIOUSLY ROSTERED PLAYER** means a player who moves from the team to which the player was initially rostered in one Club during the current seasonal year to a team in a different Club as defined in 3.8.4.
- 3.1.10 **TRANSFER**
- a. Club to Club Player Transfer means the movement of a player from a team to which the player was initially rostered during the current seasonal year to a team in a different club as defined in 3.8.4. Club to Club player transfers meet the definition of a previously rostered player and will count toward the receiving team's maximum transfer limit.

- b. Internal Club Player Transfer means the movement of a player from one team to another team within the same Club. This type of player movement does not meet the definition of a previously rostered player and does not count toward the receiving team's maximum transfer limit.
- 3.1.11 **CLUB** means an organization that registers its players with STYSA that has an identifiable membership of youth soccer players on whose behalf the organization conducts or engages in youth soccer activities, and is the basic administrative unit of STYSA. A club recognized by STYSA must meet the following requirements:
 - a. is a non-profit organization or corporation (either on its own, through a STYSA member, or through STYSA),
 - b. has a written constitution and by-laws approved by STYSA or a STYSA member,
 - c. have a duly elected board of directors, and
 - d. is in good standing with STYSA.
 - 3.1.12 **LOCAL ASSOCIATION** means an organization that is a recognized entity beneath a STYSA Member Association that sponsors and / or administers a group of clubs and / or teams.
 - 3.1.13 **MEMBER ASSOCIATION** means an organization which sponsors and / or administers Local Associations and / or Clubs and is a full or associate member of STYSA.
 - 3.1.14 **POSTMARK** means the date of the postmark placed by the U.S. Postal Service or other delivery company and not the date listed in a private, postal machine postmark.
 - 3.1.15 **PRIMARY TEAM** means any team playing in competition for STYSA Fall Championships, US Youth Soccer National Championships (USYSNC), President's Cup, Director's Cup or South Texas Cup. A registered player does not have to be rostered to a Primary Team (e.g., U-6).
 - 3.1.16 **ACADEMY PROGRAM** is a STYSA certified program which uses a defined and approved curriculum and qualified staff to teach individual skills to players registered as U10 or under. **(Changed 7.19.15)**
 - 3.1.17 **ACADEMY LEAGUE** means a league comprised of academy players in a certified academy program. **(Changed 7.19.15)**
 - 3.1.18 **RECREATIONAL LEAGUE** means a league comprised of recreational teams. **(Changed 7.19.15)**
 - 3.1.19 **RECREATIONAL PLUS TEAM** is a Division IV Under-10 or Under-9 team that participates in a Recreational Plus League.
 - 3.1.20 **RECREATIONAL TEAM** is a Division III or Division IV team that participates in a Recreational League. **(Changed 7.19.15)**

- 3.1.21 **REGISTERED COACH** means an Eligible Adult who is in compliance with the requirements of Rule 3.2.10.
- 3.1.22 **REGISTRATION** of players and adults means completing and signing the appropriate STYSA-approved registration form and the paying of any applicable fees to become a member of STYSA. Registration of adults shall include, but not be limited to, coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, and administrators.
- 3.1.23 **REGISTRATION PERIOD** means the period of time local associations / clubs can register and roster players as members of STYSA beginning August 1 and ending July 31 of the following calendar year.
- 3.1.24 **RELEASE** means the withdrawal of a player from a roster during the current registration period.
- 3.1.25 **ROSTERING** means assignment of a player to a team.
- 3.1.26 **SEASONAL YEAR** means the year beginning September 1 and ending August 31 of the following calendar year.
- 3.1.27 **SKILLS TRAINING** is a club organized program that teaches individual skills to youth players in a group format that is not team oriented.
- 3.1.28 **TEAM** means a recognized entity of properly registered and rostered players with at least one Registered Coach, sponsored by STYSA or a Member Association or a Club, and organized for the purpose of playing the sport of soccer. **(Changed 2.21.16)**
- 3.1.29 **TEAM MANAGER** means an Eligible Adult who coordinates the affairs of the team but is not involved in the coaching or training of the team. For the purposes of Section 3.2.10, a Team Manager is excluded from the definition of Coach and Assistant Coach in 3.1.2.
- 3.1.30 **TOURNAMENT TEAM** means a team which is put together for the sole purpose of playing in a tournament or other sanctioned non-league competition.
- 3.1.31 **RECREATIONAL PLUS LEAGUE** means an interclub or intra-club league comprised of Division IV Under-10 and/or Under-9 teams in which:
- a. Division IV teams formed in compliance with the requirements of Rule 3.3 who choose to compete in a Recreational Plus League, or
 - b. Division IV teams comprised of U8, U9 and U10 age eligible players formed in compliance with Rule 3.3.
- 3.1.32 **CALENDAR BIRTH YEAR** is used to determine a player's age for registration purposes. **(Added 2.21.16)**

3.2 PLAYER / COACH REGISTRATION

3.2.1 STATE OF REGISTRATION

A player must register in the state in which he or she resides with his or her parent(s) or court-appointed guardian(s). In the case of a student in residence at a boarding school, college or university, the player may register in the state in which the boarding school, college or division of the college or university is located. Any other question of residency may be determined by the state in which the player is registered to vote or holds a current driver's license, if age appropriate.

3.2.2 PLACE OF REGISTRATION

Within his / her State of Registration, a player may register with any Member Association, local association, or club. Local association or club registration may only be submitted to STYSA by a Member Association.

3.2.3 OUT-OF-STATE PLAYERS

3.2.3.1 Invitational Tournaments

- (1) Upon receipt of an Interstate Permission Request form verifying that the player is properly registered and is in good standing, signed by a representative of the state in which the player is registered, the STYSA Registrar or his/her designee shall grant permission for an out-of-state player to play in South Texas as a guest player at an invitational tournament.
- (2) Upon receipt and approval of an Interstate Permission Request from a registered and eligible STYSA player, the STYSA Registrar or his/her designee shall grant permission for that eligible STYSA player to play as a guest player with an out-of-state team at an invitational tournament.

3.2.3.2 Regular Season Play

- (1) Players residing outside the boundaries of South Texas, but within the United States, who wish to play on a South Texas team must submit an Interstate Permission Request for approval to the State Office and receive approval of the State Registrar or his/her designee prior to being permitted to register. Requests for such permission must be submitted in writing to the State Office each Seasonal Year. Such requests must include the approval of the player's home state association.
- (2) South Texas players wishing to play on an out-of-state team must submit an Interstate Permission Request to the STYSA State Office, receive approval of the State Registrar or his/her designee and be accepted by the other state association prior to being permitted to register. Requests for such releases must be submitted in writing to the STYSA State Office each Seasonal Year.

3.2.3.3 International Clearances

- (1) FIFA requires all players who are ten (10) years of age or older, regardless of their ability or citizenship, to receive an International Transfer Clearance (ITC) from their former country when they are attempting to register to play soccer in a different country (i.e., the United States). US Soccer is responsible for obtaining the ITC on behalf of all non-US born players in the U.S. participating in a US Soccer affiliated league. Applicable US Soccer guidelines and requirements are published by US Soccer and posted on the STYSA Website.
- (2) Players who are under ten (10) years of age, residing outside the boundaries of the United States, and seeking to be registered players with STYSA, must submit a written request to register with STYSA and proof of age complying with Rule 3.2.8, and receive permission to register granted by the STYSA Registrar in order to be eligible to register with STYSA.

3.2.4 METHOD OF REGISTRATION

All players and coaches must be registered with STYSA through their STYSA Member Association. Registration information may be submitted to the State Office in either an electronic format or a hard copy format. The electronic submission must follow the guidelines for information (content and format) as determined by the STYSA Registrar. Associations submitting hard copy registration to the State Office must comply with the following requirements:

3.2.4.1 Approval must be obtained from the STYSA Registrar and justification for submitting hard copy registration must be provided.

3.2.4.2 If approved, the Association must submit the hard copy to the State Office by the registration deadlines as set forth in the STYSA Handbook.

3.2.4.3 A fee of .10 per player will be assessed to the Member Association. The fee must be paid within thirty (30) days of the final Fall / Spring registration deadline.

3.2.5 PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION

Payment of registration fees by the Member Association consists of the current STYSA registration fee times the number of players being registered. All registration fees must be received by the State Office by the deadlines published on the STYSA Perpetual Calendar as posted on the website.

3.2.6 TYPES OF REGISTRATION

There are several registration periods and / or types that each Member Association shall comply with as follows:

3.2.6.1 **INITIAL FALL REGISTRATION** is due at the STYSA State Office, in accordance with the STYSA Perpetual Calendar, and must include:

- (1) Correctly prepared and transmitted registration information for all registered players and non-players;
- (2) All applicable registration fees for all players and non-players registered for the current seasonal year as of the date of submission;
- (3) A copy of the Member / Local Association Registrar's (or his / her designee) signature or stamp as used on team rosters and / or player identification cards; and
- (4) The number of teams in each age group and competition level eligible to participate in Fall Championships. These teams and only these teams will be used in allocation considerations and for the District Tournaments.

Any Member Association failing to comply with Provisions (1) and (2) will be fined. (See Fines in STYSA Administrative Handbook.) There will be no fine for violating Provision (3). Member Associations not providing the information required by Provision (4) by October 10 will not be eligible for participation in Fall Championship District competition. **(Changed 2.21.16)**

3.2.6.2 **FINAL FALL REGISTRATION** is due in the STYSA State Office, in accordance with the STYSA Perpetual Calendar, and must include:

- (1) Correctly prepared and transmitted registration information for all registered players and non-players;
- (2) Any applicable registration fees for all players and non-players registered since the submission of initial registration.

Rosters for all teams participating in competition leading to STYSA Fall Championships are frozen as of this date.

Any Member Association failing to comply will be fined. (See Fines in STYSA Administrative Handbook.) **(Changed 2.21.16)**

3.2.6.3 **Spring Cup Registration**

Teams that are eligible for and intend to participate in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series, President's Cup, or Director's Cup competitions must submit all required materials and fees for registration in accordance with the STYSA Perpetual Calendar and the procedures published on or available by hyperlink from the STYSA website.

Each team entering any of these competitions is required to comply with all applicable entry requirements and deadlines of the applicable competition being entered in order to be eligible to participate.

3.2.6.4 **SPRING, LOCAL SEASON REGISTRATION** is due at the STYSA State Office in accordance with the STYSA perpetual Calendar, and must include:

- (1) Correctly prepared and transmitted registration information on all new players and coaches, assistant coaches, managers, trainers, and officers in the format outlined in the Registration Manual. “New” means any individual not previously submitted to the STYSA State Office during the same seasonal year;
- (2) Registration fees for all new players. **(Changed 2.21.16)**

3.2.6.5 **MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION** of individual players not playing in any recognized season mentioned above must be received by the STYSA State Office by the end of the current registration period and must include:

- (1) Correctly prepared and transmitted registration information on all new players;
- (2) Registration fees for all new players. **(Changed 2.21.16)**

3.2.7 **DATE OF REGISTRATION (Changed 7.19.15)**

The player / coach will be considered registered at the point in time when:

3.2.7.1 **ELIGIBLE PLAYER**

- a. the Club / Association Registrar has in their possession a registration form of the type normally used by that STYSA Member or information submitted electronically through an on-line registration process;
- b. the birth date of the player has been verified;
- c. the players’ (if a minor) parent or guardian has given permission either by signing the registration form or indicating permission electronically through an on-line registration process; and
- d. the required fees have been received.

3.2.7.2 **ELIGIBLE ADULT**

- a. the Club / Association Registrar has in their possession a registration form of the type normally used by that STYSA Member or information submitted electronically through an on-line registration process;
- b. the required fees have been received; and
- c. a STYSA background check has been completed and approved.

3.2.8 **PROOF OF AGE**

Proof of age shall consist of a certified or verified birth certificate, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (or the equivalent Department of Defense form) issued by the uniformed services of the United States, a birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency or board of health

records, a passport, an alien registration card issued by the United States Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a current driver's license, an unexpired federal, state or local government identification card (if documentation of birth is required), or a certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

3.2.9 **PROOF OF REGISTRATION**

Participation in games outside of the Member Association shall require any player and / or coach (registrant) to have and show a USYSA Player Pass which:

- a. is properly laminated;
- b. is signed (or hand stamped with a signature stamp) by the Local or Member Association Registrar or his / her designee;
- c. includes a recent photograph of the registrant;
- d. includes the registrant's STYSA ID number; and
- e. includes the STYSA Team Code.

If an association chooses to print player pass cards for Local League Teams, Recreational Plus League Teams, Tournament Teams or Guest Players, then the cards must include the appropriate level of play as designated in the Registration Manual.

A non-recreational level player with an improperly prepared player identification card shall not be allowed to participate in a game.

Adult Participation Pass identification cards must be issued for and visibly displayed at all STYSA sanctioned events by all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, trainers, and other individuals who have interaction with the players.

3.2.10 **REGISTERED COACH**

Only Registered Coaches are permitted to participate in STYSA sanctioned events or games as coaches or assistant coaches (as defined in Rule 3.1.2).

To be a Registered Coach, a coach or assistant coach (as defined in Rule 3.1.2) must:

- a. Register with STYSA through the STYSA Member Association having jurisdiction of the team or club for which the individual will be a coach or assistant coach;
- b. Be an Eligible Adult as defined in Rule 3.1.3;
- c. Hold a currently effective Coaching License or Certificate (as defined below) or obtain, within one year of initial registration as a coach, a Coaching License or Certificate; and
- d. Not be suspended and not be restricted from participation by a decision of a disciplinary committee or other executive body with jurisdiction of the individual.

A “Coaching License or Certificate” means a soccer coaching license or a certificate of completion issued by a course or training program that is currently approved by the STYSA Director of Coaching. The STYSA Director of Coaching shall maintain a list of all licenses, courses, programs and vendors that are approved for purposes of this rule.

Upon failure to comply with any of the above requirements, and for the period of such noncompliance, the individual will not be a Registered Coach, will not be permitted to participate in STYSA sanctioned events or games, and shall be prohibited from future registration until proof of compliance is provided.

3.3 TEAM FORMATION AND ROSTERING (Changed 7.19.15)

This rule shall apply to teams participating in STYSA sanctioned play (including tournaments). For information concerning team formation and rostering for specific competitions consult respective competition rules. (i.e., USYSNC, Presidents Cup, Director’s Cup, South Texas Cup etc.). For additional information regarding team formation and number of players allowed on a roster, see current Rules 6.1 through 6.3.

3.3.1 Team Formation – Age (Changed 2.21.16) Effective 8/1/2016

Teams are normally formed so that players are placed on the youngest team for which they qualify. Exceptions may be made by the Member Associations. Age groups are determined by the player’s Calendar Birth Year as shown in the Table 3.3.1.

Age groups		
Under 19 years of age	Under 13 years of age	Under 7 years of age
Under 18 years of age	Under 12 years of age	Under 6 years of age
Under 17 years of age	Under 11 years of age	Under 5 years of age
Under 16 years of age	Under 10 years of age	Under 4 years of age
Under 15 years of age	Under 9 years of age	
Under 14 years of age	Under 8 years of age	

Table 3.3.1

Note: In these rules, the format “U” followed by an age means that age and younger.

3.4 DATE OF ROSTERING

The date of a player’s rostering shall be no earlier than August 1 of the current registration period and shall be determined by the earlier of:

- 3.4.1 Assignment of a properly registered player to a team; or
- 3.4.2 The player’s first participation, other than as a Guest Player, in any competition (excluding tryouts and scrimmages leading to team formation) sanctioned by STYSA or its Member Associations. **(Changed 2.21.16)**

3.5 PLAYER BOUND TO MEMBER AFFILIATE TEAM (Changed 7.19.15)

Any player rostered to a Primary team or Academy Program is bound to the team to which he / she is first rostered from August 1 until July 31 unless the player requests and obtains a release.

3.6 RELEASES (Changed 7.19.15)

A release may be requested by a player at any time. Releases must be obtained for players not returning to a team before players may be added to the roster if the adds or transfers will cause the roster to exceed its maximum allowable number.

A player may be released from a Team/Academy Program involuntarily only if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons:

- a. the player has violated the rules of USSF, USYSA, or STYSA;
- b. the player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance. Determination of what constitutes reasonable travel distance is subject to definition by STYSA; or
- c. the player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season.

To complete a release based upon a player's abandonment of a team, a completed STYSA Transfer/Release form accompanied by detailed documentation of attempts to reach the player must be submitted to the State Office for consideration. Each request will be reviewed by the STYSA Registrar and a decision to release the player by the STYSA Registrar shall be based upon a determination that the player has voluntarily abandoned the team. The player cannot be removed from the roster until an official decision is issued. **(Changed 2.21.16)**

Should the released player decide to return to his original team (or any other primary team) during the same Seasonal Year, he / she will be considered a transfer.

3.7 MULTIPLE ROSTERING (Changed 7.19.15)

Players, with the concurrence of their STYSA Member Association Registrar, may be rostered on more than one youth team per USYS Seasonal Year provided the following conditions are met:

- a. Players can be rostered to only one Primary Team or Academy Program at any time during the Seasonal Year.
- b. The first team to which a player is rostered is the team to which he / she is bound for STYSA Fall Championships, USYSNC, Presidents Cup, Director's Cup or South Texas Cup play. To play on any other team in these competitions, the player must request a release from the primary team and complete a STYSA Transfer / Release form or utilize a Club Player Pass.
- c. STYSA places no limit on the number of tournament teams, nor on the number of league teams not participating in competitions leading to Fall Championship or leading to cup play, to which a player is rostered. **(Changed 2.21.16)**
- d. No player may play with more than one (1) team in the same competition without utilizing a Club Player Pass. (i.e., STYSA Fall Championships is one competition, an Invitational Tournament is one competition, USYSNC is one competition.) Division I Fall play shall be considered as the same competition as STYSA Fall Championships for purposes of this limitation.
- e. During the Seasonal Year a player is required to have only one player pass, even if he / she is a guest player or plays on other league teams. This player pass must be for the primary team to which this player is bound for the purpose of STYSA

Fall Championships, USYSNC, Presidents Cup, Director's Cup, or South Texas Cup play.

3.8 CLUB PLAYER PASS SYSTEM (Changed 7.19.15)

3.8.1 **Purpose.** The Club Player Pass System of play for Recreational Plus, Division II, Super 2, and Division I levels of play is designed to maximize the development of the player by allowing players to guest play on a team from the same Club at the same age level, or an older age level team from the same Club, on a temporary basis.

3.8.2 **Adoption.** The Club Player Pass System will apply only if allowed by the organization or organizations governing a particular competition, such as a local league.

3.8.3 Minimum requirements

Although the governing organization may impose more restrictive requirements, a Club Player Pass System must, at a minimum, meet the following requirements:

- a. Guest player must play in the same or older age level as the primary team to which he or she is rostered.
- b. Guest player must play in the same or a higher level competition as defined in the STYSA Levels of Play, as his or her primary team. Guest player may play down one level of competition but in the same age group or in their true age group in the case of play up, if the player is rehabilitating from a serious injury or illness. A serious injury or illness is defined as an injury or illness that required verifiable medical treatment and required the player to have not participated in games for a period of sixty (60) days or longer.
- c. Guest player may play for only one team in a day.
- d. Individual Penalty Points will accumulate jointly for all games played (separate accumulations by team or competition will not be allowed). Penalty Point suspensions for the player must be served with the player's Primary team and the player is ineligible for guest playing until the suspension has been served. The player, coach (of both the Primary and guest team), and the coaching director of each club are responsible for monitoring and complying with STYSA's Progressive Disciplinary System.
- e. All persons failing to properly monitor and comply with the Club Pass System rules are subject to penalty based on the STYSA Progressive Discipline System.
- f. A team may have a pool of players available as guest players not to exceed the season of play (fall or spring) limit and per game limit as set forth below. A guest player appearing in a team's player pool may not be removed during the season of play (fall or spring). A player in the team's pool may guest play for the team multiple times during the season of play (fall or spring). A player may be in multiple team pools during a season of play (fall or spring).
 - (1) U13 – U19 teams – four (4) guest players per game with a maximum limit of eight (8) players in the guest player pool per season of play (fall or spring).

(2) U11 – U12 teams – three (3) guest players per game with a maximum limit of eight (8) players in the guest player pool per season of play (fall or spring).

g. Under no circumstances may a guest player be used that is not properly registered with STYSA.

3.8.4 **Club.** For the purposes of this rule a Club having a similar name with other clubs (i.e. Dallas Texans, Lonestar, Rush, Challenge, etc) will be considered to be the same club if the club shares a common Board of Directors and is within the same metropolitan area. If the clubs are outside of the metropolitan area, then a fifty (50) mile radius will be used, combined with a common Board of Directors.

3.9 TEAM FORMATION REQUIREMENTS (Changed 7.19.15)

3.9.1 **Team Formation Requirements for Division III and Division IV-** Teams may be rostered to participate in an intra / inter-association league in which:

3.9.1.1 All eligible youths must have the same opportunity to participate in the team or league as applicable. The use of any tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any similar process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited.

3.9.1.2 The Local Association/Club registering, sponsoring or administering the team and Member Association administering the team or league, as applicable, accept as participants in the team or league eligible youths. The league/club registration process and team player limits may not be used for prohibited selection purposes.

3.9.1.3 A system of rostering players shall be used to establish a balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating; said balance to be achieved by distributing the individual players evenly across the teams or league administered by the applicable authority, creating parity within the league of play.

The following are examples of team formation:

(a) A neighborhood system wherein all players from a neighborhood within the association's boundaries are rostered to a team, but only where such system will result in a fair and balanced distribution of players within the club, association or league. This method shall not be utilized whenever it will permit a select team or a team which is much better than other teams in the same age bracket to form on this basis.

(b) A core system in which players rostered to a team in a previous season are returned to the same team may be utilized, provided that no activity prohibited above has been violated and that the competition between teams within the club or association in the age group in question is reasonably fair and even. Reasonably fair and even envisions that some teams may be better than others; however, if one or more teams consistently win or are capable of winning a large

majority of its games in a lop-sided manner in the same age group within a club, association or league shall not be permitted to return intact in the next season as a core team in recreational division play.

3.9.1.4 Players must play one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness or discipline.

3.9.1.5 Division IV players or teams may participate in individual skills training from a paid professional through a club sponsored Skills Training Program. U10 and/or U9 teams formed to play Division IV may participate in club sponsored Academy programs. All other teams formed to play Division IV are prohibited from receiving team training from a paid professional, except as provided above. **(Changed 2.21.16)**

3.9.1.6 Any violation of rules listed above shall subject the coach of the team, as well as any club, association or league officials involved in said rostering, to possible disciplinary action and shall cause all games played by the team in violation outside the club or association which rostered the team to be forfeited.

3.9.1.7 If any Division III team wins a Fall/Spring District Championship or USYSNC District Championship, it will be deemed to be a Division III Champion under Section 5.2.6, STYSA Playoff Rules and Procedures.

3.9.3 **Team Formation Requirements - Division II** - Teams may be rostered to participate in an intra / inter-association league in which:

3.9.3.1 The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability is permitted; and

3.9.3.2 Players are primarily selected from the players of a single club (clubs that field three or fewer recreational teams in an age group may combine their player pools with those of another club for the selection of players).

3.9.4 **Team Formation Requirements - Super II** - Teams may be rostered to participate in an intra / inter-association league in which:

3.9.4.1 The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability is permitted; and

3.9.4.2 Players may be selected from the pool of players from any club / association in South Texas, provided they comply with applicable transfer rules.

3.9.5 **Team Formation Requirements - Division I** - Teams may be rostered to participate in an intra / inter-association league in which:

3.9.5.1 The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability is permitted; and

3.9.5.2 Players may be selected from the pool of players from any club / association in South Texas, provided they comply with applicable transfer rules.

3.9.6 Team Formation Requirements – Academy - (Changed 7.19.15) All players within an approved STYSA Youth Academy Program will be registered directly to the Academy pool with their club/association and will not be assigned to a specific team. As per USYS Guidelines players are eligible for the STYSA Youth Academy Program.

3.9.6.1 Registration for the Academies is open to any age eligible (U7 through U10) player from within the club.

3.9.6.2 Players may be selected from the pool of players from any club/association in South Texas, provided they comply with applicable transfer rules.

3.9.6.3 Players may be assigned to teams on a game to game basis.

3.9.6.4 Players in match attendance should play a minimum of one half of each match and preferably more.

3.9.6.5 For additional recommendations and rules associated with Academy programs, see STYSA Academy Rules and Policies. Also see 3.11 for Academy Program Formation and Registration Policies.

3.10 Tournament Teams (Changed 2.21.16) Effective 8/1/2016

For Under-10 and younger teams, a tournament team may not be formed or created until May 1 of the seasonal year.

3.11 ACADEMY PROGRAM FORMATION AND GUIDELINES (Changed 7.19.15)

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS/CLUB WILL BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE UNDER PREVIOUS RULES ON ACADEMY PROGRAMS FOR 2015-16 SEASONAL YEAR ONLY. ALL MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS/CLUBS MUST FOLLOW RULE 3.11 AS WRITTEN BELOW BY 2016-17. SEE APPENDIX 1 AT THE END OF SECTION 3 FOR PREVIOUS ACADEMY PROGRAM RULES.

An Academy is a club organized program that uses defined curriculum and qualified staff to teach individual skills to youth players between Under-7 and Under-10.

3.11.1 Application to operate an Academy Program

3.11.1.1 Clubs wishing to establish an Academy Program must obtain approval from STYSA.

3.11.1.2 Each club must submit a clear mission statement and program curriculum along with the names and qualifications of all Academy staff to the STYSA Academy Committee for approval on an annual basis. After review and approval, such documentation will be kept on file at the STYSA State Office.

- 3.11.2 **Eligibility to Operate and Player Registration.** Associations may have a STYSA Youth Academy Program and a Recreational Program, but a player registered in STYSA Youth Academy may not participate/register in a Recreation League. They must choose to participate in one or the other. The number of players eligible to participate in an Academy shall be based upon the number of teams being formed. A player may not be excluded from participating in an Academy program for any other reason.

3.12 TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

- 3.12.1 Under-13 through Under-19 teams participating in STYSA Fall Championships or Director's Cup may transfer no more than five (5) previously rostered players onto the team during the course of the seasonal year. Under-11 and Under-12 teams may transfer no more than three (3) previously rostered players onto the team during the course of the seasonal year.
- 3.12.2 For USYSNC and USYS Presidents Cup, STYSA adopts the USYS Region III rules, as amended, pertaining to rostering for National Cup and Presidents Cup play and published on the STYSA website and in the Cup Manual. **(Changed 2.21.16)**
- 3.12.3 Previously rostered players must complete a STYSA Transfer / Release Form before being removed from a team. Previously rostered players will be designated on the team's roster as a Transfer. A proper player transfer shall occur upon the completion of all of the following:
- a. The player/parent signs the STYSA Transfer / Release form.
 - b. The receiving coach signs the STYSA Transfer / Release form.
 - c. The receiving Member Association Registrar signs the STYSA Transfer / Release form. **(Changed 2.21.16)**
- 3.12.4 To be eligible to participate in Fall Championship play, all rostered players must play with the team in two (2) regularly-scheduled, regular season games. Previously rostered players must be transferred to the team by the final registration date, in accordance with the Perpetual Calendar, and must play with the team in two (2) regularly-scheduled, regular season games. It is specifically intended that this rule prohibit the addition of players for the purpose of strengthening a team for Fall Championship play.
- 3.12.5 To be eligible to participate in USYSNC, President's Cup, or Director's Cup, previously rostered players must be transferred to the team by the final roster deadline date in accordance with the Perpetual Calendar.

3.13 ADDITION OF PLAYERS

- 3.13.1 To be eligible to participate in Fall Championship play, players must be added to the team by the final registration date and must play with the team in two (2) regularly-scheduled, regular season games. It is specifically intended that this rule prohibit the addition of players for the purpose of strengthening a team for Fall Championship play.

3.13.2 South Texas Cup is an open competition for Division II and III teams. Previously registered players transferring to these teams will be treated as adds. A team participating in South Texas Cup may not have more than two previously registered players from Division I and not more than two previously registered players from Super II in the current seasonal year. Newly formed teams consisting of newly registered players and / or previously registered Division III or Division II players meeting the above limits are eligible to participate in South Texas Cup.

3.14 SOCCER ACROSS AMERICA

3.14.1 DEFINITIONS

3.14.1.1 **SOCCER ACROSS AMERICA PLAYER** is a player who has been identified as “at risk.” “At risk” means a child who falls under one of the following categories: low income, single parent families, latch-key children, from neighborhoods with a high rate of crime, gangs, or drugs.

3.14.1.2 **SOCCER ACROSS AMERICA TEAM** is a team comprised exclusively of registered Soccer Across America Players, defined in 3.14.1.1.

3.14.1.3 **SOCCER ACROSS AMERICA PROGRAM** is a group of registered Soccer Across America Players, defined in 3.14.1.1.

3.14.2 **Soccer Across America Program Registration.** For a Soccer Across America Program endorsed by a Member Association to be considered registered an Application for Participation in Soccer Across America, approved and signed by the Member Association President and the local Soccer Across America Program Director must be submitted annually to the State Office. By January 31st of each year, a completed Soccer Across America Program History Report must be sent to the State Office.

3.14.3 **Initial and Final Registration for Fall Registration for Soccer Across America Players and Coaches** who participate in an in-house only program is due in the STYSA State Office, postmarked by December 1, and must include:

3.14.3.1 Correctly prepared and transmitted information for all registered players and non-players;

3.14.3.2 100% of the Final Fall registration fees. **(Changed 2.21.16)**

3.14.4 **Spring Local Season Registration for Soccer Across America Players and Coaches** is due in the STYSA State Office, postmarked by May 1, and must include:

3.14.4.1 Correctly prepared and transmitted information for all registered players and non-players;

3.14.4.2 100% of the Final Spring registration fees. **(Changed 2.21.16)**

3.14.5 Minimum And Maximum Roster

Teams identified as Soccer Across America teams in Under-13 through Under-19 age groups may have less than seven players rostered to a team, but no more than eighteen players per team.

3.14.6 Small-Sided Games (Changed 2.21.16) Effective 8/1/2016

Teams identified as Soccer Across America Teams may have less than five players rostered to a team, but no more than the number of players designated for the appropriate age group.

3.15 ADULT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

3.15.1 Scope. For the purposes of this program, all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, trainers, volunteer administrators, board members, referees, referee instructors, referee assignors and staff / employees over the age of 17 must have successfully completed the online STYSA Application and Consent for Criminal Background Check (the STYSA Adult Application) on the STYSA approved and designated website and had such Application approved. **(Changed 2.21.16)**

3.15.2 Procedures

3.15.2.1 STYSA will provide an opportunity bi-annually to submit a STYSA Adult Application online at the designated website. Those identified in 3.15.1. are required to complete and submit a STYSA Application and Consent for Criminal Background Check during the first season / session in which the adult participates. Member Associations or Affiliates will appoint / elect a local Risk Management Coordinator to ensure that all local submissions are performed via the Internet. Volunteers or paid staff must submit their STYSA Application and Consent for Criminal Background Check within 15 days of registration with a team, club or Member Association.

3.15.2.2 Failure to complete and submit the STYSA Adult Application form per 3.15.2.1 is grounds for the individual not to be allowed to engage in any official position within STYSA and its Member Associations and Affiliates, whether paid or volunteer.

3.15.2.3 The STYSA KidSafe Committee has responsibility for the STYSA Adult Application submissions forms and submittals for processing criminal background checks. It is the responsibility of the Member Association / Affiliate Risk Management Coordinator to ensure all participants have been background checked and have a current Adult Participation Pass.

3.15.2.4 A negative response from the Texas Department of Public Safety or other agency which meets the criteria by the KidSafe Committee making an individual's application unacceptable, will cause a written notice to be sent to the individual stating that the individual is not

eligible to participate in any STYSA sponsored activities pending appeal. Any current STYSA activities of the individual must be suspended pending disposition of the appeal. The written notice will detail what appeal rights the person has and the timeframe in which any appeal must be made. A courtesy copy of the notice will also be sent to the Member Association / Affiliate Risk Management Coordinator. The Member Association / Affiliate Risk Management Coordinator will contact the individual's home club to make sure the individual does not participate pending the outcome of the appeal.

- 3.15.2.5 Should any individual who has received a negative response wish to appeal the findings, an appeal may be filed with the STYSA Appeals Committee according to the STYSA Procedure for Filing Appeals.
- 3.15.2.6 At such time as the Appeals Committee has heard an appeal and rules an individual ineligible, or when the appeal time has elapsed, then the individual's name will be added to a list maintained in the State Office and which is available to all Risk Management Coordinators.
- 3.15.2.7 STYSA will make every reasonable effort to maintain the confidentiality of the information received in the background checks. However, if the information is already in the public domain or is a matter of public record, it cannot be considered private or confidential, and therefore imparts no obligation upon STYSA with regard to confidentiality.

APPENDIX 1

2014-15 ACADEMY PROGRAM RULES

3.1. DEFINITIONS

3.1.15. **RECREATIONAL ACADEMY** is a club organized program that uses defined curriculum and qualified staff to teach individual skills to Division IV Under-10 and/or Under-9 youth teams. Recreational Academy Under-10 and Under-9 teams will be comprised of Under-10, Under-9 and Under-8 players in a team training format that is in an age appropriate learning environment. **(Changed 2.14.10)**

3.1.17. **RECREATIONAL PLUS LEAGUE** means an interclub or intra-club league comprised of Division IV Under-10 and/or Under-9 teams in which:

- a. Division IV teams formed in compliance with the requirements of Rule 3.4.2.2 who choose to compete in a Recreational Plus League, or **(Changed 2.8.09)**
- b. Division IV teams comprised of U8, U9 and U10 age eligible players formed in compliance with Rule 3.5. **(Changed 7.12.09)**

3.1.18. **RECREATIONAL PLUS TEAM** is a Division IV Under-10 or Under-9 team that participates in a Recreational Plus League.

3.5. **RECREATIONAL ACADEMY PROGRAM.** A Recreational Academy (Academy) is a club organized program that uses defined curriculum and qualified staff to teach individual skills to Division IV Under-10, Under-9 and/or Under-8 youth players in a team training format that is in an age appropriate learning environment. **(Changed 7.12.09)**

A STYSA Academy Committee (comprised of the State Director of Coaching, an Eastern District representative, and a Western District representative) will be responsible for oversight of Recreational Academy programs within STYSA. Oversight will include, but not be limited to, approval of Academy applications and review of an Academy's ongoing operations. This committee will be a sub-committee of the Recreational Committee.

A Recreational Academy must comply with the following:

3.5.1. Application to operate a Recreational Academy

3.5.1.1 Clubs wishing to establish a Recreational Academy must obtain sponsorship of their local Member Association and approval from STYSA.

3.5.1.2 Each club must submit a clear mission statement and program curriculum along with the names and qualifications of all Academy staff to the STYSA Academy Committee for approval on an annual basis. After review and approval, such documentation will be kept on file at the STYSA State Office.

3.5.1.3 Applications to operate a Recreational Academy must be submitted to the STYSA State Office no later than the last day of May to be considered for the following seasonal year by the committee.

3.5.2 Eligibility to Operate and Player Registration

Clubs may provide both Recreational Academy and traditional recreational programs. Sign up and registration for the Academies is open to any age eligible (U8, U9 or U10) player from within the club. U7 and younger players are not eligible to participate in a Recreational Academy program. The number of players eligible to participate in an Academy shall be based upon the number of teams being formed. A player may not be excluded from participating in an Academy program for any other reason. **(Changed 7.12.09)**

3.5.3 Team Formation

Academy teams must be formed using the same criteria found in 3.4.2.2 Division IV Team Formation Requirements.

3.5.4. League Play

Academy teams will participate in a Recreational Plus League against other Academy teams. Recreational teams may choose to participate in a Recreational Plus League if they desire.

3.5.5. Tournament Play

Academy teams participating in invitational tournaments may only play against other Academy teams. Invitational Tournament organizers must establish a level of play to accommodate Academy teams to avoid impacting non-Academy recreational teams. Recreational teams may choose to participate in a Recreational Plus level of play if they desire.