



# SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER



## RULES

### A. AUTHORITY AND PRIORITY OF RULES

1. The South Carolina Youth Soccer Association (SC Youth Soccer) is a State Association member of the United States Youth Soccer Association (US Youth Soccer) and of the United States Soccer Federation, Inc. (Federation). The Federation is the national association member of the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) for the United States, having been a member of FIFA since 1913. The Federation is recognized as the national governing body for the sport of soccer in the United States by the United States Olympic Committee as provided for by the Amateur Sports Act.
2. The Constitution, Rules, Policies and Procedures of the Federation have evolved over a period of time to govern the game of soccer and protect the interests of all participants, players, officials, administrators, clubs, leagues, national state associations and the Federation. Therefore, they must be accepted and observed by all members of the Federation until changed in accordance with the procedures provided.
3. These rules and other procedures and policies relating to them for the registration of affiliated organizations, their officers, coaches and players are adhered to by the South Carolina Youth Soccer Board of Directors and are to be used in conjunction with the Rules and Bylaws of the South Carolina Youth Soccer Association. The priority of the interpretation of rules is (1) South Carolina Youth Soccer, (2) US Youth Soccer/USSF, and (3) FIFA.

### B. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS (Structure and South Carolina Youth Soccer membership requirements)

1. **AN AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION** is a club or league that is properly registered with and recognized by the South Carolina Youth Soccer and which pays dues to, and receives benefits or services from, the South Carolina Youth Soccer.
  - a. A **CLUB** is an organization operating within a specified community or other defined geographical area that is a member of South Carolina Youth Soccer and that has an identifiable membership of at least one hundred (100) youth soccer players. This organization is in place to carry out South Carolina Youth Soccer's programs for youth players. Groups seeking membership in South Carolina Youth Soccer and fulfilling all other requirements for same but having fewer than one hundred (100) youth players may be granted annual provisional affiliation status for a seasonal year by a majority vote of the Board of Directors but will not be eligible to vote at any annual general meeting until such time as its membership equals at least one hundred (100) players. Each club is assigned by South Carolina Youth Soccer a permanent club number, which is a three (3)-digit control number.
  - b. A **LEAGUE** is a structured organization consisting of four (4) or more teams joined for the purpose of play under a common set of administrative and competition rules. Each league is assigned by South Carolina Youth Soccer a permanent league number, which is a three (3)-digit control number.
2. A **DISTRICT** is a structured organization operating within a defined geographical area and is represented on the South Carolina Youth Soccer Board of Directors by the District Commissioner, who is elected by the affiliated organizations within the district and given the authority to enforce the rules and bylaws of the South Carolina Youth Soccer within its geographical area. South Carolina Youth Soccer currently has three (3) districts.

3. Any youth soccer group within the State of South Carolina may apply for **AFFILIATION** in the South Carolina Youth Soccer by applying in writing to the Board of Directors through the District Commissioner and by submitting for approval of the South Carolina Youth Soccer Board of Directors properly executed Bylaws and Operating Rules by June 1st prior to the seasonal year in question and a properly filled out and executed South Carolina Youth Soccer Affiliated Organization Registration Form by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

4. **TO REMAIN IN GOOD STANDING WITH SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER**, all affiliated organizations are required to:

- a. abide by the South Carolina Youth Soccer, US Youth Soccer/USSF and FIFA rules;
- b. submit to South Carolina Youth Soccer by June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year a properly filled out and signed South Carolina Youth Soccer Affiliated Organization Form listing all board members and at large members, maintaining this information and providing South Carolina Youth Soccer with updated information as changes occur. An initial application shall also have with it a copy of the organization's Bylaws and Operating Rules, which are to be resubmitted with renewals only if any changes occur or if an organization exists under probationary membership status;
- c. be current with all fees and amounts due to the South Carolina Youth Soccer, the Board of which shall set membership dues and other fees prior to each seasonal year; and
- d. in addition, all affiliated clubs are required to have a Registrar, certified by the South Carolina Youth Soccer, who performs the following:
  - i. registers via a computer program with the South Carolina Youth Soccer and US Youth Soccer (through South Carolina Youth Soccer) every individual player, coach, team and administrator who participates in any South Carolina Youth Soccer program;
  - ii. verifies player information and is able to provide copies of birth certificates for all players;
  - iii. properly fills out, maintains copies of, and submits two (2) copies of all required player and coach registration forms and required fee sheets to South Carolina Youth Soccer via the State Registrar/designee or SC Youth Soccer Administrative Assistant before any deadline or before the player's first game of the season, whichever comes first; and
  - iv. Advises the clubs that player passes must be signed on the back by the player, that the signed name must match the name printed on the front of the pass (which **must be** the first and last name as shown on the player's birth certificate), that a current photograph without a hat or headband must be attached, and that the pass must be laminated. Initials and nicknames are not acceptable. All coach passes must also be signed and have a picture attached prior to lamination. Any pass not satisfying these requirements is invalid.

5. **ANY MEMBER OF SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER** that is not in compliance with those rules listed above shall be placed in Bad Standing with South Carolina Youth Soccer.

#### C. **DEFINITIONS** (Affecting all South Carolina Youth Soccer divisions of play)

1. **ADD** is the addition of a player to a team's roster.

#### 2. **AFFILIATED PLAY AND UNAFFILIATED PLAY**

a. **AFFILIATED PLAY** - Any matches, competitions, or events with organizations affiliated with SC Youth Soccer or US Youth Soccer shall be considered affiliated play.

b. **UNAFFILIATED PLAY** - Any matches, competitions, or events with organizations NOT affiliated with SC Youth Soccer or US Youth Soccer shall be considered unaffiliated play. This does

not apply to international competitions, at home or abroad. South Carolina Youth Soccer teams/players are allowed to participate in unaffiliated play should they choose to do so. No permission is necessary nor any forms required. South Carolina Youth Soccer teams/players choosing to compete in unaffiliated play will NOT be representing South Carolina Youth Soccer nor carrying any South Carolina Youth Soccer insurance coverage. See Rules of the South Carolina Youth Soccer Association regarding restricted/unrestricted tournament insurance coverage.

c. **SANCTIONED TRAVEL** is any out of state travel approved by South Carolina Youth Soccer to matches, competitions and events with organizations affiliated with US Youth Soccer so the benefits of affiliation with South Carolina Youth Soccer apply to the travel. Only a team in good standing with South Carolina Youth Soccer and traveling to a tournament or games that have been approved by an affiliated National State Association of US Youth Soccer will be sanctioned to travel.

d. **NON-SANCTIONED TRAVEL** is any out of state travel to matches, competitions, or events with organizations not affiliated with US Youth Soccer. This does not apply to international competitions at home or abroad. South Carolina Youth Soccer teams/players are allowed to participate in unaffiliated play should they choose to do so. No permission is necessary nor any forms required. South Carolina Youth Soccer teams/players choosing to compete in unaffiliated play will not have any benefits of affiliation with South Carolina Youth Soccer nor carry any South Carolina Youth Soccer insurance coverage. No person, group, or entity shall by affirmative misrepresentation or by the failure to disclose material facts mislead any other person into believing that travel to or participation in non-sanctioned events or travel is authorized, approved, or otherwise sanctioned by SC Youth Soccer or US Youth Soccer.

**3. AGE GROUP** – the grouping of players by age into levels of permitted play. A player is permitted to play in the age group in which the player belongs or an older group but is not permitted to play in a younger age group.

**4. BOARD** – is a group of administrators organized to operate a particular club or league. South Carolina Youth Soccer requires an affiliation form and listing of all board members of all clubs and leagues by the designated affiliation deadline noted on the SC Youth Soccer calendar. Failure to do so could result in that particular organization being placed in bad standing

**5. CERTIFIED REGISTRAR** – is a person who has attended a registration workshop as required by South Carolina Youth Soccer for the seasonal year during which the registrar will handle registration transactions. All affiliated organization registrars serve under the jurisdiction of the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Registrar. A certified registrar must make a best effort to insure registration transactions conform to the requirements of the South Carolina Youth Soccer registration rules, procedures, and policies. Failure to comply could result in the registrar's certification being revoked and the affiliated organization facing such sanctions and penalties as the South Carolina Youth Soccer deems appropriate.

**6. DIVISION** - groups consisting of either recreation, academy or classic players.

**7. ELIGIBLE TO PLAY** – a registered player not under suspension or in bad standing.

**8. EVALUATION** – an occasion at which an Academy player attends a session that will directly result in that player playing in the Academy Division. South Carolina Youth Soccer member organizations may not conduct any evaluations involving any players registered with another South Carolina Youth Soccer member organization until the evaluations dates specified on the South Carolina Youth Soccer calendar.

**9. FROZEN ROSTER** – a South Carolina Youth Soccer Official Team Roster that can have no movement of players on to or off of the roster through adds, transfers or releases for the period of time that the roster is frozen.

**10. GAME ROSTER** - is an official Premier League or SCSCCL U17-U19 South Carolina Youth Soccer Team Roster that lists a maximum of 18 eligible players for a particular competition.

**11. GUEST PLAYER ROSTER** – an Official Guest Player Roster is to be used by teams seeking permission to take to an event US Youth Soccer-registered players not appearing on their Official State Roster or Tournament Team Roster.

- a. The form must be used in conjunction with the team's Official State Roster or Tournament Team Roster and is valid only for the tournament and dates indicated on the form. The form is completed and signed by the seasonal team coach and the guest team coach.
- b. The State Registrar/designee or the South Carolina Youth Soccer Administrative Assistant must approve the form.
- c. Guest players are not permitted in South Carolina Youth Soccer State Cup play or league play.
- d. A guest player is allowed to play with State Cup teams that have frozen rosters if an event allows guest players.
- e. A player desiring to guest play shall inform his/her coach and fulfill obligations to the seasonal team before leaving to guest play.
- f. No player may guest play in a tournament in which his/her seasonal team is participating.
- g. If the requested player is from a state other than South Carolina, a form from that State Association shall be sent to the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Registrar/designee declaring that this player is in good standing and has permission to play with the 1) team named, 2) coach named, and 3) at the tournament indicated, giving location and date. This player may then be placed on a South Carolina Youth Soccer Guest Player Roster. The out-of-state seasonal player pass shall accompany the player.
- h. If a South Carolina player wants to guest play out of state, a Region III Interstate form shall be sent to the state inviting the player, and the seasonal player pass shall accompany the player, to be returned to his/her coach as soon as the player returns.
- i. Players who guest play shall not be allowed to transfer to the team with whom he/she has been a guest player for the remainder of the seasonal year unless written permission is granted by the seasonal team coach.
- j. Playing a guest player without proper permission may result in a charge of playing an ineligible player.

**12. IMPROPER REGISTRATION** – results from any team playing a player who is over age or who is not registered or who is not properly entered on the team's roster, if applicable, causing the forfeit of the game(s) in which that player takes part. Any affiliated organization failing to properly register and/or roster all players shall face such sanctions and penalties as the South Carolina Youth Soccer Board of Directors deems appropriate.

**13. An IN-HOUSE PROGRAM (U06 – U19)** is intraclub play which exists within a club and should consist of four (4) or more teams from that club to allow competition which may consist of one game against at least three (3) different teams participating in the intrahouse program, thereby allowing teams from that program to qualify for certain classic cups as outlined in the Cup Rules.

**14. An INTERHOUSE PROGRAM (U06 –U12)** may exist within a club, may allow other South Carolina Youth Soccer clubs to participate with that club's U06-U12 in-house program and should consist of four (4) or more teams to allow competition which may consist of one game against at least three (3) different teams participating in the interhouse program, thereby allowing teams from that program to qualify for certain classic cups as outlined in the Cup Rules.

**15. NONROSTERED PLAYER** – a registered recreational player not assigned to an South Carolina Youth Soccer Official Team Roster. A player who has been registered but never rostered onto an South

Carolina Youth Soccer Official Team Roster may be added to a roster. A player who was rostered to an South Carolina Youth Soccer Official Team Roster at any time during the current seasonal year and then released from all South Carolina Youth Soccer Official Team Rosters becomes a nonrostered player but shall be a transfer if added to an South Carolina Youth Soccer Official Team Roster.

**16. OFFICIAL STATE CUP ROSTER** – a current Official State Roster signed and sealed by the State Registrar/designee and showing players frozen on this team roster by a date prior to cup play which is determined by the South Carolina Youth Soccer Board of Directors and appearing on its calendar. Any player frozen on this roster has the right to enter into cup play at any time during the competition of his/her cup team.

**17. OFFICIAL TEAM ROSTER** – the South Carolina Youth Soccer document, signed and sealed by the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Registrar/designee listing the eligible players and coaches of a properly registered team. There may be up to four (4) names of coaches/assistants on a roster. Each team roster must have a coach designated as a head coach while all others are assistant coaches. Only four people holding coaching passes may be on a team bench with players during a South Carolina Youth Soccer sanctioned event.

**18. PLAYER’S ADDRESS** – the player’s residence address including street (or p.o. box), city, state and zip code.

**19. PLAYER’S BIRTHDAY** – the date of birth listed on the player’s birth certificate or other acceptable document proving player’s name and age.

**20. PLAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER** – the alphanumeric control number used to identify the player in all registration transactions with South Carolina Youth Soccer.

**21. PLAYER’S NAME** – for South Carolina Youth Soccer purposes is the player’s full first name and the player’s full last name as listed on the player’s birth certificate or other acceptable government document proving player’s name and age.

**22. PLAYER/COACH /CLUB COACH PASS** - the US Youth Soccer Pass issued to all registered players (U8-U19) and coaches that serves as the primary means of identifying them at competitions. The pass must carry a current photograph of the player/coach; be signed by that player/coach and the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Registrar/designee, have the South Carolina Youth Soccer seal stamped on it and must be laminated. The attached US Youth Soccer Membership Card belongs to the player/coach.

\* **CLUB COACH PASS** the US Youth Soccer Pass may be issued, upon request, to any classic coach in your club that holds a minimum of a “D” license. This pass allows any club coach the ability to coach one of their club’s teams during league play only without having to be listed on the official South Carolina Youth Soccer team’s roster. There may be no more than (4) coaches on the player’s bench.

**23. REASSIGNMENT** - Any recreation or academy non-rostered player who releases from one club to another shall complete the transfer/release form and return their player card to their present club registrar who will send them to the state registrar before the reassignment will be considered complete. The player will not be allowed to move to another club until their present club’s documented financial obligation has been completely satisfied.

**24. RECRUITING** – A player may only be recruited after the completion of his/her State Cup competition until such time the player is registered or rostered with the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Registrar or designee for the next seasonal year. (State Cup competition includes: State Cup, Region Cup, and National Cup.)

**25. REGISTERED PLAYER** - is one who has been properly registered with the State Registrar/designee or the South Carolina Youth Soccer Administrative Assistant by a certified registrar.

**26. RELEASE** – the withdrawal of a player from a roster without reassignment to another roster. A player may voluntarily release him/herself from a team for any reason. A player may be involuntarily released from a team for one of the following reasons:

- a. The player has violated the rules of South Carolina Youth Soccer, US Youth Soccer/USSF or his/her club;
- b. The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance as defined by the South Carolina Youth Soccer Board; or
- c. The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season.

All explanations and signatures are required before the state registrar/designee will sign.

**27. ROSTERED PLAYER** – a registered player assigned to an South Carolina Youth Soccer Official Team Roster. Any player rostered to a team is bound to the team for the entire seasonal year unless the player requests a transfer, requests a release, or is released.

**28. SEASONAL YEAR** – the time period from September 1 of any year to August 31 of the next year.

**29. STATE CUP** – an individual, separately conducted competition under US Youth Soccer/South Carolina Youth Soccer rules which leads to a state, and/or regional and national competition.

**30. SUSPENSION** –the withdrawal of rights and privileges, including but not limited to playing, volunteering, coaching, managing, and spectating, or otherwise participating (directly or indirectly) in soccer. The suspension is for the entire term of the suspension with ALL rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.

**31. TEAM** – a group of soccer players properly registered by an affiliated organization using a certified registrar and under the guidance of one or more coaches playing on the same side in soccer games.

- a. U13-U19 recreation and classic(except as noted in 31.b) no fewer than 7 nor more than 18 players.
- b. U17 and older teams playing in the Premier League or SCSCCL may have up to 22 youth players (game rosters will have a maximum of 18 players and a minimum of 7).
- c. U12 and younger roster size are outlined on “South Carolina Youth Soccer Players and Playing Rules for Small-Sided games”
- d. The initial registration of a team with a Club must continue their association with that particular Club for the seasonal year, including that no team in its entirety or majority may move to another club during the seasonal year.
- e. Fifty percent (50%) of the maximum roster size allowed for teams must be comprised of players from the district in which the affiliated club operates. The affiliated club operates within the geographical boundary approved by the South Carolina Youth Soccer Board of Directors.
- f. A South Carolina Youth Soccer team must be comprised of a minimum fifty percent (50%) South Carolina residents.
- g. U S Youth Soccer recognizes two (2) types of teams: 1) teams with females only are girls teams, and (2) all other teams are boys teams.

**32. TEAM NUMBER** – a four (4)-digit control number assigned by South Carolina Youth Soccer to a team for the current seasonal year.

**33. TOURNAMENT TEAM ROSTER** - the South Carolina Youth Soccer Official Tournament Team Roster shall be used by NONROSTERED players brought together for the sole purpose of playing in a tournament. This form is valid only for the tournament and dates indicated on the form and players are bound to the roster only during the designated event. Such teams are not eligible for South Carolina Youth Soccer State Cup play. The form may be signed by the State Registrar/designee for either in- or out-of-state competitions.

- a. A Tournament Team Roster may be used for classic players competing in an invitational tournament after the team's State Cup/US Youth Soccer National Championship competitions are over and before the next seasonal year begins.
- b. Recreation players on official state rosters are also allowed to use a Tournament Team Roster after their season (i.e. league play or American Cup) is over.

**34. TRANSFER** – a player who is currently or was previously rostered on an Official Team Roster requesting and being moved onto the South Carolina Youth Soccer Official Team Roster of another team or the return of a released player to the same roster within the current seasonal year. All requests for transfer must have the explanation portion of the form properly filled out by the player's receiving coach, and the transferring player's current pass should accompany this transaction. No transferred player may compete with a new team until he/she receives a new player pass for that team and appears on that team's roster.

- a. Any player transferring to another club, without their present (releasing) coach's signature on the transfer form, will be required to wait 30 days from the date the transfer form was received by the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Registrar/designee before they can be rostered to another team.
- b. The player's present (releasing) coach may approve and sign the transfer form and the player will be released from their current team and eligible to be rostered to another team immediately upon the completion of the transfer form by the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Registrar/designee.
- c. Any player changing their primary residence by a minimum of 50 miles or across state lines may request to be transferred to another team without their present coach's approval or a 30 day waiting period but must meet their financial obligations to the releasing club.
- d. In scenario a, b or c, the releasing team coach's signature releases the player from their team and their financial obligations.
- e. Without the releasing coach's signature, a player will not be allowed to transfer to another club until their present club's documented financial obligation has been completely satisfied.
- f. Any recreation or academy non-rostered player who releases from one club to another shall complete the transfer/release form and return their player card to their present club registrar who will send them to the state registrar before the release will be considered completed.

**35. A TRYOUT** is an occasion at which a player attends a selection process that may directly result in that player being selected to play for a classic team within a club for the next seasonal year. South Carolina Youth Soccer member organizations may not conduct any U11-U19 tryouts involving any players registered with another South Carolina Youth Soccer member organization until the tryout dates specified on the South Carolina Youth Soccer calendar.

**36. UNETHICAL RECRUITING** is defined as any intentional act whereby coaches or parents contact a player, outside of their club, who is registered or rostered on another South Carolina Youth Soccer team to entice that player to join their team before his/her State Cup competition is completed. (State Cup competition includes: State Cup, Region Cup, and National Cup.)

**37. YOUTH PLAYER** is an individual who has not reached nineteen (19) years of age prior to August 1 immediately before the start of any seasonal year. A player who reaches nineteen (19) years of age during a seasonal year is allowed to complete that seasonal year. A player who reaches nineteen (19) years of age during August of one seasonal year shall be allowed to complete all of the next seasonal year.

#### **D. RULES AFFECTING ALL LEVELS OF PLAY**

- 1.** A youth player will be permitted to play an unlimited number of **AMATEUR GAMES** without losing his or her youth eligibility. The youth player must obtain permission from his/her youth coach and must file an Amateur Play Notification and Clearance Form with South Carolina Youth Soccer. In the event of a conflict between an amateur game and a youth game, the youth game shall take precedence.
- 2. DEADLINE DATES** – mean that a document must be in the hands of the appropriate state officer by midnight of the published date.
- 3. OFFICIAL TRANSACTION** - is a registration transaction which becomes official only after being signed by the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Registrar/designee.
- 4.** All players registering in any affiliated organization of the South Carolina Youth Soccer must have an approved **PLAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER**.
- 5. PROOF OF AGE** – shall consist of a birth certificate or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health record, passport, alien registration card issued by the United States Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a certification of an American citizen born abroad and issued by the appropriate government agency or a valid driver’s license. Hospital, baptismal, or religious certificates will not be accepted.
- 6. REGISTRATION FEES** – are set by the South Carolina Youth Soccer Board of Directors. All fees must be paid by check or money order and be made payable to “South Carolina Youth Soccer”. A copy of the correct fee sheet must accompany the document(s) for which it is due at the time of submission to South Carolina Youth Soccer.
- 7. REGISTRATION TRANSACTIONS** – for rostered or nonrostered players must be properly documented on the correct South Carolina Youth Soccer form(s) and submitted to the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Registrar/designee before any deadline or before the player’s first game of the season whichever comes first. All information requested must be provided and all fees due must be outlined before forms can be processed. The information must be computer generated. Any form that cannot be read, that is incorrectly filled out or does not have the appropriate fee sheet included or that attempts to violate the South Carolina Youth Soccer registration rules will be returned and an extra processing fee will be charged.
- 8. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS** - state that any player who is a South Carolina resident may register in an affiliated organization. A resident is a player living or residing in the State of South Carolina with his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) or a student in residence at a boarding school, college or university located in South Carolina. Any other questions of residency may be determined by the state in which the player is registered to vote or holds a current driver’s license. Any player or team residing in a state other than South Carolina wishing to register and play in an affiliated organization of the South Carolina Youth Soccer must receive written permission each seasonal year from the South Carolina Youth Soccer and the State Association where he/she resides.

9. Any team playing **SMALL-SIDED GAMES** should refer to the Player and Playing Rules adopted by South Carolina Youth Soccer and found on the South Carolina Youth Soccer website or in the Administrative Manual.

10. **UNIFORMS** for all field players shall include a unique and identifiable number on the jersey. Shin guards covered by socks are mandatory for all players during any play and any practice.

## E. PROCEDURES FOR OUT-OF-STATE PLAY/PLAYERS

1. Any out-of-state player wishing to play for the seasonal year in South Carolina shall register in the state of residence and then, using a US Youth Soccer Interstate Region III Permission Form, request to be released from that state. Permission and a statement that the player is registered and in good standing shall be sent to the South Carolina Youth Soccer Registrar/designee before South Carolina Youth Soccer will give permission for the player to play in South Carolina. Player must register in the state where he/she resides and again register in South Carolina. This permission must be obtained each and every seasonal year. The player may participate in ODP in either state but must request permission from both states and is eligible for the program in one state only. This ODP declaration should be a part of the original Interstate Release request.

2. If a South Carolina resident wishes to play out of state for the seasonal year, the player's parent/guardian shall submit a US Youth Soccer Interstate Region III Permission Form. The form shall be filled out and sent, along with a fee of \$10, to the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Registrar/designee, who will approve the transaction and forward the form, with the necessary signatures and dates of approval, to the state where the player wishes to play. The other state will then give permission for the player to play in that state. South Carolina will register the player, but the player pass will be issued in the state where the player plays. This permission must be obtained each and every seasonal year. The player may participate in ODP in either state but must request permission from both states and is eligible for the program in one state only. This ODP declaration should be a part of the original Interstate Release request.

## F. RULES AFFECTING THE RECREATION DIVISION

1. **RECREATION TEAMS** U13-U19 desiring to enter cup play must obtain an official state roster. U10-U12 teams desiring to enter cup play must obtain either an official state roster or official tournament team roster from the State Registrar/designee by roster freeze date as set by the South Carolina Youth Soccer BOD and listed on the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Calendar.

2. **RECREATION AGE GROUPS** shall be comprised of players who are, before the first day of August immediately preceding the seasonal year:

- |                           |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| a.) under 19 years of age | e.) under 15 years of age | i.) under 11 years of age |
| b.) under 18 years of age | f.) under 14 years of age | j.) under 10 years of age |
| c.) under 17 years of age | g.) under 13 years of age | k.) under 8 years of age  |
| d.) under 16 years of age | h.) under 12 years of age | l.) under 6 years of age  |

3. A **RECREATION PLAYER** is a registered player who has never been officially rostered on a classic team during the current seasonal year.

4. A **RECREATION TEAM** is a team registered and playing in the Recreation Division which may have no more than three (3) classic players transferred to it; otherwise, the team has unlimited transfers, releases and adds for the seasonal year.

5. For **ALL RECREATIONAL TEAMS** (U08 and above), the US Youth Soccer player/coach passes shall be issued. Any U10 and above recreation player/coach participating in an interhouse or league game are required to have either their state signed and sealed roster or their player/coach pass at the game site.
6. A **RECREATION TEAM MAY CONVERT TO A CLASSIC TEAM** if, prior to conversion, the recreation team has conformed with all rules pertaining to classic teams. A Recreation team must convert to Classic status in order to enter the South Carolina Youth Soccer President's Cup or Palmetto Classic Cup and must do so and pay the appropriate fees by the roster freeze date for classic teams.
7. A **RECREATION TEAM MAY NOT** use tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively to the team on the basis of talent or ability. South Carolina Youth Soccer requires each player play at least one-half (1/2) of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline.
8. **TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT**, a recreation team must be officially rostered or must use a Tournament Team Roster.

## **G. RULES AFFECTING THE ACADEMY DIVISION**

1. **AN ACADEMY PLAYER** is a registered U10, U11, or U12 player participating in a developmental soccer program.
2. **ALL REGISTERED** Academy players/coaches shall have the word "Academy" on their player/coach pass.
3. **THE ACADEMY EVALUATION** is an occasion at which a player attends a session that will directly result in that player playing in the academy division. These players are registered as non-rostered players and shall follow the recreation rules (Refer to Definition of Evaluation).
4. **WHEN AN ACADEMY TEAM** is rostered on an official tournament team roster by the State Registrar/designee, they play in an Academy Division or Classic Division. Upon completion of the tournament, the team will return to Academy pool status. Academy teams must use an official state roster or official tournament team roster for invitational tournaments.
5. **SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER REQUIRES EACH NON-ROSTERED ACADEMY PLAYER** to play at least one-half (1/2) of each game except for reasons of injury, illness or discipline.
6. **ONCE ACADEMY PLAYER(S) ARE ROSTERED** on an Official South Carolina Youth Soccer state roster, they take on the status of a classic player or team and shall follow the rules for the classic division.
7. **THE ACADEMY PLAYER** may play on a recreation team or a recreation tournament team roster if the number of Academy players allowed on the recreation team is not exceeded. A recreation team roster or recreation tournament team roster may not have more than three (3) Academy players.
8. **U11-U12 ACADEMY PLAYERS** may declare as a Classic team on or before roster freeze date to participate in the SC Youth Soccer Publix Palmetto Cup. When they declare classic, the team will follow all the Classic rules which include the Red Card Ejection Notice. U11-U12 Academy players may play on a tournament team roster in the Academy Division of the SC Youth Soccer Publix Palmetto Cup. U10 Academy players may play on a tournament team roster in the Academy Division of the American Cup.

9. **EACH ACADEMY PLAYER/COACH** participating in an interhouse or league game are required to have either their state signed and sealed roster or their player/coach pass at the fields.
10. **SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS** may not conduct any evaluations involving any players registered with another South Carolina Youth Soccer organization until evaluation dates specified on the South Carolina Youth Soccer calendar.

## H. RULES AFFECTING THE CLASSIC DIVISION

1. A **CLASSIC PLAYER** is a registered player who is or has been selected to be a member of an officially rostered team during the current seasonal year. The player remains a classic player for the remainder of the current seasonal year.
2. A **CLASSIC PLAYER MAY TRANSFER TO A CLASSIC TEAM** if the number of transfers allowed a classic team is not exceeded. A classic team is limited to a total of five (5) previously rostered players at the time of the roster freeze date.
3. A **CLASSIC PLAYER MAY TRANSFER TO A RECREATIONAL TEAM** if the number of classic players allowed on a recreational team is not exceeded. A recreation team may have no more than three (3) classic players transferred to it.
4. A **CLASSIC TEAM** is a South Carolina Youth Soccer officially rostered team in the U11 or older age group, registered and playing in the Classic Division.
5. A **CLASSIC TEAM MAY CONVERT TO A RECREATIONAL TEAM** only by requesting the change in writing and receiving the approval of the South Carolina Youth Soccer Board of Directors as well as paying the appropriate fees. This team will not be allowed to play in any state cup competition or tournament play.
6. For **ALL CLASSIC TEAMS**, the official South Carolina Youth Soccer State Roster and U S Youth Soccer player/coach passes must be available at the game site at all times and shown to the referees prior to each game match.
7. A **NONROSTERED RECREATION PLAYER** who has never been rostered on a South Carolina Youth Soccer Official Team Roster during the current seasonal year may be added to a classic team.
8. **CLASSIC AGE GROUPS** shall be comprised of players who are before the first day of August immediately preceding the seasonal year:
 

a.) under 19 years of age	d.) under 16 years of ages	g.) under 13 years of age
b.) under 18 years of age	e.) under 15 years of age	h.) under 12 years of age
c.) under 17 years of age	f.) under 14 years of age	i.) under 11 years of age
9. The **SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER RED CARD/EJECTION NOTICE** must be completed and submitted within 48 hours of the match. This form must be submitted to the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Office. Failure to submit the Red Card/Ejection Notice within 48 hours of the match will result in a \$50 fine. Any team allowing an ejected player/coach to participate will forfeit the match, forfeit their team's performance bond or \$200 whichever is greater, and be deemed ineligible for state cup competition. The coach shall also be suspended immediately from ALL South Carolina Youth Soccer activities for no less than one (1) year pending a hearing. The notice must be completed and submitted to the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Office with date suspensions and ejections are served upon completion of the suspension/ejection.

- a. The individual receiving the red card/ejection suspension is suspended for the remainder of the current match and the next scheduled match.
- b. Upon receiving a second red card/ejection during a tracking period, the suspension is served in the next two scheduled matches.
- c. Upon receiving a third red card/ejection during a tracking period, the individual will be suspended immediately for 10 months from all South Carolina Youth Soccer activities pending a hearing.
- d. Red Card/ejection suspensions are to be served in the “competition” in which they were assigned. However, a suspension assigned in:
  - i. a league cannot be served in another league, unless a player transfers. (ex. SCSCCL suspensions cannot be served in a Premier League match.)
  - ii. the last league match, and not served during league play, shall be served in the next scheduled league or state cup match, whichever comes first
  - iii. the last tournament match, and not served during that tournament, shall be served in the next scheduled league, state cup match, or Regional/National competition whichever comes first.
- e. Any league or tournament suspensions not served from August 1 through July 31 will carry over to the first scheduled league match of the next tracking period. (No matter which club he/she played/is playing for.)
- f. Any state cup suspension not served will carry over to the first scheduled league match which begins in the tracking period of August 1 through January 31 and the first state cup match.
- g. Fall tracking period is August 1 through January 31; spring tracking period is February 1 through July 31.

## **I. PLAYER/COACH PASSES AND ROSTERS ( affecting all recreation and classic divisions of play)**

- 1. EACH PLAYER AND COACH** entering a competition must carry a U S Youth Soccer pass. The passes must have a current photograph without a hat or headband, be signed by the player or coach and the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Registrar/designee, have the South Carolina Youth Soccer seal stamped on it, and be laminated. Any pass not meeting these requirements is invalid.
- 2. ALL PLAYERS AND COACHES** entering a competition must be listed on an Official South Carolina Youth Soccer State Team Roster, Tournament Guest Player Roster, or Official Tournament Team Roster. The roster(s) and US Youth Soccer player/coach passes must be available at the game site at all times.
- 3. PLAYER PROOF OF AGE** for traveling teams shall be available at the game site at all times.
- 4. ANY U10 AND ABOVE RECREATION PLAYER/COACH** and any academy player/coach participating in an interhouse game or league game are required to have either their state signed and sealed roster or their US Youth Soccer player/coach pass at the game site. Any classic player/coach participating in league play or a tournament must have their SC Youth Soccer state roster and US Youth Soccer player/coach passes at the game site.
- 5. ALL COACHES** are required to be either licensed or certified. Recreation coaches U6- U12 must have a minimum of a youth module certification. Recreation Coaches U13 –U19 and Classic Coaches U11-U13 must have a minimum of a “E” Certification. Classic coaches U14 – U19 must have a minimum of a “D” License. All assistant coaches (recreation or classic) must have a minimum of a youth module certification. All new coaches to SC Youth Soccer have a one (1) year grace period to meet their license/certification requirements.

## **J. SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER STATE CUPS AND US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- 1. SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER TEAMS** can only play in South Carolina Youth Soccer approved leagues to qualify for cup play.
- 2. The US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP** is an individual separately conducted competition for all eligible classic teams U13 – U19 which leads to a national championship in the following age groups: U14 - U19. The first level of competition is held in individual districts. Qualifying teams shall then advance to the SC Youth Soccer Publix Challenge Cup Championship, with the winners of only the U14 - U19 Challenge Cup teams advancing to the US Youth Soccer Southern Regional Championship and ultimately to the US Youth Soccer National Championship. All U14 – U19 Championship teams in the SC Youth Soccer Publix Challenge Cup will sign a US Youth Soccer Blue Roster before the championship match. The roster will list the team coach, team assistant(s), and all team players. Each participant will sign his/her name. These rosters will be signed in the presence of the Cups and Games Director/designee. The Cups and Games Director/designee will sign each roster as a witness to its validity.
- 3. The SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER PUBLIX PRESIDENT’S MEDAL STATE CUP** is an individual, separately conducted competition for all eligible classic teams U13 - U19 which leads to a Publix President’s Medal Cup State Champion. U13-U17 championship teams will be eligible to advance to the Region III President’s Cup.
- 4. The SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER PUBLIX PALMETTO CLASSIC STATE CUP** is an individual, separately conducted competition for all eligible classic teams U11-U12 which leads to a Publix Palmetto Classic Cup State Champion.
- 5. The SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER AMERICAN STATE CUP** is an individual, separately conducted competition for all eligible recreation teams U10 - U19 which leads to an American Cup State Champion. The SC Youth Soccer American State Cup will also offer a U10 Academy Division which leads to a U10 Academy Division Champion.
- 6. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER STATE CUP PLAY**, a team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players and the team and its affiliated organization must be in good standing with the South Carolina Youth Soccer. Classic teams must compete in a South Carolina Youth Soccer approved league comprised of no fewer than four (4) teams during the current seasonal year, and that competition shall consist of a minimum of one (1) game against at least three (3) other teams participating in the league. All classic teams (U13–U18) that can have a maximum of 18 players must demonstrate continuity of rosters between league and cup play by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players common to the rosters of both competitions. Classic teams (U17-U19) that can have a maximum of 22 players must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and National Championships competitions by maintaining a minimum of 11 players common to the roster of both competitions. State Select/ODP Teams may not compete.
- 7. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR STATE CUP PLAY**, a team must be officially rostered no later than the date shown on the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Calendar.
- 8. ROSTERS SHALL BE FROZEN** on the date as specified on the South Carolina Youth Soccer state calendar and shall remain frozen with no movement of players on to or off of the roster until the team is eliminated from the competition or is declared a champion. If playing in the South Carolina Youth Soccer American, SC Youth Soccer Publix President’s Medal or SC Youth Soccer Publix Palmetto Classic Cups,

the champion is declared at the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Cup. If playing in the South Carolina Youth Soccer Publix Challenge Cup, a champion is declared at the National Championships for the U14 - U19 age groups and at the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Cup for U13 age group. The South Carolina Youth Soccer Board of Directors shall determine the roster freeze date.

**9. A TEAM MAY COMPETE IN ONLY ONE CUP** competition during the seasonal year, which is from September 1 of any year to August 31 of the next year.

**10. A PLAYER MAY PLAY FOR ONLY ONE TEAM IN CUP COMPETITION** during the seasonal year which is from September 1 of any year to August 31 of the next year. The player shall remain on this team unless released or transferred before the roster is frozen. After the roster is frozen, for cup purposes the player remains on this team for the remainder of the seasonal year and may not compete in another cup until the next seasonal year.

**11. A PLAYER WHO HAS BEEN SUSPENDED** may play after the player's term of suspension has expired.

**12. ALL TEAMS PLAYING IN ANY SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER STATE CUP** must abide by the procedures and guidelines of the current South Carolina Youth Soccer State Cup Manual and any updates made by the South Carolina Youth Soccer Board of Directors. Teams participating in the SCSCCL and Region III Premier League must play in the same age group during cup play as they did during league play for their cup season. Teams advancing to the Southern Regional Championship and/or U S Youth Soccer National Championships must also conform to and abide by the U S Youth Soccer National Rules.

**13. RULES VARY** for each of the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Cup competitions. The State Cup Manual and any updates, the South Carolina Youth Soccer Board of Directors' minutes, or a change in the National Championship Rules shall be the final authority for these rules. During any South Carolina Youth Soccer cup play competition, the rules set forth in the appropriate State Cup Manual take precedence over any other set of rules.

## **K. TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL TEAMS**

**1. SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER TEAMS THAT ARE TRAVELING WITHIN** Region III for any affiliated play to matches, competitions, or events with organizations affiliated with US Youth Soccer shall complete a South Carolina Youth Soccer "Notification to Travel" form.

**2. SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER TEAMS TRAVELING OUTSIDE** of Region III for any affiliated play to matches, competitions, or events with organizations affiliated with US Youth Soccer shall complete a US Youth Soccer "Application to Travel" form. This "Application for Travel" shall be signed by the District Commissioner in the district of the team's domicile. In a situation where the Commissioner is unable to sign, the Commissioner's designee or the District Vice Commissioner may sign.

**3. ALL TEAMS TRAVELING TO INTERNATIONAL MATCHES** or international tournaments shall complete a USSF Application for Travel and a Ted Stephens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act form. These forms shall be sent to the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Office for verification and then to the USSF for final approval prior to the team's departure. See Procedures for Foreign Travel in the South Carolina Youth Soccer Manual for further details.

**4. SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER DOES NOT AUTHORIZE THE USE OF NON-OWNED 15 PASSENGER VANS** for any sanctioned events, approved travel, or any affiliated activities of South Carolina Youth Soccer due to a history of rollover accidents associated with this specific vehicle type. The South Carolina Youth Soccer liability insurance underwriter prohibits the use of non-owned 15 passenger vans for any South Carolina Youth Soccer activities or events under any circumstances.

**L. MISCONDUCT TOWARD A REFEREE OR STATE OFFICIAL:** Persistent statements or physical acts directed toward a referee or state official during or after a game that do not constitute referee assault or referee abuse as provided under US Soccer Federation Policy 531-9, but mistreat the referee and or state official or are inappropriate or unacceptable statements or acts, and may include the following:

- a.) excessive incidences of foul or abusive language at the referee or state official
- b.) statements that diminish the authority of the referee or the state official
- c.) statements or acts that serve to intimidate without threatening physical harm to the referee or state official

Examples of misconduct that arise under the description above include the following:

- a.) confronting the referee or state official without physically threatening the referee or state official
- b.) spitting on the ground or in the air but not at the referee or state official
- c.) throwing or kicking an item as a sign of disrespect or dissent but without the chance of hitting the referee or state official
- d.) re-entering the field

These are only some of the examples of possible misconduct and are not all-inclusive, and may apply to the following situations:

- a.) if a proceeding is brought against an individual for referee assault or abuse, or both, under Federation Policy 531-9; or
- b.) if the individual is ejected from a game and, after the ejection, engages in conduct that is misconduct under this policy.

Should the South Carolina Youth Soccer Discipline and Appeals Committee determine the individual committed misconduct under this rule, it shall impose NOT less than a three (3) game suspension. This suspension is in addition to any other suspension and/or fine that may be imposed on the individual by an association or league. A formal hearing will not be held unless it is requested.

**M. RESTRICTED AND UNRESTRICTED TOURNAMENTS.** A tournament sanctioned by South Carolina Youth Soccer may declare itself to be “Restricted” – open only to teams from a single USSF Organizational member or a subset thereof or “Unrestricted” – open to teams from all USSF affiliated participants. If a tournament desires to be “Restricted”, but South Carolina Youth Soccer is not a member of that single USSF Organizational Member, or if the tournament desires to be “Unrestricted”, the tournament must purchase and provide evidence of a One Million Dollar (\$1,000,000) CSL comprehensive general liability policy including coverage for participant/spectator medical payments. In lieu of medical payments, a sports accident policy with a Ten Thousand Dollar (\$10,000) limit of liability per injury is acceptable. South Carolina Youth Soccer and the hosting Member Association will be listed as an additional insured and a hold harmless and indemnification agreement in favor of South Carolina Youth Soccer must be executed. Before South Carolina Youth Soccer will sanction any tournament required to provide the above described insurance, the insurance policy(ies) must be approved by South Carolina Youth Soccer. Please refer to the Definition Section of the South Carolina Youth Soccer Rules regarding unaffiliated play.

**N. ANY MATTER NOT PROVIDED FOR** in these rules or in this Administrative Manual shall be determined by the South Carolina Youth Soccer Board of Directors, and its decisions are final and binding for all divisions of play.