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FAYETTE COUNTY YOUTH SOCCER CLUB

RULES AND REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The following Rules and Regulations will govern all the day to day activities of the Fayette County Youth Soccer Club. It is meant to augment the Association's Constitution and by-laws. Should any conflict arise among these three, the Constitution shall take precedence over the By-laws which shall take precedence over the Rules and Regulations.

CONFLICT WITH PA WEST, USSF, USYSA, FIFA RULES

In the case that a rule set forth here shall be found to conflict or violate the Constitution, By-Laws or rules and regulations of PA WEST, USYSA, USSF, or FIFA, such rule shall be declared null and void and shall be removed or amended to conform with mentioned Association's rules.

MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

Matters not provided for in these rules shall be determined by the Fayette County Youth Soccer Club's Board of Directors and decisions so made shall be final and binding. Conflicts arising from the implementation of these rules shall be handled as provided for in the constitution and by-laws.

WHO IS COVERED BY THESE RULES

All players, coaches, and referees registered with the Fayette County Traveling Youth Soccer Club shall abide by these regulations. They shall conduct themselves at all times in a sportsmanlike and gentlemanly manner. All behavior within the context of an association activity shall be consistent with and appropriate to the ages of the children present in such activity. All coaches shall be responsible for the behavior of the parents and guests of the players of their team.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs shall be allowed at any time in the Association's playing fields. Such restriction shall include all parents and/or spectators. Individuals visibly intoxicated shall be removed from such premises and the appropriate authorities notified.

PLAYERS

1. It is the objective of the club to develop the appreciation of soccer in all, without limiting access to the program to any. The opportunity shall be afforded to all without consideration of race, color, sex, creed religion, country or national origin.
2. A player must be duly registered with Fayette County Traveling Soccer Club and through it with PA WEST Soccer in order to participate in any activity including practices, tryouts, scrimmages and games. A player is considered registered only after having completed and submitted the proper registration form.

3. A player may be rostered in more than one team provided that such multiple rostering does not violate PA WEST rules.
4. Players shall be assigned to designate teams by the Travel Commissioner or the In-house Commissioner as the case may be.
5. The Association has the right to deny players playing privileges either temporarily or permanently for conduct which violates these rules or those of PA WEST. Such action shall be taken as provided for in the Association's Constitution and By-Laws.
6. Chronic absence, disruptive behavior, or defiance of authority shall be considered detrimental to the development of other players and shall be grounds for disciplinary action. Coaches directly responsible for players displaying such behavior shall be initially responsible for ensuring that this behavior is rectified. The Coach may then refer the matter to the Board's disciplinary committee if the matter cannot be resolved at the team level.

TRAVEL PROGRAM

- 1) Travel teams shall be organized to participate in inter-club leagues and tournaments.
 - a) Travel teams shall be organized in all age groups allowed to participate in PA WEST-sanctioned leagues and tournaments.
 - b) Travel teams shall either be recreational/developmental or competitive according to the age group and the divisions involved.
 - c) A recreational team shall compete in boys divisions III and lower or girls C and lower. All teams up to and including U-12 shall be considered developmental regardless of playing division.
 - d) A competitive team shall compete in boys division II or girls C division in ages groups U13 and up. The Board of Directors may upon the recommendation of the travel commissioner designate a team as competitive even though such a designated team plays on divisions which would otherwise be considered recreational/developmental provided that the team is U-13 and older. In making this recommendation, the commissioner shall take into consideration factors such as the nature of the teams and level of Competition.
 - e) All players assigned to a recreational and or a developmental team shall be guaranteed approximately 50% playing time provided that coaches be allowed to modify this only for health and disciplinary reasons. No such restriction shall be made on competitive teams, although coaches are encouraged to provide each player with a significant amount of playing time.

- 2) Teams shall compete in playing divisions appropriate to the playing level of a majority of the players assigned to the team. The decision as to which division to enter a team shall be at the discretion of the coach in close consultation with the travel commissioner and the player development commissioner, The travel commissioner must approve all division selections prior to team registration. All division selections shall be consistent with all PA WEST guidelines or directives.
- 3) Tryouts shall be used [for the following reasons provided said tryouts do not involve established teams. An established team is defined below. If an established team is involved, tryouts to reassign players may be carried out only on the approval of the Board:] when;
 - a) There are enough players to form two teams for a given age group in which case tryouts shall be used to assign players to teams with the goal of placing players in teams which shall play in divisions appropriate to their age, experience and level of competitiveness.
 - b) There exists an excess of players to form one team but not enough to form two.
 - c) There exists a majority of players in one age group that may play in a higher division than the balance of registered players. Tryouts shall then be used to select players who may be included in this team in order to meet minimum or practical roster requirements.
 - d) All tryouts shall be held under the direction of the Coach and Player Development Committee provided that the respective coaches shall have the discretion to name at the most (2) of the players in a given roster.
 - e) All tryout procedures and formats shall be approved by the Board of Directors.
- 4) Established teams (an established team is one that has played at least one playing session ; but not including the U-10 age group.) with their coaches may be reassigned for the following reasons:
 - a) Attrition brings the number of players below minimum or practical requirements.
 - b) The team moves from one division to another which may make it inappropriate for some players to compete at that level.

Such reassignments shall need the approval of the Board of Directors and shall

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be made in a manner consistent with PA WEST and USYSA rules.

- 5) In the event that two teams exist for a given age group, players may be transferred from one team to another only on the recommendation of the Travel Commissioner and the approval of the Board of Directors. In making this recommendation, the Travel Commissioner shall ensure that such transfer is in the best interest of the player. All transfers shall be made in a manner that is consistent with PA WEST and USYSA rules.
- 6) All red and yellow cards issued against a player or coach of a travel team shall be reported to the Travel Commissioner. The commissioner shall maintain a list of the names of all players and coaches who have been issued such cards. Any player who receives a red card or accumulates two yellow cards in a playing session shall be referred to a committee assigned by the Judicial Committee. This committee shall meet with these players or coaches in order to discuss the incidents and provide the parties counsel in avoiding future incidents. Gross disciplinary matters (violent conduct), shall be directly referred to the Judicial Committee as provided for in the Rules and Regulations.
- 7) Any game report to be filed with league or tournament authorities shall require the Travel commissioner's (or his designated agent) approval. Coaches who fail to obtain prior approval shall be referred to the disciplinary committee.
- 8) Teams which win their respective playing section championships or tournament shall be recognized by the Club by awarding each player with a token (e.g. trophy) provided that funds are available for this purpose.
- 9) Select, Classic, or Cup league teams may register through the Club only with the approval of the board of directors provided that such teams agree to abide by these rules as these affects them. The Board may at its discretion impose added conditions for the registration of these teams.
- 10) All travel rosters shall be approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

IN - HOUSE PROGRAM

- 1) The In-house program shall serve to introduce soccer and to develop the skills of young and beginning players. It shall also serve to provide recreational soccer to those who choose not to compete at the more competitive travel level.
- 2) The in-house program shall be divided into the USYSA defined two-year age groupings namely U-6, U-8, U-10 etc. In-house leagues for older age groups may be formed as the need arises.

3) The In-house commissioner with the help of the player development commissioner shall be responsible for designing the in-house program with the condition that major changes to existing programs shall require the approval of the board of directors.

- a) The In-house program shall be designed for the players' development and enjoyment.
- b) The program shall attempt to provide adequate training to ensure that the club shall continue to field competitive teams.
- c) Winning shall be handled as an incidental outcome of the program.
- d) Program design shall ensure maximum possible playing time for all players. At no time shall a player play for less than half of the allotted game time.

4) Players shall be allowed to play in a different age group only with the approval of the In-house commissioner. In granting this decision, the in-house commissioner may allow a player to play up or down in age provided that:

- a) The safety of the player and/or other players in the program has been taken into consideration.
- b) Proper development of the player is not impeded by such action.

5) Players shall be allowed to play both in travel and in the in-house programs provided that teams in the player's age group is formed for travel. Conflicts regarding practice and scheduling of games shall always be resolved in favor of the travel program.

CUP and CLASSIC PROGRAMS

1) The cup and Classic programs shall serve to provide a higher level of soccer development and competition for the dedicated player and coach and parent.

2) Tryouts shall be used to roster the Cup and Classic teams.

- a) A tryout procedure shall be formulated by the Coach and Player Development Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.
- b) The tryout procedure shall be submitted to the Board in written form for approval.
- c) The coach of each team may appoint (2) players to their respective team with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- d) All rosters shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

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COACH REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION

- 1) The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that the best available candidates are appointed to coach Club teams, and to identify and exclude inappropriate candidates from being involved with our youth in a position of authority.
- 2) All persons expressing a desire to coach shall notify the Commissioner of Coach and Player Development.
- 3) All candidates shall be considered and given the opportunity to address the Board of Directors concerning their candidacy.
- 4) All coaching appointments shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- 5) All coaches must submit to a Pennsylvania Criminal Background Check and a Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance.
- 6) All coaches are encouraged to obtain basic First Aid training.

COACH SELECTION PROCEDURE

- 1) The following factors shall be considered in the selection of prospective coaches.
 - a) Effectiveness as a coach.
 - b) Number of years as a coach.
 - c) Age level and level of competition of previous coaching experience and playing experience.
 - d) Coaching philosophy and style.
 - e) Adherence to fair play guidelines.
 - f) Feedback from parents and Club officials.
 - g) Coaching record.
 - h) Level of coaching license.

REGISTRAR AND COMMISSIONERS

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The Registrar shall:

- 1) Be appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- 2) Be responsible for collecting player sign-up forms, verifying birthdates, approving player and team registration forms, assuring that all registration matters are consistent with PA WEST.
- 3) Keep and maintain all player and coach records including all yellow and red cards issued to travel player and coaches.
- 4) Chair the Registration Committee..
- 5) Account to the Treasurer all moneys collected for registration.
- 6) Coordinate with the Publicity and Public Relations Committee to advertise registration for the various Club programs.

The Travel Commissioner shall:

- a) Be appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- b) Assign all players to teams which will benefit the player the most in terms of age grouping and competitiveness.
- c) In assigning players, the Commissioner may use try-outs to evaluate the players.
- d) Unless a player(s) is (are) required in order to meet minimum or practical roster requirements, players may not be assigned to teams such that this assignment leads to the teams inability to play in the playing division appropriate to the majority of players in the team.
- e) Work closely with coaches in making these assignments.
- f) May designate others to assign players to teams, but shall always have final approval of such assignments.
- g) All final rosters shall be approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

The In-House Commissioner shall:

- a) Be appointed by a majority vote of the Boards of Directors.

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- b) Administer the day to day operations of In-House program.
- c) Recruit and organize players to participate in the In-House program.
- d) Develop and institute a game and training format that will maximize skill development and soccer enjoyment for the players.
- e) Recruit individuals to coach developmental teams.

The Referee Commissioner shall:

- a) Be appointed by the majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- b) Be responsible for recruiting and training referees for both the in-house and travel programs.
- c) Be the Chief referee assignor for all in-house and travel games. He or she may delegate these responsibilities.
- d) Assignments made on fair and equitable basis.
- e) Recommend a referee fee structure to the membership for its approval.
- f) Be a member of the Budget and Finance committee.
- g) Keep accurate record of all referee assignments.

The Coach and Player Development Commissioner shall:

- a) Be appointed by the majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- b) Be responsible for organizing clinics for coaches and players.
- c) Be responsible for the identification and the outplacement of outstanding players to Classic league teams or Olympic Development Programs.
- d) Chair the Coach and Player Development committee.
- e) Assist in placement of players and coaches in proper programs.
- f) Develop tryout formats.

COMMITTEES

1) The Budget and Finance Committee chaired by the Treasurer and comprised of the President, In-House Commissioner, Travel Commissioner, Referee Commissioner and two (2) additional members approved by the Board of Directors. Their duties shall be :

- a) Prepare and submit an annual budget at the clubs 6th regular meeting.(Nov.).
- b) Consider and recommend actions on any changes in the player fee structure and referee pay structure.
- c) Consider and recommend any budgetary matters that were not included in the approved annual budget.

2) The Bylaws and Rules Committee chaired by the Secretary and having at least two other members appointed by the Secretary and approved by the Board of Directors.

- a) Consider and recommend amendments to the Clubs Bylaws and Rules and Regulations.
- b) Ensure that actions taken by the Club are consistent with the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations. As such it shall be the arbiter of questions regarding the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Club.

3) The Nominating Committee chaired by an officer appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors shall:

- a) Identify members who may be interested in serving as officers of the Club and serve on committees.
- b) Supervise the election of officers.

4) The Judicial Committee chaired by the Vice President with no less than two (2) nor more than four (4) other members whose membership must be approved by the Board of Directors shall:

- a) Consider all disciplinary matters against officers, members, players or any other volunteers of the Club provided only matters pertaining to violations of the Clubs Bylaws and Rules and Regulations shall be considered by this committee.
- b) Consider disciplinary matters with a view of resolving the matter in a timely manner so as not to prejudice the individuals ability to continue with assigned duties or responsibilities.

- c) Make recommendations regarding disciplinary matters to the Board of Directors which shall decide on the disposition of the Committees recommendations. Such decisions and matters pertaining to the committees considerations shall be kept confidential unless two- thirds (2/3) majority of the general membership votes otherwise.
- d) Shall assure that the Clubs Grievance and Complaint Resolution procedure is adhered to
- 5) The Publicity and Public Relations Committee chaired by an officer or member appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors shall:
- a) Be responsible for developing and maintaining a good relationship with the media .
 - b) Publish game results.
 - c) Announce special events and activities.
 - d) Prepare Club newsletter.
- 6) The Fund Raising and Sponsors Committee chaired by an officer appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.
- a) Develop implement and supervise fund raising programs for the Club provided such programs are approved by the membership.
 - b) Solicit sponsors for the Club's programs and assure that the sponsors are properly recognized.
- 7) The Registration Committee chaired by the Registrar shall:
- a) Organize and coordinate registration dates for players.
 - b) Assist the registrar in the registration of players and the validation of their birthdates.
 - c) Assist the Registrar in registering Club teams and players for tournaments and camps.
- 7) The Fields and Scheduling Committee chaired by an officer appointed by the President and Approved by the Board of Directors shall:
- a) Be responsible for obtaining the necessary permits for fields and gyms needed for the Club's programs.

- b) Coordinate field assignments for practices and games.
 - c) Assure that all teams are given appropriate time and space to conduct practices.
 - d) Ensure that all fields are properly lined and safe to play on and all equipment is in a safe condition.
 - e) Ensure that all fees from use of Club fields by other organizations are collected and given to the Treasurer.
 - f) Ensure that the concession stand and facilities are in good repair.
 - g) Ensure that fields maintained in a manner that will assure their availability for Club activities.
 - h) Fayette County Youth Soccer Club field is one that the Club holds the permit from the proper authorities.
- 8) The Coach and Player Development Committee chaired by the Coach and Player Development Commissioner shall assist the Commissioner in coordinating clinics and coach and player evaluations.
- a) Shall consist of at least two (2) Board members in addition to other members appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.
 - b) Shall formulate team tryout procedures.
 - c) Recruit players and coaches for the club.
 - d) Track development of players and coaches and report such findings to the Board of Directors.

GRIEVANCE and COMPLAINT RESOLUTION

- 1) The Board of Directors shall have the right and authority to suspend, expel or otherwise discipline any individual (player,coach, or parent) for matters provided for in the Club By-Laws or Rules and Regulations.
- 2) Grievances involving the actions of players, coaches, parents, referees, board members or staff, shall be submitted, in writing, to the chairperson of the Judicial Committee.

3) Emergency grievances of situations involving threats of physical harm or sexual misconduct may initially be made orally to the Judicial Chairperson, Secretary, President, in that order of availability. Such emergency grievances shall be immediately followed by a written grievance, as normally required.

4) Situations involving criminal activity should always be reported to the appropriate police authorities by the complaining witness or victim.

5) The Judicial Committee shall have original authority to investigate allegations of rules violations or misconduct on the part of coaches, players and parent affiliated with a Club team. Jurisdiction shall extend to any activity which is reasonably connected to a normal function of the team or club including, but not limited to, team meetings, practices, matches, tournaments, fund raising and club sponsored or sanctioned activities.

6) The conduct of an investigation shall be at the sole discretion of the Committee Chair but may include:

- a. A written complaint of the alleged activity.
- b. Notice to interested parties of the time, date and place where the complaint will be considered by the committee (the hearing).
- c. Written statements supporting the complaint must be received by the Committee Chair at least ten days prior to the hearing with a copy sent to the party or parties against whom the complaint is lodged.
- d. Written statements supporting the party against whom a complaint is lodged must be received by the Committee Chair at least three (3) days prior to the hearing a copy sent to the complaining party.
- e. A written or oral statement or argument may be submitted by either party at the hearing.
- f. The issue of the Complaint shall be deemed to be denied by the party against whom the complaint is lodged in the absence of a response.
- g. The Complaint shall be deemed not true unless the weight of credible evidence supporting the claim is clear and convincing.
- h. The recommendation from the Committee to the Board may range from a dismissal of the complaint upon a finding of "not true" to dismissal without pay for coaches (if applicable), and dismissal without refund of fees for players (in complaints or parents), including fines and suspensions as the committee deems appropriate.
- i. All correspondence shall be signed, dated and include a return address and telephone number and the team affiliation of the sender.

7) Issues may occasionally arise between a parent (s) and a coach which requires

some form of external mediation. The following delineates Club Coaching a Staff responsibilities for which coaches are responsible to the Board of Directors.

- 8) It is the Club's desire that team administration matters be resolved within the team, with particular care taken to protect players from unnecessary pressure. When issues cannot be resolved among the parties, the following procedures are appropriate:
 - a. The parent may forward signed and dated correspondence to the Board of Directors, with copies to the coach and team manager, detailing the issues.
 - b) The Board will subsequently review the matter, after investigation and report by the appropriate coach.
 - c) Coaches are encouraged to alert the Board of Directors to contentious issues, as they develop.

ADVISORY BOARD

- 1) Advisory Board members shall serve to offer input concerning Club operation and act as a liaison between the Board of Directors and teams, players and parents.
- 2) Advisory Board shall have no voting privileges concerning Board matters but shall have the right to attend regular Board meetings.
- 3) Each season (spring / fall), the active teams shall select a parent from their respective teams to serve on the Advisory Board.
- 4) By majority vote the Board of Directors may select up to three (3) at large Advisory Board members.

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

- 1) Shall act as a liaison between the various Club committees and the Board of Directors to assure that the committees are performing their functions in a proper and timely manner.
- 2) Shall report to the Board of Directors concerning the performance of the committees and assure that the Board provides the necessary support and resources to the committees to carry out their respective duties.

FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

- !) Shall keep an accurate record of each members fundraising obligations and verify that such obligations are met.

2) In the event that a members obligations have not been met the coordinator shall report such conditions to the Board of Directors for additional action.