

# **MIDLAND AREA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE, INC.**

## **M. A. Y. S. LEAGUE**

### **CONSTITUTION**

As approved at the League Charter Meeting, and amended at the GENERAL MEETING of February 12, 1971 and at the Annual General Meetings of January 14, 1975; January 6, 1981; January 13, 1991; November 22, 1992; November 21, 1993; November 27, 1994; January 13, 1997; November 28, 1998; November 28, 2000; November 18, 2001; November 17, 2002, November 16, 2003, November 14, 2004, November 20, 2005, November 5, 2006, November 18, 2007, November 16, 2008, November 15, 2009.

#### **I. NAME**

The Organization shall be called MIDLAND AREA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE, INC. (M.A.Y.S. League). M.A.Y.S. League is affiliated with the United States Youth Soccer Association (U.S.Y.S.A.), the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (Mass Youth), the United States Soccer Federation (U.S.S.F.) and the Federation International De Football Association (F.I.F.A.).

#### **II. OBJECTIVES AND PHILOSOPHY**

The objective of M.A.Y.S. League is to provide the opportunity and training for boys and girls to learn the game of soccer.

M.A.Y.S. League will cooperate with all others in the development of Soccer. The main season of the M.A.Y.S. League shall be in the Spring and early Summer.

#### **III. LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP**

Membership shall be open to any and all soccer clubs within the M.A.Y.S. area for which Divisions are formed and members of the Board of Directors.

Club membership shall become effective when the application is accepted at the annual Entry Meeting and shall continue indefinitely provided the club continues to roster and submit teams to play in M.A.Y.S. League from year to year. The President or his/her appointed delegate of each member club shall represent his/her club at all M.A.Y.S. League meetings. No single individual may represent more than one (1) member club.

At all General meetings, each qualified member club shall be entitled to one (1) vote and each member of the Board of Directors shall have one (1) vote. A member of the Board of Directors may not vote as a representative of a member club.

#### **IV. GOVERNMENT**

The governing body of M.A.Y.S. League shall be the Board of Directors (referred to as the BOD hereafter) and shall consist of the following:

PRESIDENT  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
VICE PRESIDENT  
TREASURER

SECRETARY  
SPORTSMANSHIP DIRECTOR  
REGISTRARS (Seven(7))

The President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Sportsmanship Director, and Registrars shall be elected at the AGM. They are elected for a two (2) year term and are eligible for reelection.

The President, Treasurer, U10 Girls Registrar, U12 Girls Registrar, U14 Girls Registrar and U16/U19 Registrar shall be elected on even number years.

The Vice President, Secretary, Sportsmanship Director, U10 Boys Registrar, U12 Boys Registrar and U14 Boys Registrar shall be elected on odd number years.

The officers and directors shall assume their office and duties following their election and shall remain in office until replaced. The President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be different individuals but those persons can hold other Board positions.

The elected board may appoint a temporary board member to fill a vacancy until the next AGM when the actual voting will take place.

The duties and responsibilities of the members of the Board shall be as follows:

**The President** shall officially preside at all General Meetings and Board Meetings; be the official representative of M.A.Y.S.; receive ejection cards (pass cards); notify referees of player or coach ineligibility for games; and chair the Placement Board.

**The Immediate Past President** shall be a member of the Board of Directors and may also be elected and serve in any other position after his/her term as President. In the event that the positions of President and Vice President are both vacant, the Immediate Past President shall assume the leadership of M.A.Y.S. until such time as a General Meeting of the membership shall elect a new President and/or Vice President. The Immediate Past President shall have such duties as may be assigned to him/her from time to time by the President or by vote of a General Meeting. The term of the sitting Immediate Past President shall continue only so long as his/her immediate successor occupies the position of President.

**The Vice President** in the absence of the President, shall be vested with all of the powers and perform all of the duties of the President. In case of disability, resignation, or long term absence of the President, the Vice President shall assume all presidential duties until the next AGM or any Special Meeting called for the election of a new President. The Vice President shall be responsible for drawing up the official league schedule of M.A.Y.S. in addition to any other special assignment which, from time to time, may be given by the President or the BOD.

**The Secretary** shall keep detailed minutes of all Board and General Meetings and attend to record keeping and communications of the BOD, and shall attend to all correspondence pertaining to the general membership, send out schedules, publish and distribute newsletters.

**The Treasurer** shall have charge of the finances of M.A.Y.S. League and shall report on the condition of same at all Board and General Meetings, submit a written report at the Annual General Meeting covering the prior year's activities and be authorized to sign checks.

**The Sportsmanship Director** is responsible for developing and sponsoring sportsmanship activities, reviewing sportsmanship incidents as directed by the MAYS President.

**The Registrars** are responsible for verifying all registration information, signing player pass cards, ensure that players and teams are registered in a timely manner, and ensure that registration requirements are fulfilled before players and teams are allowed to participate in league games.

The President shall recommend and the BOD shall approve by simple majority of those present and voting a Referee Assignor who shall have a voice but no vote at General Meetings, Special Meetings and BOD meetings. The duties of the Referee Assignor shall be to assign a referee to work each game on the schedule, receive all written referee reports, and keep track of all games.

## **V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held not less than three (3) times during the year, dates and times established by the President. Special Meetings may be called by the Secretary whenever requested by the President or when requested by three (3) or more Directors.

## **VI. GENERAL MEETINGS**

There shall be at least four (4) General Meetings during the year, said meetings to be announced at the Annual General Meeting.

A Special Corporate Meeting may be held in the absence of the AGM for the purpose of transacting business required at the AGM.

Special Meetings may be called by the Board as necessary. Notification of Special Meetings shall be in writing/e-mail to each qualified member club at the address on record with the League at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

All clubs and Board members shall be notified of the Annual General Meetings. Written/e-mail notice of the AGM shall be sent to each qualified member club at the address of record.

Fifteen (15) voting delegates, three (3) of whom are Elected Officers, must be present to constitute a quorum for the transaction of any and all business at any AGM.

## **VII. ENTRY OF TEAMS**

The clubs shall be informed of the date of the Entry Meeting. Applications shall be submitted together with the full registration fee. All applications submitted shall be accepted and given to the Placement Board.

## **VIII. PLACEMENT BOARD**

The purpose of the Placement Board shall be to enable as many teams to participate as possible, consistent with reasonable League structure and geographic balance, and in the interest of M.A.Y.S.

The Placement Board shall consist of the President, who shall be chairman, and the Board of Directors.

## **IX. PROTEST BOARD**

The purpose of the Protest Board shall be to settle any disputes that arise due to the decision of the President. This dispute may arise in the playing of the games, in the suspension of participants and in any other areas as may, from time to time, be specified in the By-Laws.

A three (3) member Protest Board (one (1) of which is designated as the Chairman) and two (2) Alternate members will be recommended by the President to the BOD on an as needed basis. The BOD shall approve or reject each member of the Protest Board. If a rejection is made, the President must recommend a new member to the BOD. A BOD member may not be a member of the Protest Board.

If a protest is heard from the "home club" of a member of the Protest Board, that individual shall stand aside and the Alternate member shall take his/her place. In the event of a regular member being unable to attend or hear the protest, the Alternate member shall take his/her place.

In addition, a U.S.S.F. referee may be appointed as an advisor by the President and approved by the BOD. The referee advisor shall have a voice but no vote at a Protest Board meeting and shall advise the Protest Board concerning the "Rules of the Game" on referee related matters. The Protest Board will inform all concerned parties of its decision(s).

## **X. FINANCIAL POLICY**

Each club shall pay a registration and bond fee to M.A.Y.S. to pay for printing, postage, trophies and other administrative expenses. The amount of this fee shall be approved by the AGM.

The clubs are responsible for all other costs of actually playing games, including a properly marked field and ball for home games.

No expenses shall be paid to the officers or members of the BOD, with the exception of out-of-pocket expenses for necessary supplies.

## **XI. SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS**

Any individual of any member club of M.A.Y.S. League may be suspended or expelled from M.A.Y.S. League play by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the BOD. The individual involved shall be notified of the intended action and may make a statement to the BOD before the resolution is put to a vote.

Note: This section is exclusive of the By-Laws on ejection and suspension.

## **XII. BY-LAWS AND PLAYING RULES**

The BOD may from time to time approve and publish By-Laws and playing rules which, providing they do not contravene this Constitution, shall be binding upon all M.A.Y.S. Members and Clubs until voted upon at the next AGM. The By-Laws should represent the wishes of the General Membership. Therefore, any new By-Law or changes to existing ones, shall be submitted in writing to the Recording Secretary, three weeks prior to the AGM. The proposal shall be discussed and voted upon at the next Annual General Meeting. A simple majority of those present being necessary for acceptance of the change.

### **XIII. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

No variation of the Constitution by addition, omission or amendment shall be adopted without the approval of an Annual General Meeting..

Notice of such meeting and details of the proposed amendments shall be sent to all members at least two weeks before the meeting. The amendment shall be carried by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

### **XIV. DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the dissolution of the M.A.Y.S. League, the funds remaining shall be divided among all the clubs that are members of M.A.Y.S., each club getting an equal amount.

# **M. A. Y. S. LEAGUE**

## **LEAGUE BY-LAWS**

### **I. LEAGUE AFFILIATION**

The League will affiliate with the United States Youth Soccer Association (U.S.Y.S.A.), the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (Mass Youth), the United States Soccer Federation (U.S.S.F.) and the Federation International De Football Association (F.I.F.A.). Rules of all will be in effect.

### **II. LAWS OF THE GAME**

The F.I.F.A. "Laws of the Game" shall apply to any and all competition in the league per U.S.S.F. Guide for Referees.

### **III. PLAYER, TEAM AND CLUB ELIGIBILITY**

- A. Players listed on the roster shall have a residency requirement as noted in section XXX. More than one team may be entered by each club.
- B. All players must be registered with the League registrars. **NO PLAYER MAY PRACTICE UNTIL REGISTERED WITH Mass Youth AND NO PLAYER MAY PLAY ANY LEAGUE GAME UNTIL REGISTERED WITH M.A.Y.S.** No player may be rostered on or play for more than one (1) team entered in the M.A.Y.S. League.
- C. Rosters of teams are to be submitted to the registrar according to the registration procedures. No team will be allowed to play without being registered in advance. Any team's roster that are not submitted to the appropriate MAYS registrar before the deadline, as stated in the registration procedures, are subject to a \$50 fine, per team.

No team in Division I or II may exceed 18 players except Under 10 teams which may not exceed 12 players and U12 teams which may not exceed 15 players. Division III teams may roster as many players as they wish.

Roster size for U18 and U19 may have a maximum of 22 players. These teams will be required to submit a roster of 18 players by the MAYS Roster Freeze Date (for playoffs and MTOC).

Rosters will be frozen on the day so specified by M.A.Y.S. as the day on which no players may be added or dropped from the team.

- D. No team will be allowed to play a game with less than seven (7) registered players on the field. U12 teams will need five (5) players. U10 teams will need four (4) players.
- E. Age division will be comprised of players according to age designations as defined by Mass Youth for the current season competition.
- F. Any team playing a player who is over-age shall forfeit the game(s) in which that player has participated.

- G. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, driver's license, baptismal certificate, passport or Alien Registration card issued by the U.S. Government.
- H. A soccer club may not enter a team in M.A.Y.S. until it has first registered as a club with Mass Youth. Each club must declare its intention to enter teams in M.A.Y.S. for the current year not later than the date set by the BOD.
- I. A cutoff date will be established each season at which time the divisional placement of teams will be frozen. At that point, the schedule for the season will begin. After that cutoff date, any changes in divisional placement will be subject to \$100 fee per change request. For example, an added or dropped team will be subject to a \$100 fee, as the schedule for one conference will need to be changed. A team moving from one division to another will be subject to a \$200 fee, as two conference schedules will need to be changed.

**IV. LENGTH OF GAMES, OVERTIME PERIODS, BALL SIZES**

The length of games, over-time play and ball sizes for each age group are:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Playoff Over-Time</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>
Under 19	Two 45 Minute Halves	Two 10 Minute Halves	5
Under 18	Two 45 Minute Halves	Two 10 Minute Halves	5
Under 18 (Fall)	Two 40 Minute Halves	Not Applicable	5
Under 16	Two 40 Minute Halves	Two 10 Minute Halves	5
Under 14	Two 35 Minute Halves	Two 5 Minute Halves	5
Under 12	Two 30 Minute Halves	Two 5 Minute Halves	4
Under 10	Two 25 Minute Halves	Not Applicable	4

Playoff Overtime is NOT based upon Golden Goal format. Both overtime halves must be played through to completion. If the game remains tied at the conclusion of both overtime periods, then the game will be decided using Kicks from the Penalty Mark according to FIFA.

Play shall be suspended and all participants shall seek shelter when lightning is 6 miles distant, or closer. (In estimating distance of a lightning strike, use the “flash to bang” method. Count the seconds from the time lightning is sighted, until the accompanying thunderclap is heard. If the time is 30 seconds or less, the distance is 6 miles or less.) Before resuming play, wait 30 minutes after the last lightning strike within the 6 mile limit.

In the event that a game is terminated, it will be considered complete providing that the first half has been completed.

**V. SUBSTITUTIONS**

The number of substitutions is unlimited. They may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

- 1. Prior to a throw-in in your favor, or a throw-in for the opposing team if BOTH teams have players ready to enter the game.
- 2. Prior to a goal kick by either team.

3. After a goal by either team.
4. After an injury when the referee stops play.
5. At Half-time.

Substitutions are NOT allowed at corner kicks or free kicks.

## **VI. PROTEST AND APPEAL FEES**

Any protest or appeal requires that two (2) written copies of the complaint be sent to the President within forty-eight (48) hours of the game accompanied by a \$100.00 fee. If the protest or appeal is the result of a team's failure to adhere to By-law XVI (Scores), the forty-eight (48) hour requirement will start when the coach (or assistant coach if the coach can not be reached) receives notification from the President, Treasurer, or Secretary (notification can be either in person, or via telephone, or via letter or via League Newsletter).

The President will then make a decision within twenty-four (24) hours. This decision may be appealed to the protest board for a \$100.00 fee. Regardless of the outcome of the protest, the fee will not be returned. Appeal and Protest Fees are payable by club/town check, money order, bank check - no personal checks.

## **VII. STANDING AND CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Any team deemed ineligible for competing in the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions will be ineligible for competing in the MAYS Playoffs.

### **Division Champion**

The team amassing the greatest number of points, according to the following schedule, at the completion of the games shall be declared the Division Champion.

- Each team win -- 3 points
- Each team tie -- 1 point
- Each team loss -- 0 points

**NO POINTS WILL BE AWARDED IF SCORE NOT REPORTED, SEE ARTICLE XVI.**

No Points will be awarded if neither team shows up for a game and the M.A.Y.S. League was not notified of the cancellation.

In the event of a tie for first place at the end of league competition, the procedure outlined in Article XXVI shall determine the Division Champion.

### **League Champion**

A post-season play-off may be used to determine the League Champion for each age group and competition division. Format of play-off may vary depending on such factors as number entered, geographic, etc. Exact format will be specified at the pre-season Meeting. Play-off winner will be declared the League Champion, and may represent the League at the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (M.T.O.C.). In the absence of a play-off, the Divisional Champion may be declared the League Champion.

## **VIII. SEASONS**

The M.A.Y.S. League will compete in the Spring and Fall.

## **IX. PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT**

Uniforms must consist of matching shirts with unique numbers, matching shorts, matching socks, shin guards and footwear. Undergarments such as cycling shorts may be worn as allowed per rules published by U.S.S.F. in the Guide for Referees and Mass Youth. The colors shall be selected at the option of the team. In the case of a clash of colors, the home team is responsible for changing or wearing pinnies.

Players are not allowed to play with any dangerous equipment; including jewelry, casts, hard-brimmed hats.

## **X. OFFICIALS**

- A. Referees will be assigned by the Referee Assignor. The fee for the referees will be paid by the home team. Each team may be asked to provide one Assistant Referee per game. The referee will be paid by check upon League receipt of the game report. All referees will be assigned and will be U.S.S.F. members.
- B. Referee fees will be set each season by the BOD.
- C. In the event of a rescheduled make-up game, the referee assignor must be given at least 48 hours notice of the time and location of the game in order to assign a referee for the game.
- D. The President will recommend a Referee Assignor on an Annual Basis. The Board of Directors must approve the Referee Assignor.

## **XI. TIMING AND FORFEIT OF GAME**

Referee and teams must be present at the field 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time. If the referee does not arrive within 15 minutes after the scheduled time, he/she may not receive any fee. In this case, the coaches of the two teams will appoint an acting referee and play the game. If a mutually acceptable party cannot be found to act as referee, the game must be re-scheduled. In the event of a team being late, the other team must report it to the League for appropriate action. If either team has not arrived within 15 minutes after the scheduled time, the referee will leave the field, and will receive payment. In this case, the missing team will forfeit the game.

## **XII. POSTPONEMENTS**

The only legitimate reasons for postponing a game are:

- 1. Bad weather at the site of the game.
- 2. Vandalism to the field or field is unavailable. It is suggested that teams swap fields to play the game.
- 3. Reschedule requests must be submitted to the MAYS President by the Club/Town Rep. Reschedule requests for games during the first 2 weeks of the season must be received by the MAYS President one week prior to the game date. All other reschedule requests for games beyond week 3 must be received no later than 7 days after the first date of games for the age group of the teams impacted by the request. Only one request per team will be allowed. The acceptable reasons for requesting a reschedule is for school event, religious event which prevents a team from fielding the minimum number of required players.

It is the responsibility of the home team to notify both the visiting team coach and the referee assignor of the postponement at least two hours before the scheduled game time.

### **XIII. MAKE UP GAMES**

The agreement on a mutually acceptable time and date for the replay of a game that was a valid postponement must be reached by the teams involved within two (2) weeks of the date when the game was postponed and the date of the rescheduled game must be within four (4) weeks of postponed game. Notwithstanding the afore defined requirement, the last available date for making up any postponed game shall be the last day of the regular playing season as specified in the published schedule except with special consideration and prior consent given by the President. Failure to reschedule and play a make up game in accordance with this By-Law shall result in the President determining if any or neither team shall be awarded a forfeit.

If a mutually suitable time for a make-up game can not be agreed upon by the coaches within the time limit stated above, the home team must immediately provide to the President three (3) reasonable game times which are on different dates and within the time limits as stated above. The visiting team must then accept one of these dates or forfeit the game. If alternative game times/dates submitted by the home team are deemed unreasonable by the President, then the President will give the visiting team three (3) dates to choose from within the stated time limit and may schedule the game at the visiting team's field or at a neutral site.

### **XIV. COACHES/MANAGERS**

Each team must have a registered adult coach or manager who is not a playing member of that team and must be present at each league game.

### **XV. PLAYING SITES**

The League will provide each team with a schedule stating where each game is to be played. Playoff sites will be determined by the BOD. The BOD may schedule any (regular or playoff) game(s) at a neutral site.

### **XVI. SCORES**

Scores will be submitted by the referee via TheArbiter.net. Score corrections/updates to be handled by the MAYS Vice President.

### **XVII. BALLS**

Home teams will provide a regulation ball -- per U.S.Y.S.A. standards.

### **XVIII. USE OF INELIGIBLE PLAYERS**

A club which fields a player ineligible because of improper or non-registration shall suffer forfeiture of game plus a fine of \$50.00 per ineligible player per game for the first offense. For the second offense or more during a given registration year, the fine is raised to \$75.00 per ineligible player per game.

### **XIX. BONDS**

Each club is required to post a performance bond at the beginning of the season. This bond will be returned at the end of the season if no games are forfeited and the League is notified of all cancellations allowing for time to notify

the assigned referee. A game fee is forfeited each time the above conditions are not met. After two instances, the team will be withdrawn from the League.

## **XX. MEETINGS**

- A. The Annual General Meeting will be held in November each year. Each club wishing to participate that season is asked to send a delegate.
- B. During each season, there will be at least two meetings with as many of the clubs present as possible. The purpose of these meetings is to explain new rules, pass out and collect paper work, meet with the referee assignor, etc.

## **XXI. DIVISIONAL PLACEMENT OF TEAMS**

### **M.A.Y.S. League Team Placement**

Division 1 placement for teams having any three placement criteria.

- U10      4 multi-rostered players  
          6 returning (second year) players  
          3 teams in same age group  
          Majority of games won by more than 5 goals per game  
          Won 7 or more games last spring  
          Won 6 or more games during fall season
  
- U12      5 multi-rostered players  
          8 returning (second year) players  
          5 school players  
          3 teams in same age group  
          Majority of games won by more than 5 goals per game  
          Won their conference last spring or made playoffs  
          Won 6 or more games during fall season
  
- U14      6 multi-rostered players  
          8 returning (second year) players  
          6 school players  
          3 teams in same age group  
          Majority of games won by more than 5 goals per game  
          Won their conference last spring or made playoffs  
          Won 6 or more games during fall season
  
- U16      8 returning (second year) players  
          8 school players  
          2 teams in same age group  
          Majority of games won by more than 5 goals per game  
          Won their conference last spring or made playoffs  
          Won 6 or more games during fall season

## Division 2 placement

For teams having less than three placement criteria.

## Division 3 (non-MTOC, or Town Rec Travel group) placement

Open to any team.

Changes to a team's roster after placement, that would have put a team in a higher division, will be cause for a team's removal from playoffs.

Notification of appeals: Only the club rep will be notified by the MAYS League. It is the responsibility of the club rep to notify the affected coaches.

Team eligibility for playoffs: 75% of players must be from the same town as the club they're playing on, regardless of whether or not a player's town has a team in their age group. A club is considered to be representing a town or school district as submitted to the MAYS League. In no case is a club to be considered as representing a county or counties.

- A. Any team finishing first in a Division II age level or winning an age level in the Playoff and returning 50% or more of its players must move up to Division I the following season. Any Division I team with a winning record returning with 50% or more of its players the following season may not drop to Division II. The bottom 2 teams in division 1 from previous season will be relegated to division 2 for the following season. The top 2 Division 2 teams from the previous season will be promoted to division 1 for the following season. Any division 2 team with greater than 75% of the games resulting in a loss from the previous season will be relegated to division 3. First year teams have the right to appeal the division because of age group change.
- B. The President shall publish, in writing, to each club at the Entry Meeting as defined in the constitution, the date, time, and location of the appeals meeting where this additional information and appeal can be presented for consideration by the Placement Board. Notification to a club representative as listed on the placement form or the roster for the team, that the team has been moved and the appeal of the placement of the team shall be made by mail or e-mail or telephone as to the time and location of the appeals meeting.
- C. All teams must submit a roster to the MAYS Placement Board. These rosters must contain a minimum of 11 eligible players (U14 and Older Divisions), 6 players U10 and 8 player U12. Any roster can only be modified by a maximum of three players subsequent to the MAYS Placement/Entry Date. Special consideration will be given to exceed this by the MAYS Placement Board.
- D. Failure to fulfill the Placement/Entry requirements and/or the Passcard requirements will result in forfeiting that team's first game of the season and any game thereafter till said requirements are met.
- E. Teams entered in Division 2 and 3 are limited to a maximum of three multiple-rostered players as per MassYouth Multiple Rostering Policy.

Any team/player may request for the MAYS board to have them disqualification reviewed.

## **XXII. PLAYING FIELDS**

Proper field markings, regulation corner flags and goal nets are mandatory and the responsibility of the home team. If one or more of the above conditions are not met, the referee has the power to terminate the game. For the purpose of having the field properly lined and set up, the "home team" is considered to be the team on whose field the game is being played.

## **XXIII. GAME DAY ROSTERS**

Each coach will provide TWO copies of the team roster approved by M.A.Y.S. to the referee before the start of each game. Failure to do so will result in a \$25 fine to the club for an un-verified roster and/or game forfeiture, and \$50 fine to the club for no roster and/or game forfeiture. Rosters signed by someone other than MAYS Registrar as the MAYS Registrar will result in a fine of \$200 per offense. A registered (carded) coach must sign the roster. A maximum of three coaches are allowed at the bench area.

## **XXIV. PASS CARDS**

Players in Divisions I and II will not be allowed to play unless registered with a valid M.A.Y.S. signed and sealed U.S.Y.S.A. pass card for the Spring season. Coaches must also be registered with pass cards for all seasons. Photos of players and coaches must be up-to-date. Referees will not allow a game to proceed without a registered (carded) coach present for each team. If the game is allowed to be played without the players' and/or coaches' pass cards, the game may be subject to forfeiture. The MAYS league must make the decision within 2 weeks and notify the town representative. If no decision is made within the 2 week period then the result stands.

Division III Players and U10 players will not have pass cards, although all coaches must.

## **XXV. TRAVELING TEAMS**

Any team unable to secure a field for playing home games will be allowed to be a traveling team. They will play all of their games at the opponent's field. They will also, however, be responsible for referee fees for five (5) games and will be listed in the schedule as the home team. When there are two or more traveling teams in the same Division, the team listed as the home team is responsible for finding a field for that game. If a team is listed as a traveling team, that team will also play any play-off games as a traveling team even if they have a higher seed than the team they play. They are also responsible for paying additional fees to the league as determined by the BOD.

## **XXVI. TIE-BREAKING SYSTEM TO DETERMINE POSITION FOR PLAY-OFFS (for spring season)**

If teams are tied in points (3 for a win, 1 for a tie), the position is settled by the following:

1. Most wins.
2. Head-to-head based upon points assigned in bylaw VII subject to the following conditions:
  - 2.1 If there is a three way tie, then this tie-breaker is by-passed.
  - 2.2 If the teams do not play a home/home series, then this tie-breaker is by-passed.
3. Bonus points -- computed by a difference in goals for and goals against, up to a maximum of three (3) per game (i.e. Team A = 3, Team B = 1 gives 2 bonus points; Team A = 8, Team B = 1 gives 3 bonus points). Forfeits are counted as 3-0.
4. Least goals allowed.

5. Away goals in double head-to-head (i.e. Team A at Team B wins 3-2, then Team B at Team A wins 2-1. Team A would advance having scored 3 goals away to team B's 2 goals scored away. There would also be a cap of 3 bonus points per game.) ONLY if teams play a home/home series.
6. Goals for -- up to three (3) per game.
7. Play-off on a neutral field.
8. Penalty kicks (F.I.F.A.).

## **XXVII. TROPHIES AND AWARDS (for spring season)**

A trophy or other suitable recognition as determined by the BOD will be presented to the team winning a Division championship.

## **XXVIII. EJECTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS**

### **A. Expulsion from Game: Suspensions**

1. A player or team official who has been ordered from the field of play or from the sidelines by the referee for violent conduct, serious foul play, the use of foul or abusive language, or for persistent misconduct after having received a caution shall automatically incur the penalty or penalties for the given offense or offenses as stipulated below. The referee's report shall automatically initiate the action against the offending individual.
2. An individual under suspension shall not, during the period of suspension, participate in any game under the jurisdiction of the M.A.Y.S. or in any other game sanctioned by U.S.S.F. or any of its affiliated associations.
3. A player, while under suspension, shall not be released by his/her club. A team official, while under suspension, shall not change club affiliations.
4. All periods of suspension shall run continuously. Game suspensions in effect at the end of one playing season or registration year, shall remain in effect, even into the following season or registration year, until the full period of suspension has been satisfied. Post season games and tournament games, unless officially sanctioned and scheduled prior to the date of an infraction and "friendlies," shall not be used to satisfy the period of suspension.
5. Any assault of a referee will be referred directly to the M.Y.S.A. office, and the individual will be suspended pending the M.Y.S.A. report.
6. Any player or team official sent off during a game for any infraction not listed in sections B, C, D, or E below will be suspended for one game.
7. The definition of Under 14 includes U10 , U12, and U14 age groups. The definition of Over 14 includes U16, U18, and U19.
8. Suspended players must be present at a match in order for the match to count towards the suspension.
9. Additional duration of suspensions may be issued as determined by the MAYS President and Sportsmanship Director for any incident at a MAYS match, or any post-season match (i.e., MAYS Playoffs or MTOC).

### **B. Ejections for Violent Conduct**

1. Fighting (i.e. engaging in combat with an opponent, colleague, or spectator by means of the mutual exchange of blows delivered by hand, foot, or other part of the body):

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense	2 games	2 games	1 calendar year
Second Offense	4 game minimum	4 game minimum	Life

2. Deliberately striking or kicking, or attempting to strike or kick an opponent, colleague or spectator:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense	1 game	1 game	4 games
Second Offense	4 game minimum	4 game minimum	1 calendar year
3. Deliberately striking or kicking, or attempting to strike or kick a referee or linesman:			
	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense	1 year	2 years	2 calendar years
Second Offense	2 year minimum	Life	Life
4. The throwing of objects (i.e. soccer balls, snow or ice, stones, dirt, mud, sand, etc.) at an opponent, colleague or spectator:			
	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense	1 game	1 game	4 games
Second Offense	2 game minimum	2 game minimum	1 calendar year
5. The throwing of objects (i.e. soccer balls, snow or ice, stones, dirt, mud, sand, etc.) at a referee or linesman:			
	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense	1 year	2 years	2 calendar years
Second Offense	2 year minimum	Life	Life
6. Spitting at or on an opponent, colleague or spectator:			
	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense	1 game	1 game	4 games
Second Offense	2 game minimum	2 game minimum	1 calendar year
7. Spitting at or on a referee or linesman:			
	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense	1 year	2 years	Life
Second Offense	2 year minimum	Life	
8. Verbal threat of bodily harm or property damage directed at an opponent, colleague or spectator:			
	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense	1 game	1 game	1 calendar year
Second Offense	2 game minimum	2 game minimum	Life
9. Verbal threat of bodily harm or property damage directed at a referee or linesman:			
	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense	4 games	2 years	Life
Second Offense	8 game minimum	Life	
10. Gesturing/signaling obscenely at an opponent, colleague or spectator:			
	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense	1 game	1 game	4 games
Second Offense	2 game minimum	2 game minimum	1 calendar year
11. Gesturing/signaling obscenely at a referee or linesman:			
	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>

First Offense	4 games	4 games	1 calendar year
Second Offense	8 game minimum	1 year minimum	Life

12. Any of the above abuses directed at a player, spectator or referee under the age of 18:

			<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense			Life

### C. Ejections for Serious Foul Play

Serious foul play shall be understood to be play characterized by fouls, as defined by Law XII of the Laws of the Game of an aggravated nature committed with such fervor as to threaten an opponent with serious physical harm.

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	
First Offense	1 game	1 game	
Second Offense	2 game minimum	2 game minimum	

### D. Ejections for Abusive Language

1. Directed at an opponent, colleague or spectator:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense	1 game	1 game	4 games
Second Offense	2 game minimum	2 game minimum	1 calendar year

2. Directed at a referee or linesman:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense	4 games	4 games	1 year
Second Offense	8 game minimum	1 year minimum	Life

3. Any of the above abuses directed at a player, spectator or referee under the age of 18:

			<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense			Life

### E. Ejections for Persistent Misconduct (after having received a caution).

1. Misconduct (i.e. unsporting conduct, persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game, unauthorized entry onto the field of play):

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense	1 game	1 game	1 game
Second Offense	2 game minimum	2 game minimum	4 games

2. Dissent:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>Over 14</u>	<u>Coach/Asst. Coach</u>
First Offense	1 game	1 game	1 game
Second Offense	2 games	2 games	4 games
Third Offense	2 games	5 games	1 calendar year

## XXIX. ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

All persons responsible for a team and all of the spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for players, the referee and all other participants and spectators.

Consequently, the MAYS League has adopted the following rule:

### **No one is to address the referee during the Match!**

Exceptions for persons responsible for a team (Coaches and Managers)

During the game:

- Responding to a referee initiating communication.
- Making Substitutions.
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues.

At half-time or at the end of a match:

- A coach/manager can ask a referee to explain a rule(s) in a polite and constructive manner.
- Polite and friendly feedback can be given to a referee.
- Absolutely NO sarcasm, harassment or intimidation.

Penalties:

1 <sup>st</sup> Minor Infraction	Referee should ignore
2 <sup>nd</sup> Minor Infraction	A verbal warning shall be given
3 <sup>rd</sup> Infraction	Caution
4 <sup>th</sup> Infraction	Ejection
1 <sup>st</sup> Serious Infraction	Caution or Ejection depending upon the seriousness of the infraction

Exceptions for Spectators:

During the game:

- Responding to a referee initiating communication.
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues.

Penalties:

1 <sup>st</sup> Infraction	Referee shall stop the game and ask the coach(es) to quiet the offending spectator.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Infraction	A verbal warning. The referee shall stop the match and ask the coach(es) to warn the spectator that the next infraction will be an ejection or the referee will abandon the match.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Infraction	The referee shall instruct the coach(es) to direct the spectator to leave the area. The referee shall abandon the match if the spectator does not comply.

If the referee abandons the match, directs a person to leave the area, or issues a caution; the referee shall send a report to the MAYS President for review. This review may result in a penalty up to and including suspension and/or forfeit of the match. Unsporting behavior from coaches, players, referees, or spectators towards others will also not be tolerated and shall be reported to the MAYS President for review. This review may result in a penalty up to and including suspension and/or forfeit of the match.

### **XXX. Residency Requirements**

- A. A player is eligible to play for a MAYS team of a member club if he/she meets any one of the following criteria:
1. The player resides in the town(s) served by the MAYS club.
  2. The player resides outside the MAYS area but has applied in writing to the MAYS President for permission to play in the MAYS league and has written permission to leave from their respective league President. The waiver must be received by the MAYS Board of Directors before the first game in which the player participates. If the waiver is not received prior to the player's first game, any games in which the player participated may be subject to forfeiture.
- B. MAYS clubs serve only the town in which they are located unless they are defined by MAYS to be multi-town clubs.
- C.
1. A MAYS club shall recruit players only from within its geographical boundaries as described in Part B.
  2. If a player resides in a town which has no soccer club, or does not offer play in the player's gender/age group during the season under consideration, or does not have an open slot in the player's gender /age group, said player may play for any team in the MAYS league.
  3. A player may be allowed to play for a non-home town team if the clubs involved mutually agree. The request must be made by means of a properly filled out MAYS waiver form submitted to the MAYS Board for approval. (effective post Spring 2004, forms must be submitted yearly). The waiver must be received by the MAYS Board of Directors before the first game in which the player participates. If the waiver is not received prior to the player's first game, any games in which the player participated may be subject to forfeiture.
- D. New clubs may not be formed without prior approval from the MAYS Board, also new clubs may not be formed within existing club boundaries without written permission from the President(s) of all affected clubs.
- E. Clubs, teams or individuals who recruit players from outside their own club's geographical boundaries may be:
1. suspended from MAYS for one(1) year and shall be subject to any additional action deemed appropriate by the MAYS Board
  2. declared ineligible for the MTOC

### **XXXI. Sportsmanship**

- A. Cautions and Sendoffs
1. Any team whose players and/or coaches receive collectively a total of more than three red cards/send offs during the regular season shall not qualify for the MAYS Playoffs.
  2. Any team whose players receive collectively more than two fighting penalties during the regular season shall not qualify for the MAYS Playoffs.

3. Any player who receives a third yellow card in a season shall be suspended for one match; a fourth yellow card and subsequent yellow cards in a season shall result in a suspension from further participation for two matches.
4. A coach who receives a second caution in a season shall be suspended from coaching for a period of two matches.
5. A coach who receives a send off shall be suspended from coaching for a period of two matches. If a coach receives a second send off in a season, the coach will be disqualified for one year.
6. For purposes of determining playoff eligibility, no team may exceed three red cards/send offs or ten yellow cards/cautions during the regular season.
7. Any team whose players/coaches receive collectively five yellow cards/cautions and/or red cards in a match will result in immediate termination of the match, and result in forfeiture by the offending team.

#### B. Goal Scoring

1. Any team that has a differential score of 10 or more goals will receive a warning for the first offense. Second offense will result in the coach being suspended for one game and the town will be fined \$150. Next occurrence will result in the coach being suspended for the remainder of that season and the town will be fined \$150.

#### **XXXII. For the Good of the Game**

Smoking and/or Alcohol are not permitted at any MAYS games.