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MSYSA PLAYER RIGHTS and OBLIGATIONS

THIS IS A COMPANION PAGE TO THE MSYSA MEMBERSHIP AND PLAYER REGISTRATION FORM AND THE MSYSA TRAVEL PLAYER STATUS FORM. IT MUST BE GIVEN TO THE PLAYER AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS WITH THE FORMS.

THIS PAGE IS TO BE RETAINED BY THE PLAYER AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS. IT ADDRESSES SOME ASPECTS OF PLAYER RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO JOINING AND LEAVING A TEAM AND MOVING FROM ONE TEAM TO ANOTHER. THIS INFORMATION IS NOT INTENDED TO BE COMPREHENSIVE; FURTHER QUESTIONS ON THESE ISSUES CAN BE ADDRESSED TO YOUR CLUB OR THE MSYSA REGISTRAR (registrar@msysa.org)

The Maryland State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) considers that any player who registers and is rostered to a travel team during a seasonal year (September 1 - August 31) has reached a mutual agreement with the Team Official(s) to play on that team until the end of the current Seasonal Year. Registration and rostering to a team must be renewed each seasonal year.

The player may choose to be released from the team at any time and for any reason, e.g., to play another sport, to play on another US Youth Soccer (USYS) affiliated team (rules permitting), not to play anymore, etc. Upon leaving a team, the player must honor the agreement reached with the Team Official(s) regarding payment of fees, return of uniforms and/or other equipment, etc in accordance with the MSYSA Nonpayment of Club/Team Financial Obligations Policy. Failure to do so may prevent the player from joining another team; therefore it is essential that players and their parents or guardians get a clear understanding of the policies regarding **FEES** (amount, when due, refunds) and **EQUIPMENT** (who owns what) **BEFORE** joining the team.

TEAM OFFICIALS CANNOT REFUSE TO RELEASE A PLAYER. Upon receiving a request, Team Officials must act promptly within **five business days** to complete the release process in accordance with MSYSA policies and procedures. To effect the release, the MSYSA Travel Player Status form (available from the MSYSA web site, the MSYSA State and Assistant State Registrars, or the MSYSA State Office) must be completed and signed by the player, the player's parent or guardian, and a Team Official. The parent or guardian must also complete the portion explaining the reason for the requested release. The player and parent/guardian signatures on this form are MSYSA's verification that the player is leaving the team voluntarily. MSYSA Registrars will not process a release unless all signatures are present on the form and the reason stated.

A player may be released involuntarily only for the following reasons: (1) the player has violated rules of US Soccer, US Youth Soccer, or the MSYSA; (2) the player has moved beyond a reasonable distance (as defined by the MSYSA); or (3) the player is injured in such a manner that he or she will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season. In the case where team rights are in question, MSYSA permits the involuntary removal of a player from a team if the player, player's parents/guardians, or anyone associated with the player are disruptive influences. Requests for involuntary release must be submitted in writing to the MSYSA Board of Directors (with a copy to the player's parents/guardians) by a Team Official for approval.

While the player may leave a team at any time, there may be restrictions on joining another team; generally these restrictions are defined in League rules. Violation of agreements with the former team on payment of fees as per the MSYSA Nonpayment of Club/Team Financial Obligations Policy or return of uniforms and equipment may prevent the player from joining another team. Also, MSYSA and National rules may restrict the number of players that can transfer onto a team within a given Seasonal Year. It is the player's responsibility to notify the Officials of both teams that he or she desires to move, and to verify if any restrictions apply that would preclude such a change or limit the player's participation on the new team before action is taken on being released from the present team.

Under USYS and MSYSA rules, a player has the right to be concurrently rostered to more than one team. The player can be a Secondary (Multiple-Rostered) player on any number of teams but can only be a Primary player on one team. Only Primary players can participate in State Cup competitions. (Teams containing multiple-rostered players are eligible to compete in State Cup, but the multiple-rostered players **cannot participate**.) Most Leagues have further restrictions that preclude playing for more than one team within the League. There may also be restrictions on participation in tournaments, which should be investigated at the time of application. Players must indicate in the appropriate sections of the MSYSA Membership & Player Registration and Player/Team Status forms any affiliation with other teams. The player must also inform all appropriate Team Officials of his/her affiliation with other teams.

Players have the right to participate with another team as a guest player in tournaments if the tournament rules so allow. Team Officials must make the USYS or MSYSA Player Pass available on request to allow this participation; the player must return the Pass as soon as possible after completion of the tournament. In considering becoming a guest for another team, the player should consider obligations to the present team, and whether the player's absence would be a detriment to the team in any scheduled games or activities which conflict with the tournament.

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