

US Youth Policy on Players and Playing Rules

Rule 101. DEFINITIONS

Section 1. The definitions of Bylaw 109 of USYSA apply to this policy. Those definitions include the following:

- (1) **Federation** means the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.
- (2) —**FIFA** means the Federation Internationale de Football Association of which the Federation is the national association member for the United States.
- (3) —**region** means one of those regions established under Bylaw 322.
- (4) —**National Council** means the National Council of USYSA as provided under Bylaw 311.
- (5) —**Organization Member** means an organization that is classified as such a member of USYSA as provided by Bylaw 202.
- (6) —**State Association** means the administrative body within a territory determined by the National Council to carry out USYSA's programs for youth players.
- (7) —**team** means a group of soccer players playing on the same side in soccer games.
- (8) —**USYSA** means the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc.
- (9) —**youth player** means an individual who is an amateur player and who has not reached 19 years of age prior to August 1 immediately before the start of any seasonal year. A player who reaches 19 years of age during a seasonal year is allowed to complete that seasonal year. A player who reaches 19 years of age during August of one seasonal year shall be allowed to complete all of the next seasonal year.

Section 2. The following definitions also apply to this policy:

- (1) —**add** means the addition of a player to a team's roster.
- (2) —**eligibility to play** means registered and not under suspension.
- (3) —**game roster** means the list of players who will participate in a particular competition.
- (4) —**involuntary release** means the removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of team authorities.
- (5) —**registration** means the execution of an intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of fees to become a member of USYSA.
- (6) —**rostering** means assignment of a registered player to a team.
- (7) —**select team** means the official select or all-star team of —
 - (A) USYSA;
 - (B) a region;
 - (C) a State Association;
 - (D) a district or geographical subdivision of a State Association; or
 - (E) any league.
- (8) —**suspension** means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privilege, such as the right to play, coach, or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in soccer, and the suspension is for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.
- (9) —**team roster** means a list of registered players eligible to play for a team.
- (10) —**uniform** means a jersey or shirt, shorts, thermal undershorts, stockings, shinguards, footwear, warmup jacket, pants, or suit, and other similar items of wear.

(11) —**voluntary release** means the removal of a player from a team’s roster at the request of the player.

Section 3. The following definitions are suggested for use by State Associations to facilitate communication and understanding among them:

(1) —**classic league** means an interclub league in which—

(A) the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any similar process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability, is permitted; and

(B) one or more league rules restrict the manner in which players may be rostered to participating teams.

(2) —**classic team** means a team that participates in a classic league.

(3) —**club** —

(A) means an organization that is a member (directly or indirectly) of a State Association that has an identifiable membership of youth soccer players on whose behalf the organization conducts or engages in youth soccer activities; and

(B) sometimes referred to as a —league or —local association, is the basic administrative unit of USYSA.

(4) —**district** means a geographical subdivision of the territory of a State Association.

(5) —**guest player** means a registered player participating in a competition for a team to which the player is not rostered for purposes of league play.

(6) —**interclub tournament team** means a tournament team whose roster includes players who are members of more than one club.

(7) —**interclub transfer** means the removal of a player from a team’s roster at the request of the player and the contemporaneous addition of the player to the roster of another team

(8) —**intraclub tournament team** means a tournament team whose roster includes players who are members of only one club.

(9) —**intraclub transfer** means the removal of a player from a team’s roster at the request of the player and the contemporaneous addition of the player to the roster of another team from the same club.

(10) —**league** —

(A) means a structured group of 4 or more teams joined for the purpose inter- team play under a common set of administrative and competition rules; and

(B) is differentiated from another league by the rules that govern the rostering of players to each league’s teams, and the different terms used to describe each league do not necessarily reflect the level of ability or talent of teams participating in the league.

(11) —**league team** means a team that participates in regularly scheduled league play.

(12) —**player** means a youth player registered in accordance with USYSA and State Association rules.

(13) —**premier league** means an interclub league in which no rule restricts the manner in which players may be rostered to participating teams, except for rules that—

(A) define and prohibit unethical recruiting behavior; or

(B) limit the participation of players previously rostered to another team.

(14) —**premier team** means a team that participates in a premier league.

- (15) —**recreational all-star team** means an intraclub tournament team whose roster only includes players selected from teams that participate in the same recreational league or recreation plus league.
- (16) —**recreational league** means an intraclub league in which—
- (A) the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any similar process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited;
 - (B) the club administering the league accepts as participants in the league any eligible youths (subject to reasonable terms on registration);
 - (C) a system or rostering players is used to establish a fair or balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating; and
 - (D) league rules require that each player must play at least one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline.
- (17) —**recreational plus league** means an interclub or intraclub league in which—
- (A) the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any similar process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited;
 - (B) the club or clubs administering the league accept as participants in the league any and all eligible youths (subject to reasonable terms of registration); and
 - (C) the league does not otherwise meet the definition of a recreational league.
- (18) —**recreational plus team** means a team that participates in a recreational plus league.
- (19) —**recreational team** means a team that participates in a recreational league.
- (20) —**tournament team** means a team that includes guest players and is put together for the sole purpose of playing in a tournament or other approved non-league competition.
- (21) —**transfer** means the removal of a player from a team’s roster on the request of the player, and the contemporaneous addition of the player to the roster of another team.

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