



# SEATTLE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Rules & Regulations  
(Updated May 2023)





## **RULES & REGULATIONS**

Coaches are responsible for compliance with SYSA Rules and Regulations. In addition, coaches must know the FIFA Laws (<http://www.FIFA.com>) and the WYS Rules of Competition ([www.WashingtonYouthSoccer.org](http://www.WashingtonYouthSoccer.org)). All competition shall be governed by the Rules herein.

### **RULE I Game Rules - In General Season (Fall League Play)**

**1.1** All SYSA league and tournament play shall be governed by the FIFA Laws in effect on the first of July of the current year.

**1.2** The WSYSA Rules of Competition-Outdoor/Field are incorporated herein by reference. These SYSA Rules of Competition shall govern for SYSA league play in cases of conflict.

**1.3** Comments about a player's race, sex, ethnic, or religious background are in all instances considered foul or abusive language and as such are cause for a send off under FIFA Law.

**1.4** Post-game formalities between teams (e.g. handshake lines) are not required but are encouraged. Coaches should emphasize pre-game and post-game courtesy. A player may be disciplined for inappropriate conduct at any time.

**1.5** If it has been determined that a game is abandoned by the referee due to actions of the coach, players, spectators, or any combination thereof, **NO REPLAY WILL BE GRANTED.**

**1.5.1** If at the time of the abandonment:

- (1) The opposing team is ahead, the score will be the final score.
- (2) The team causing the abandonment is ahead, the game shall be considered forfeited and a score of 1-0 in favor of the opposing team will be awarded.
- (3) If the score is tied, the game shall be considered forfeited and a score of 1-0 in favor of the opposing team will be awarded.
- (4) If it has been determined that both teams caused the abandonment, then both teams will be given a loss, zero points for both teams with a reported score of 0-1, and neither would advance from a city tournament match.
- (5) Any coach or player whose actions caused the abandonment of the game may be suspended by the Disciplinary Committee for a maximum of up to three games and even ejection from the league.

**1.6** It is our goal to have SSRA assign referees for all games but it is not guaranteed. Each team's coach/es should work together prior to scheduled time of kick-off and be prepared to referee one half each. They may also be allowances for qualified parents and/or siblings of players with referee credentials and RMA background clearance to officiate the game.

### **RULE II Uniforms**

**2.1** All players of the same team on the field, other than Goalkeepers, must be attired in jerseys that match to the satisfaction of the referee. In the event of a color clash, the designated home team will change jerseys.

**2.2** Shin guards are mandatory and must be covered by socks.

**2.3** Goalkeepers may wear long pants at any time.

**2.4** When playing in inclement weather, players shall be allowed to wear sweat pants or tights under the uniform shorts, as well as hats, gloves, knee pads, and elbow pads provided that no dangerous protruding or hard objects are used. The determination as to whether a player is properly attired shall be made in the sole discretion of the referee.

## SYSA Rules of Competition (cont.)

**2.5** All players shall wear numbered jerseys, provided that:

- 2.5.1** All players on the same team must wear different numbers.
- 2.5.2** Number color must contrast with jersey color.
- 2.5.3** Numbers must be block type and six (6) inch minimum height, and readily discernible from the touchlines.
- 2.5.4** Numbers must be securely attached so as not to create a hazard to anyone.
- 2.5.5** Numbers must be on the back of the jersey.

**2.6** All Association clubs shall apply the SYSA logo to player uniforms. The logo should be placed in one of the following locations in descending order of preference.

- 2.6.1** Placement on the upper left jersey sleeve, centered on short sleeve, 2.5 to 3.0 inches high.
- 2.6.2** Placement on right jersey sleeve as above.
- 2.6.3** If you do not have a club logo on the chest, place the SYSA logo on either chest.
- 2.6.4** Placement anywhere on the upper 1/2 of the jersey.

**2.7** In alignment with FIFA rules for players equipment; Match day officials may prohibit the use of any footwear or shinguards that they consider to be dangerous. Therefore, some non-Soccer footwear including metal studded, metal-tipped cleats, other spiked materials (including aluminum and plastic) showing, or any cleat with a toe stud are prohibited in SYSA sanctioned play. (Examples include: most Baseball, Football and Lacrosse shoes are not suitable) Should a detachable cleat be worn to expose metal, the referee shall not allow that player to begin or continue with play until the cleat is repaired or the shoe replaced.

**2.8** Under no circumstances may jewelry of any sort be worn in SYSA competitions. Jewelry includes, but is not limited to; watches, rings, bracelets, chains, necklaces, earrings (including posts), hair barrettes, and other similar objects.

### **RULE III Team/Player Participation**

**3.1** Maximum roster sizes for each team participating in SYSA leagues shall be:

- 3.1.1** For age groups U9 & U10 = 12 players.
- 3.1.2** For age groups U11 & U12 = 14 players.
- 3.1.3** For age groups U13 through U-19 a maximum of 18 is advised with exceptions if coaches feel the need to go up to 22 registered players. However, no more than eighteen (18) registered players from a team shall be listed on the game sheet for and participate in a single match.
- 3.1.4** Exceptions to this rule for purposes of SYSA competition may be granted under procedures specified in SYSA Administrative Regulation III Team/Player Registration.

**NOTE:** See Appendix A at the end of these Rules of Competition for policy guidelines about Maximum Roster Sizes.

**3.2** No team shall be allowed to participate in both SYSA league play and State or District play during the same season.

**3.3** Each club within SYSA shall develop a written policy assuring each player meaningful playing time.

**3.4** Except as specifically allowed under the SYSA Administrative Regulation Dual Rostering Rule, Players shall be allowed to register or participate simultaneously on more than one SYSA registered team during the same season. This includes the situation where a player is registered to and plays for a recreational team under SYSA, and simultaneously for a team within Seattle United at SYSA. (Please refer to rule **3.4.9** Dual Rostering Rule in Administrative Rules)

### **RULE IV Coaching & Sideline Conduct**

**4.1** Coaching from the sidelines, i.e. giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position is permitted, provided:

- 4.1.1** Neither mechanical nor electronic devices are used;
- 4.1.2** The tone of voice is informative and not a harangue;

**4.2** Each coach, substitute, or player is to remain within the coaching area (2 yards behind the touchline, and not closer to the end line than 18 yards from the corner of the field, nor behind the goal).

**4.2.1** No person, whether coach, parent or spectator, shall give instructions or directions to any player during a game who is outside the coaching area as defined above.

**4.3** No coach, substitute, or player is to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other players, substitutes or spectators.

**4.4** No coach, substitute, or player is to use profanity.

**4.5** No coach, substitute, or player, is to incite, in any manner, disruptive behavior of any kind. It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Each coach, manager and team shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of the spectators from their respective teams. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted at any field.

**4.6** A coach may be cautioned or sent off (red carded) by the referee if in violation of any of the Rules of Competition. If the Coach is sent off, an assistant coach identified as such to the referee may then be permitted to act as coach. Any coach, parent or spectator who is sent off by a referee must leave the field, and not return.

**4.7** It is the responsibility of each coach to take all precautions necessary before, during or after the game to protect both the safety of persons and public or private property on which games take place.

**4.8** It is the responsibility of the home coach to:

- 4.8.1** Provide a legal game ball properly inflated.
- 4.8.2** Provide and install nets for U-15 through U-19 games.
- 4.8.3** Contact the visiting coach 48 hours prior to game time to verify the location and time of game and coordinate jersey color.
- 4.8.4** Both teams should set up a technical area on one side of the field with both teams supporters taking their position on the opposite side of the field, to the extent conditions/facilities permit, and to the satisfaction of the referees.

**4.9** It is the responsibility of each coach to:

- 4.9.1** Submit to the referee, prior to the start of the game, three copies of an SYSA Game Sheet/Player Roster generated by the Association's registration system. Each copy shall include name of club, team, head coach and any assistant coaches who will be present at the match. Each player must be identified by first name and last name, and jersey number whether generated by the registration software or handwritten that is not worn by any other teammate. Each player must report to the referee to confirm this information prior to the game or when the player first enters the game, and upon any change of jersey. Players not listed on the game sheet and not properly identified are not eligible to play in the game. For those age groups where the number of players allowed on the roster is greater than the number of players allowed to participate in a match, players who will not participate must be clearly shown by crossing out the player's name and indicating "not playing" or words with equivalent meaning.

## **SYSA Rules of Competition (cont.)**

**4.9.2** Provide a person to run lines (except U-15 through U-19 teams).

**4.9.3** Contact the scorekeeper for the team's division within 48 hours and report the game score and which team(s) received yellow or red cards and how many.

**4.10** Any coach, manager or official found guilty by a WYS, district or member association board of directors or a WYS disciplinary or ethics committee of knowingly using an ineligible player(s) (over- age, improperly registered, or under disciplinary suspension) will be suspended from participation in all WYS activities not to exceed the current and subsequent seasonal year.

### **RULE V Officiating**

**5.1** For SYSA league and tournament play at age levels U-10 through U-14, it shall be the responsibility of the home team's club to provide a qualified referee to officiate the match.

**5.2** The failure of an assigned referee to appear shall not be the cause for canceling the match. Upon the agreement of both coaches, a substitute official may be chosen whose decisions shall be final.

**5.3** Any referee appointed to officiate at a game shall do so with the authority specified under FIFA Law V, subject to such local amendments as specified by USSF, WSYSA, and SYSA.

**5.4** Referees who are also coaches, team managers, members of the immediate family or directly connected with players of record shall not be assigned to games of that team.

**5.5** No referee who is less than three (3) years older than the players shall be assigned to a match.

**5.6** Additional rules governing game officials:

**5.6.1** U-15 through U-19 SYSA league games and city tournament final and semi-final games must have a qualified neutral referee and two neutral linesmen assigned by SYSA.

**5.6.2** Should the assigned referee fail to appear, the more senior of the linesmen may serve as referee for the game. Should neither linesman wish to serve as referee, the game may either be rescheduled, or upon the agreement of both coaches, a substitute referee may be chosen whose decisions shall be final.

**5.6.3** Should a neutral linesman fail to appear, a substitute may be appointed by the referee.

**5.6.4** In all instances where there is only one neutral linesman, the referee will run the same diagonal for the entire game, while the neutral linesman will remain in the same half of the same side of the field for both halves of the game.

**5.6.5** A club linesman may be appointed for the other side, and such club linesman may only serve to bring the referee's attention to the ball being in or out of touch and the person last touching the ball.

### **RULE VI Substitutions**

**6.1** Substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee at any stoppage of play.

**6.2** Incoming players may not enter the field of play until outgoing players are off the field.

### **RULE VII Charging the Goalkeeper**

**7.1** The following Rules apply to all competitions under the jurisdiction of the SYSA:

## SYSA Rules of Competition (cont.)

- 7.1.1** In all Under 10 age groups and younger: No player shall make physical contact with the goalkeeper, or attempt to play ball once the goalkeeper has control of the ball in any manner and to any degree whatsoever.
- 7.1.2** In all Under 11 age groups and older: No player shall harass the goalkeeper, or attempt to play the ball once the goalkeeper has control of the ball in any manner and to any degree whatsoever. For infringement of this special Rule, an indirect kick shall be awarded.
- 7.1.3** Included in the definition of "having control of the ball" is the situation in which the goalkeeper holds the ball on the ground with one or both hands.

### **RULE VIII Appeals & Protests**

**8.1** Any person sent off (red carded) by a referee before, during or following a match shall be subject to an automatic suspension from the next league or tournament game unless such matter is appealed within forty-eight (48) hours to the Disciplinary Committee. The appeal must be endorsed by the club disciplinary representative or club president. The matter is subject to additional action by the Disciplinary Committee.

**8.2** Protests of any referee's actions or other game related incidents must be given verbally by the protesting coach to the referee and the opposing coach after the game, and before leaving the field.

**8.2.1** A written protest must be submitted to the Disciplinary Chair, SYSA Executive Director or the club's disciplinary committee member, and postmarked within seventy-two (72) hours of the incident. The SYSA COMPETITION RULES - protest must be signed by the coach, and specify the date of the game, the field, the names of the teams involved, and their clubs, sex, and age group, the name of the referee (if known), and a description of the protested incident. The protest must be endorsed by the club disciplinary representative or club president.

**8.2.2** Protests shall be accompanied by a \$50 filing fee.

**8.2.3** Protests involving matters within a referee's discretion will not be heard or reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee.

**8.3** The Disciplinary Committee may issue orders of discipline, as it in its discretion deems appropriate. Discipline imposed may include warnings, suspension, or permanent expulsion from the activities of the corporation. Suspensions shall be in accordance with Washington Youth Soccer Disciplinary Rule 605.

**8.3.1** Any person sent off (red carded) by a referee before, during, or following a match shall leave the field of play to the satisfaction of the referee, and not return.

**8.3.2** Any person who is cautioned (yellow carded) by a referee three times in any season shall be suspended for the next league or tournament game. Any additional yellow card received in that season will each result in an additional game suspension.

**8.3.3** The disciplinary committee may in its discretion use a point system assigning 3 points for a red card, and one point for a yellow card as an advisory system in establishing disciplinary action for players and/or teams. Players accumulating more than six points during a season can be subject to special sanctions including special reporting requirements, and/or expulsion.

### **RULE IX Season**

**9.1** The season length for U-12 through U-19 teams shall be 10 games maximum, completed by Thanksgiving.

**9.2** Any postponed regularly scheduled game must be replayed not later than seven (7) calendar days after completion of the league season, subject to field availability.

**9.3** The SYSA Scheduler will determine the rescheduled date. Failure to comply will result in a recorded loss for the non-participating team.

## **SYSA Rules of Competition (cont.)**

**9.4** League game cancellations caused by field closures by field providers Seattle and Shoreline Parks and School, because of bad weather such as extended periods of rain, or other events beyond the control of SYSA, occasionally occur. SYSA will make every effort to reschedule these games, but there is no guarantee that they can be rescheduled. In such cases, adjustments to the league standings as appropriate will be made. Registration fee refunds will not be made, since games are only a small portion of the entire SYSA practice and training program that runs from August through November.

### **RULE X - Score Reporting Duties**

**10.1** The scorekeeper shall record all scores each week and award three points to the winning team and one point to each team in a tied match, 0 points for a loss. In a forfeit the games shall be treated as a 1-0 win for the non-forfeiting team.

**10.2** The scorekeeper will ascertain conditions concerning a game which has not been played for no-show, light failure, field condition, etc. and report to the Scheduling Chair within 48 hours. (The failure of a team to appear may indicate a dropped team and should be reported as soon as possible to allow for schedule revision.)

**10.3** The scorekeeper shall record cautions (yellow cards), send-offs (red cards) and abandoned games and shall report these to the Disciplinary chair within 72 hours of the game.

**10.4** The Scorekeeper shall prepare standings for each age and gender division U-11 and older. Such standings will be used in promoting and relegating teams between divisions in the next year. In the event of teams playing an uneven number of scheduled games all such teams within three (3) points of first place will be declared co-champions. Ties in the standings will stand, and no playoff games will be scheduled.

### **RULE XI Special Rules for U-12 and Younger Competition**

**11.1** USYouth and WYS small-sided rules shall apply to all competition involving U-12 and younger players.

**11.2** A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than the permitted minimum number of players. (See rules table)

### **RULE XII SYSA City Tournament**

**12.1** After the conclusion of each regular season, SYSA will sponsor an Association tournament in each age division U-11 or higher for both boys and girls. Any team competing in the regular SYSA season may enter regardless of ability level. The winners of the tournament will be the City Champions for boys and girls in each age division.

**12.2** The Tournament Director shall be appointed by the SYSA VP of Competition each year, with the approval of the SYSA Executive Director.

**12.3** No players may be added or dropped from team rosters for purposes of the City Tournament after October 31 of the seasonal year.

**12.4** All Rules and By-Laws of SYSA normal league play shall be enforced unless specifically modified by this Rule 12.

**12.5** Players must be registered with SYSA by October 31 of the current seasonal year to participate in the Tournament. Only teams playing in an SYSA league during the current league season shall be allowed to enter SYSA tournaments, and teams must enter the age group that they competed in during that seasonal year's league play. In

## SYSA Rules of Competition (cont.)

the special case of teams that play in a combined age group during league play, teams may play at their age of registration during the Tournament, provided ALL players on the Tournament roster meet the age requirements.

**12.6** Any alleged violation of Rules 12.1-12.5 regarding player eligibility during the SYSA tournament need not be protested. Only a letter of inquiry to the Disciplinary Chair of SYSA, within 48 hours of the questioned game, Sundays and holidays included, is required. After investigation, if the violation exists, the game shall be forfeited and the team concerned shall be disqualified from any further play in the tournament.

**12.7** There must be a minimum of three teams entered for tournament competition at any age level.

**12.8** Any team forfeiting a game without valid reason as determined by the VP of Competition will be dropped from the tournament. A forfeit due to a conflict with a WSYSA Cup match will be considered a valid reason and the forfeited game treated as a tournament loss.

**12.9** All tournament competition shall be double elimination except for the final game. Bracket positions for each team shall be determined by random draw. The drawing shall be conducted by the Tournament Director and the VP of Competition with assistance from the Scheduler as needed.

**12.10** Boys' and girls' tournaments shall be concurrent and shall begin the week after Thanksgiving, and be scheduled to be completed before Christmas subject to rescheduling for inclement weather.

**12.11** If a tournament game is tied at the end of regular play, the FIFA recommendation of taking kicks from the mark (as published in the FIFA "Laws of the Game") will be applied to determine a winner.

**12.12** SYSA will provide individual patches for the players on the City Championship and City Runner-up teams and a Perpetual Trophy to the Championship team. The team receiving the perpetual trophy shall have the responsibility of engraving, and will be responsible for the cost and execution of the same. The coach/club will be responsible for the maintenance and return of the trophy by the following November 1st to the VP of Competition or designee.

### RULE XIII Equipment and Play

**13.1** The following specifications are recommended for all competitions.

AGE	Length of Halves	Ball Size
U19	45mins	5
U18	45mins	5
U17	45mins	5
U16	40mins	5
U15	40mins	5
U14	35mins	5
U13	35mins	5
U12	30mins	4
U11	30mins	4
U10	25mins	4



## SYSA Rules of Competition (cont.)

### SYSA POLICY ON MAXIMUM ROSTER SIZES

It is the direction of the SYSA Board of Commissioners that:

- Established maximum roster sizes are to the benefit of the players, to ensure each is able to receive adequate playing time.
- For U9 and under leagues administered by the clubs, prevailing practices and final decisions on roster sizes rest with the clubs.
- For U10 and older leagues administered by SYSA, it is recognized that in individual circumstances, variances to allow larger- than-maximum roster sizes may be the best and, in some cases, the only option. Therefore, variances may be granted under the following conditions:
  - A good-faith effort has been made by the club registrar to place the player on an appropriately sized team either within the club, or in a neighboring club in SYSA, to the satisfaction of player and parents.
  - The coach of the team consents to carrying a larger roster.
  - It can be shown that in light of the situation, that the variance is the best option among the alternatives.
  - Recreational soccer principles (no coach selection or placement based on playing ability) are not being violated.
- For teams participating at the recreational level outside of SYSA (such as WYS Recreational Cup or recreational tournaments), coaches are advised that SYSA rules and policies do not override those of other competitions

### Seattle Youth Soccer Association Official U10-19 Citywide Rules of Play & U5-9 Developmental Recommendations

FIFA Laws Category	Key:	Best Practices for Club In-House Leagues					Official SYSA Citywide Rules			
	Age Group	U-5	U-6	U-7	U-8	U-9	U-10	U-11	U-12	U-13-19
	Players on Field	3 v 3	4 v 4	4 v 4	5 v 5	7 v 7	7 v 7	9 v 9	9 v 9	11 v 11
Field of Play	Field Size (yards)	20-35 L 15-25	25-35 L	25-35 L 15-25	35-45 L 25-35 W	55-65 L 35-45	55-65 L 35-45	70-80 L	70-80 L 45-55	100-115 L 70-80 W
Field of Play	Maximum Goal Size	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 6	6 x 8	6 x 18	6 x 18	6 x 18	6 x 18	8 x 24
Field of Play	Build-Out Line	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
The Ball	Ball Size	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	5
Players	Roster Size (max)	6	8	8	9	12	12	14	14	18-22
Players	Min. # Players	2	3	3	4	5	5	6	6	7
Players	Goalkeeper	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Players	GK Punt	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
The Duration of the Match	Game Time (# periods)	2 x 16	2 x 18	2 x 20	2 x 20	2 x 25	2 x 25	2 x 30	2 x 30	2x35-45

<b>The Start &amp; Restart of Play</b>	<b>Score Directly</b>	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Offside Called</b>	<b>Offsides Called</b>	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Fouls and Misconduct</b>	<b>Heading</b>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
<b>Fouls and Misconduct</b>	<b>Sendoffs &amp;</b>	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Fouls and Misconduct</b>	<b>Slide Tackling</b>	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Free Kicks</b>	<b>Direct Kicks</b>	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>The Penalty Kick</b>	<b>Penalty Kicks</b>	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>The Throw-in</b>	<b>Re-try Throw-ins</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
<b>The Goal Kick</b>	<b>Score Directly</b>	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>The Corner Kick</b>	<b>Re-try Corner</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
<b>Game Management*</b>	<b>Referees Provided</b>	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Players Equipment</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<p>All items of jewelry (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted.</p> <p>The compulsory minimum equipment for a player comprises the following items:  •a shirt with sleeves •shorts •socks •shin guards (covered by the socks)</p>								
<b>SYSA Adapted</b>	<b>Scores Recorded &amp;</b>	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y

**SYSA Adapted** For the purpose of competition. the ball is in play from the GK as soon as they play the ball.

**SYSA Adapted** SYSA tries to follow recommended sizes, but recognizes that equipment and field constraints need to be considered.

**SYSA Adapted** 3-Goal or Lop-sided game Policy- The team that is behind by 3 goals can add a player to help find competitive balance. If the team is 6 goals behind they must add a 2<sup>nd</sup> additional player. When 9 goals behind the coaches are to discuss mixing up the teams and scrimmage until the

**SYSA Adapted** All Spring Soccer games run 50 minutes (2x25), with 5 min halftimes, and end 5 minutes before the hour.

**SYSA Adapted** Field Sizes are USSF recommended dimensions. Adjustments to fit physical constraints or permanent markings is acceptable.

## Further Breakdown of Important Rules

### **Game Management\* - Officiating**

Spring Soccer relies on the coaches of the participating teams to referee the games. The recommendation is that each coach should referee one-half of the game. If a parent or sibling with referee certification, experience and proper background checks completed volunteers to referee, and each coach agrees to that solution, then that is also an acceptable way to have the game refereed. Keep in mind that these games are meant to be recreational and fun. Judgement calls by a referee are not crucial to the spirit of Spring Soccer games. Keeping the kids safe and having fun is more important than determining which team touched the ball last before going out

### **Uniforms & Equipment**

Just as in fall soccer, all players must be safely attired with shin guards covered by socks. Jersey numbers are recommended but not required, though teams should have jerseys that match and are significantly different from the opposing team. Under no circumstances may jewelry of any sort be worn in SYSA competitions. Jewelry includes, but is not limited to, watches, rings, bracelets, chains, necklaces, earrings (including posts), hair barrettes, and other similar objects.

### **The Build Out Line for U8 through U11 Teams**

The U8 through U11 age groups will use the Build Out Line (BOL) rules. The BOL is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in an un-pressured setting to learn how to "build out" the attack. When the goalkeeper possesses the ball, either from the run of play or from the ball going out the back line (when last touched by the attacking team), the opposing team should move behind the BOL. Once the opposing team is behind the BOL, the goalkeeper can pass or throw/roll the ball to a team mate. After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the BOL and play resumes as normal. At U8 through U11, there are no goal kicks, and goalkeepers are not allowed to punt the ball. They can either throw, roll, or place the ball on the ground and pass it to a teammate. For simplicity, the mid field line is used as the BOL in Spring Soccer games.

### **Rescheduling or Missing Games**

Teams should do all they can to ensure that their team will be available to play their games. It is extremely difficult to reschedule games. When a team knows they will not be able to attend a game, they MUST CONTACT the opposing coach, and the SYSA game scheduler. Contact the SYSA game scheduler at [jessica@sysa.org](mailto:jessica@sysa.org) well ahead of any game the coach knows will be missed. Contact information for each team can be found by clicking that team's name in the schedule. It is always preferable to play the game at the scheduled time than attempting a reschedule. In Spring Soccer, Players can often be shared between teams if one team needs more players. This is not the case during the Fall. Contacting the opposing coach before the game can often help in working out a plan to share players so that the game can be played. In addition, players can also be borrowed from another Spring Soccer team (as long as they are appropriately registered in SYSA for the Spring Soccer season).

### **Lopsided Games**

SYSA makes every effort to have balanced leagues, with competition that is comparable. If a game becomes unbalanced and the score lopsided, we strongly encourage both coaches to work out a solution to make the game enjoyable and fun for the players.

## Regulation I - Player Eligibility

- 1.1** Players who on July 31 of the current seasonal year are under 19 years of age shall be eligible to play.
- 1.2** All Players must be registered with SYSA and WSYSYSA in accordance with Regulation 3 to be eligible to play in SYSA competition
- 1.3** Players are required to play in a division of their own age group. They will not be allowed to play in a division of players younger than themselves. They may play in a division of players older than themselves with the approval of their club. Use of an overage player shall result in forfeiture of all games in which that player participated.
- 1.3.1** In the event a player has a medical or developmental reason to play on a team in a division of younger players, such player may make an application for an exception to this Rule. Such application must be made to the Medical Play-Down Committee as established by the SYSA Board of Commissioners, and the determination of the committee may be appealable to the Board of Commissioners. Such application shall be made using forms provided by SYSA, and accompanied by statements from a medical provider that meet the guidelines and standards provided on those forms. Such exception will be granted only for good cause. The application must be submitted to the committee at least 14 days prior to the first league game in which the player participates, and will be granted for the SYSA seasonal year.
- 1.3.2** The Medical Play-Down Committee shall consist of the SYSA Executive Director, the Vice President of Operations, and the SYSA Registrar.
- 1.4** Players are required to play in a division of players of their own gender, except for special circumstances as described in this rule.
- 1.4.1** If a player identifies with a gender other than their gender at birth, the player may register and play with a gender team with which the player identifies, subject to supplying documentation as specified by currently prevailing USSF policy.
- 1.4.2** In the event a player wishes to play on a team predominately of the other gender for reasons other than those specified in the preceding paragraph, an application for an exception to this Rule must be made to the SYSA Board of Commissioners. Such exception will be granted only in the event same-gender playing opportunities are not otherwise available to the player. The application must be made each season and will be granted for that SYSA league and tournament season only.
- 1.5** In order to be registered each player and their parent or guardian must sign a Code of Conduct form in the form attached to these regulations. All such forms shall be retained by the player's club.
- 1.6** Select players can join and play on existing Recreational teams. SYSA considers the definition of select players to include not only those who play on SYSA Seattle United Regional teams, but also on US Club Soccer teams as well, including Seattle Celtic, Emerald City and ANY club program that uses selection for forming the teams. All responsibility will fall on the coaches to confirm any and all select players on their roster and report them to their clubs and/or SYSA's registrars prior to the start of the season. (Refer to Rules of Competition - Rule 3.4.9)

## Regulation II Coach Eligibility

- 2.1** No person shall be eligible to coach any SYSA team until that individual has received RMA clearance after submitting the Washington Youth Soccer Risk Management application (pursuant to Child & Adult Abuse Information Act).
- 2.2** Assistant coaches, team managers, club referees, etc. must receive RMA clearance prior to participating in any SYSA activity.
- 2.3** Each Coach and Assistant coach must sign a Coach's Conduct Agreement in the form attached hereto. All such forms shall be retained by the coach's club.
- 2.4** SYSA recommends that all coaches coaching an eleven-a-side team hold an E coaching license or higher.



### **Regulation III Team/Player Registration**

**3.1** All clubs affiliated with SYSA must register every soccer player, every team, and all team officials (coaches and managers) that are sponsored, financed, coached or administered by the club, whether they be male or female.

**3.2** Each year the VP of Operations will make available to each club registrar, a WSYSA Registration Guidebook which provides procedures and information necessary for proper registration of players and teams.

**3.3** Team Registration - All teams shall be registered on the appropriate form(s) as designated by the VP of Operations.

**3.3.1** SYSA categories of team registration are:

**3.3.1.1** Small sided U-5 to U-9 teams that participate in special in-house clinics/programs, i.e., 3 to 8 a side.

**3.3.1.2** U-10 teams that play under WSYSA small-sided rules, including revisions as enacted by SYSA.

**3.3.1.3** U-11 and U12 teams that play under WSYSA small-sided rules, including revisions as enacted by SYSA.

**3.3.1.4** Regular 11 per side teams including Association, District, and state league teams.

**3.3.2** Each team registering in the U-10 or higher age groups must include with their registration materials, the name, address, phone number and age of a certified referee who will be the designated referee for that team to be added to the referee pool available to referee SYSA league games. Failure to provide the name of a referee will result in the referee assignor not giving such team priority in referee assignments.

**3.3.3** A team's age-level is determined by the age of its oldest player as of July 31 of the current seasonal year.

**3.3.4** For Association league and City Tournament play, teams at age groups U-10 may register no more than 10 players; for age groups U-11 and U-12, no more than 14 players; for age groups U- 13 through U-15, no more than eighteen (18) players; and for age groups U-16 through U-19, no more than twenty-two (22) players.

**3.3.4.1** Exceptions to this rule may be granted with the approval of two of the following: SYSA Registrar, SYSA VP of Operations, or SYSA VP of Competition; and shall be valid only for the current seasonal year.

**3.3.4.2** Teams participating in District or state leagues, or recreational competitions outside of SYSA, shall be bound by limits in force for those leagues and competitions.

**3.3.5** Teams submitted for association play must have on their roster at least the number of field players specified by the applicable rules of competition for their age group.

**3.3.6** A team shall be limited to a total of three (3) transferred players per seasonal year.

**3.3.7** No member club shall field a team selected by tryouts or other ability based selection process for competition in any SYSA league or SYSA tournament competition.

**3.3.8** No team may be registered which use the initials "FC" or the words "club", "Seattle" or "Shoreline" in their name with the exception of Seattle United FC. "FC Shoreline" may be used in their name by FC Shoreline teams until the completion of the 2013-14 season. Nor may any team be registered with any name that could create confusion as to the team's affiliation or could be confused with a specific school, neighborhood, or individual other than the club within SYSA with which the team is affiliated. For example: "McGilvra U-9 Eagles" is acceptable, but "McGilvra U-9, Madrona Eagles" is not even though all the players are from Madrona School, or the Madrona neighborhood. Names chosen in violation of this rule may be reviewed by the VP Operations who shall work with the team to choose a qualifying name.

**3.3.9** Teams WILL NOT be accepted for registration under the following conditions:

**3.3.9.1** When registration format other than those designated by SYSA are used.

**3.3.9.2** When a team attempts to register after WYS and SYSA published deadlines.

**3.3.9.3** When a team includes an overage player.

## SYSA Administrative Regulations (cont.)

**3.3.10** The VP of Operations will return to the club registrar any registration forms that fall within any of the three conditions above, with instructions that the team(s) will not be accepted for registration with SYSA until the improper condition has been rectified.

**3.3.11** The VP of Operations shall inform the Judicial Board and an official of the non-complying team's club of any registration violations.

**3.3.12** In consultation with the SYSA scheduler, each year the VP Operations will set team formation deadlines for fall soccer recreational leagues for each age group and communicate said deadlines to club registrars. Teams submitted by clubs for fall league play must meet all team registration requirements set forth in Regulation III, including roster size, by the deadline date. Exceptions for the good of the game may be granted by the VP Operations in consultation with the club requesting the exception. Teams meeting the requirements or granted an exception on the deadline date will be submitted to the scheduler for inclusion in fall league play. Any teams dropping after the deadline, including those granted a deadline exception, will incur a fine of \$200 payable by the club to the Association to cover the costs, such as the scheduler's time spent reworking the schedules, communicating to the teams, revising the field bookings and reflecting the changes on the referees' site.

**3.4 Player Registration** - All players must be registered on appropriate forms approved by the VP of Operations including a Medical Release and Waiver Form in substantially the form attached hereto. Each player must register with a specific team.

**3.4.1** Players are encouraged to register within the geographic area of the club where they reside.

**3.4.2** No coach, parent, or club administrator shall institute contact with any player registered on an existing SYSA league team for the purpose of recruiting them to play on a team for such person's club for Association play.

**3.4.3** Development Team players will be registered with Seattle United FC without regard to their area of residence.

**3.4.4** Every player shall be called upon to prove his/her legal age by his/her club registrar or the SYSA VP of Operations.

**3.4.5** Proof of age shall consist of:

- (i) a birth certificate
- (ii) a birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency
- (iii) board of health records
- (iv) passport or alien registration card issued by the US Government, or
- (v) certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, or
- (vi) a certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by an appropriate government agency.

**3.4.6** Upon completion of verified registration, any original birth certificate or other proof of age document shall be returned to the player's parents. Copies of any such documents shall not be retained by the registrar and shall be destroyed.

**3.4.7** All players registered on a team are bound to that team for the seasonal year unless properly transferred. No player may play in any scheduled SYSA game except with the team on which he/she is registered.

**3.4.8** No player may be registered on more than one team at any given time within SYSA or WYS jurisdictions, except as provided under the Dual-Rostering Rule.

**3.4.9 Dual Rostering Rule** -a U9 or younger player who participates in a junior academy program of the SYSA select and premier club may be dual-registered and rostered to a recreational team and club, and participate in an in-house league or in association league play.

Players registered and rostered to an SYSA select team or any other select club at U10 and above may, at the same time, be also registered, rostered and participate with an SYSA recreational team in association league play under the following conditions:

- a)** The player participates with one and only one recreational team, in addition to the select team.
- b)** For purposes of this rule, a select player is defined as a player on a team participating in the lower tier of select soccer, specifically, teams that participate with Seattle Regional Select teams, Seattle Celtic, ECFC, BVB. Players

participating with Premier level teams in other leagues are not eligible for dual-rostering. No Team may roster a Seattle United Premier or ECNL level player.

**c)** All dual-rostering must be approved by both the recreational club registrar and the SYSA registrar. The SYSA club along with the registrar and Executive director will consult to verify the player's participation is appropriate for recreational play.

**d)** A recreational team may have NO MORE THAN THREE select players total.

**e)** This rule applies to ALL select players registered both inside the association or other entities; and is the responsibility of the teams coach to confirm.

**f)** The select player must be rostered to the recreational team by September 30 of the current seasonal year and will be eligible to participate in both league play and the City Tournament. (No select players may be added to a recreational team after this date)

**g)** The SYSA registrar will maintain a list of SYSA select players participating under the Dual- Rostering Rule including the rostered teams.

**h)** If a team is found to have either too many select players or players that are ineligible, the coach will accept responsibility and be given until the next game to bring the roster into compliance by removing players. If the coach does not do this within the permitted time or if found to have egregiously broken the rule in either league or cup play, the team will be removed with no refund.

### **Disciplinary Action for breach of the Select Player Rule**

#### During League Play

Step 1 - period of time remain before teams next game to bring the team into compliance.

Step 2 - forfeiture of all of the teams previous games if the team is not in compliance by next game.

Step 3 - removed from the schedule for the league for remainder of the season.

Step 4 - Second time a team is not in compliance during a league season the teams coaches will be banned from participation in SYSA programming for 1 year from the date of the incident.

#### During City Tournament

Step 1 - Team is immediately disqualified for fielding an ineligible roster and thus eliminated from the tournament.

Step 2 - Second time a team is not in compliance during the City Tournament the teams coaches will be disqualified and and banned from entering the tournament for 1 year from the date of the incident.

### **Regulation IV Player Transfer and Release**

**4.1** A transfer is defined as the movement of a registered player from one team to another team within the seasonal year. WSYSA annually sets the dates by which a transfer must be completed

**4.2** Transfer of a player between teams shall be administered by the club of the new team on the proper WSYSA transfer form.

**4.3** No player may be released or dropped from a team's current roster without completing an approved form as per WSYSA and SYSA procedures.

### **Regulation V Scheduling**

**5.1** The Scheduler shall be appointed by the President each year and that appointment will be subject to Commission confirmation.

**5.2** The Scheduling Committee shall consist of the Scheduler and one representative from each club.

**5.3** The Scheduler will schedule each SYSA division, ensuring that each team in a division has an equal number of games.

**5.4** Teams at U10 may elect to be placed in a gold division. Teams at U11 through U19 shall be placed in divisions dependent on the number of available teams at each level. Divisions shall be designated:

**Bronze Division** - Good teams or new teams

**Silver Division** - Better teams

**Gold Division** - Best teams

**5.5** At ages where standings are kept, promotion and relegation within the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Divisions will be based on a team's finish in the standings the previous season. Only severe problems such as break-up of a team will be an excuse to refuse promotion. Any such claim will be subject to SYSA verification, and review.

**5.6** Recreational teams may not recruit players from across club or association boundaries.

### Regulation VI Team Travel

**6.1** Any play outside the geographic boundaries of Washington State must be approved by WSYSA

**6.2** In order for insurance to be effective, the activity must be sanctioned and permission granted by WSYSA.

### Regulation VII Select & Premier Teams – Seattle United FC.

**7.1** Subject to the terms and provisions of Section 7.2, beginning in the Spring of 2010, Seattle United FC shall be the exclusive administrator, sponsor, and provider of select and premier teams and Development programs for SYSA. The SYSA Board of Commissioners shall have the right to review and approve any proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation or By-Laws of Seattle United FC.

**7.2** Transition – Member clubs may continue to sponsor such teams so long as they continue to compete as SYSA registered teams with Washington State Youth Soccer sponsored leagues. The transition shall be managed pursuant to the transition guidelines of the Seattle United FC operating plan adopted by SYSA.

**7.3** Open Tryouts -- In order to establish uniform guidelines for tryouts that better protect competitive-level players and their teams, the following rules apply:

- 7.2.1** Tryouts for Seattle United FC teams shall begin within one week of the earliest date permitted by Washington Youth Soccer
- 7.2.2** The dates and times of Seattle United FC tryouts will be established and published as soon as possible following the establishment of permissible tryout dates by Washington State Youth Soccer
- 7.3.3** Misrepresentation - No coach may misrepresent him/herself or the team holding tryouts, including but not limited to misrepresenting coaching qualifications/credential, level of play, intended competition league or club affiliation. Teams can not use the word "Seattle" in their name unless they are sponsored by Seattle United FC. No team may be attributed any titles or championships unless actually attained, i.e. only State Championship Cup teams may call themselves State Champions, only City Champions may call themselves as such, etc.
- 7.3.4** Players are not to be influenced or coerced by team coaches or other team representatives with misrepresentations or rumors regarding other teams.
- 7.3.5** Players are not to be coerced or threatened by an adult in any way connected to youth soccer. Any adult who uses his/her office or authority in youth soccer or professional position to try to force a player onto another team which he/she does not want to play for violates this rule.
- 7.3.6** No players may be called by a coach and recruited without the permission of the player and/or the parent(s). No coach may make personal phone calls to players trying out for his/her team (or eligible to try out) between 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.
- 7.3.7** Any violations of these rules will result in the minimum penalty of 6 months suspension of the coach and a maximum penalty of 1 year suspension and dissolution of the violating team.
- 7.3.8** No SYSA team may hold open tryouts for any age or gender until after Seattle United FC complete their published tryouts for the same age and gender.

**7.4** Select and Premier Teams - The following are minimum standards a team must meet in order to be approved to hold tryouts and compete at a district, inter-district, statewide league or higher level.

- 7.4.1** Application must be submitted to and approved by SYSA, and the club.
- 7.4.7** All select or premier teams within SYSA formed after 1/1/06
- 7.4.2** There must be a designated team manager.
- 7.4.3** The coach of any select or premier team must have a USSF E or equivalent higher license by the start of league play and must attain an appropriate level of license within 2 years.
- 7.4.4** All select teams should make available a minimum of one but not limited to one scholarship or the equivalent using federal or state free and reduced lunch income must be a part of a club that has 501©(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service, or is in the process of each year establishing, 501c3 nonprofit status. guidelines to determine qualification.
- 7.4.5** A financial report, updated quarterly, must be available for review upon request by SYSA, the registering club or the team parents.



- 7.4.6** Each team must have a designated team treasurer who is responsible for the team's fiscal matters and who is not the coach or trainer.
- 7.4.8** SYSA expects all member clubs to follow IRS regulations including the appropriate use of Form 1099-Misc for payments to coaches/trainers.

**7.5** SYSA requires that the parent or guardian of every select or premier player registered with SYSA sign the following statement:

*"I understand that while the \_\_\_\_\_ (team name) has been organized under the jurisdiction of the Seattle Youth Soccer Association (SYSA) and its member clubs neither SYSA nor its member clubs monitor the collection and disbursement of team money and therefore can not be held responsible for the oversight of such funds. I understand that it is my individual responsibility as a parent to make sure the coach, treasurer or other parent charged with managing the team's funds does so in a fiscally responsible manner."*

**7.5.1** *To assure that parents have the information required to monitor a team's fiscal management, the SYSA strongly recommends that each select team prepare a budget for parent approval at the beginning of and a budget report at the end of the year showing how funds have actually been spent. It is recommended that these reports be submitted to the local club for record keeping.*

### **Regulation VIII Discipline**

**8.1** As set forth in the By-Laws the judicial committee shall have authority to hear all disciplinary matters.

**8.1.1** The Disciplinary Committee may establish its own rules to be followed in hearing any matter before the Committee so long as such rules are not in conflict with the SYSA By-Laws, and so long as such rules allow a fair hearing of the matter presented.

**8.2** Any person or associated club who fails or refuses to follow the Articles of Incorporation, By-laws or Rules and Regulations of the SYSA, or who attempt to circumvent a decision rendered by the SYSA or which seriously damages the interest of the SYSA or the good of youth soccer, may be censured, expended, or expelled from further participation in SYSA at a special Judicial Board meeting called for this purpose.

**8.2.1** A fifteen (15) day notice of such meeting shall be sent to the party involved. A motion for expulsion shall require an affirmative vote equal to 75% of the full membership of the Judicial Board and must be confirmed by a 2/3 majority of the Board of Commissioners.

**8.3** A Code of Conduct is attached to these rules which sets forth the minimum standards of conduct expected by the players, coaches, parents, and administrators of SYSA.

### **Regulation IX Meetings**

**9.1** Meetings of the Board of Commissioners of SYSA, and of its individual committees shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order. The Order of Business shall be:

- a. Roll call
- b. Approval of Minutes
- c. Officers' reports
- d. Unfinished business
- e. New business
- f. General
- g. Adjournment

**9.2** No meeting may be convened without a quorum.

**9.2.1** A quorum shall consists of 60% of the registered voting members of the Board of Commissioners. **9.3** There will be twelve regular scheduled meetings each year, normally occurring on the first Monday of each month.

**Regulation X. Referee Committee**

The SSRA Committee Liaison shall oversee the recruitment, training and assignment of referees for SYSA games and the chair of this Committee shall serve as SYSA representative to the Seattle Chapter of the Washington Referees Association and shall work in conjunction with such Association to facilitate referee coverage by qualified referees at all SYSA games.