

LYSA GENERAL RULES



These General Rules are intended to provide a uniform set of guidelines for governing player eligibility and registration, team formation and player assignment, intra-association playing rules, and standards of sportsmanship and conduct for use by all members of the Lexington Youth Soccer Association.

The rules contained herein shall govern all coaches, players, Referees, officials, divisions, age groups and leagues within LYSA. Unless otherwise stated the rules apply uniformly to all players, teams and leagues.

Approved by the LYSA Board of Directors on Feb. 15, 2017

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RULE 1 - ORGANIZATION CONTROL

1-1.0 Definitions

Throughout these Rules the following terms or abbreviations may be used:

LYSA – Lexington Youth Soccer Association

KYSA – Kentucky Youth Soccer Association

LFC – Lexington Football Club

USYSA – United States Youth Soccer Association

USSF – United States Soccer Federation

FIFA – Fédération Internationale de Football Association

LYSA Board or the “Board” or the “Board of Directors” – The LYSA Board of Directors

TOPS or TOPSoccer – The Outreach Program for Soccer

League Director – The LYSA Board member in charge of an individual Age Group, such as U8.

1-2.0 Scope of These Rules

1-2.1 These rules will apply to all participants in all levels of play within LYSA unless otherwise specified by these rules.

1-2.2 Each of the levels of play may have their own rules of play and organization as approved by the LYSA Board.

1-2.3 Exceptions to these rules may be made by the LYSA Board.

1-3.0 Levels of Youth Play

There shall be three levels of youth play within LYSA as follows:

1-3.1 Recreational - Recreational play shall be offered to all the youth of Fayette County and surrounding counties to promote the growth of and appreciation for the game of Soccer.

Recreational play will be open to all youth who:

- a) meet the age requirements of LYSA RULE 1-5.0; and
- b) have complied with the existing registration requirements or had said requirements waived by action of the Board of Directors of LYSA; and
- c) whose parent or guardian has agreed to comply with all LYSA rules and policies by signing and submitting to the LYSA Registrar a registration form for the season in which the player wishes to participate.

Participation in Recreational play shall not be restricted in any way by the ability of the player. Nor may the ability of the player be considered in the formation of teams.

1-3.2 TOPSoccer League – LYSA will offer a League designed to meet the needs of athletes with physical, developmental, and/or intellectual disabilities to all persons residing in Fayette County and its surrounding counties. This league will be based upon the USYSA’s TOPSoccer program but not limited by it. The formation of teams and the manner of playing will not be determined by these General Rules but will be determined by separate TOPSoccer League General Rules. These General Rules will be in force in those areas where applicable and not superseded by the TOPSoccer League General Rules.

1-3.3 Competitive - Competitive (also called Select) play shall be offered as a complement to the LYSA Recreational programs as an opportunity for players with the desire, ability and/or potential to develop superior soccer skills to compete with and against other players with similar abilities. Participation in Competitive play is restricted to those players who are selected through the tryout process as defined in the Lexington F.C. General Rules.

1-4.0 Seasonal Year/Playing Seasons

1-4.1 The seasonal year for LYSA youth teams shall be from August 1 through July 31 and there shall be two (2) playing seasons during the seasonal year.

Fall	August- November (approximate)
Spring	March - June (approximate)

1-4.2 Recreational: A Recreational player is committed to his/her team for the current playing season. A player may request a team change for the next season and will be placed in open registration. If a Recreational player moves from a Recreational team to a Competitive team between the Fall and Spring seasons, he/she will be considered a transfer onto the Competitive team and should be released from his/her Recreational team.

1-4.3 Competitive: A Competitive player is committed to his/her team for the current seasonal year. If a Competitive player moves from his/her Competitive team to a Recreational team between the fall and spring seasons, the player must be released from his/her Competitive team. If a Competitive player moves from one Competitive team to another between the fall and spring seasons, he/she must be released from the original team and is considered a transfer onto the new team.

1-5.0 Age Groups

Age Groups shall be composed of players born within the date ranges defined by the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association State Rules in the section titled “Age Limit Definitions and Roster Limitations”.

1-6.0 Age Classification

1-6.1 Age classifications for the fall season will be determined by the player's actual age on Jan. 1 immediately prior to the season for which player assignments are being made.

1-6.2 Players eligible to play in an Age Group during the Fall season will remain eligible to play in the same Age Group during the following Spring season.

1-6.3 All players registering in LYSA must provide proof of age

- a) at the time of their initial registration;
- b) prior to their participation on a Competitive team;
- c) upon request from the LYSA Registrar, the League Director or other LYSA official.

1-6.4 Each coach is responsible for proof of age of his/her assigned players. If the age of one or more players is challenged through the appeals process as defined in LYSA RULE 11 - APPEALS AND PROTESTS, the coach must furnish the Appeals Committee with reasonable proof of the player's age. The penalty for using a player who is too old may be found in LYSA RULE 3-3.0 - Eligible Players.

1-7.0 Youth Leagues

1-7.1 Youth leagues shall be comprised of Age Groups and Levels of Play as follows:

<u>League</u>	<u>Level of Play</u>	<u>Age Groups</u>
Micro League	Recreational	Under 5 Under 6
Training League	Recreational	Under 8
Junior League	Recreational	Under 10
Senior League	Recreational	Under 12 Under 14
Varsity League	Recreational	Under 16 Under 18
Select League	Select	Under 9 and above

RULE 2 - REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

2-1.0 Registration of Players

2-1.1 The Registrar, at the direction of the LYSA Board, will plan and conduct player registration prior to each season, and will establish the dates for closing of registration.

2-1.2 Family Participation: In order to facilitate the involvement of the families of all participants, at the time of registration each family will commit to a task/position within the LYSA organization OR pay an additional fee in the amount determined by the LYSA Board of Directors.

2-2.0 Formation of Teams

2-2.1 Recreational Teams: Mixed (boys and girls) teams and All Girls teams shall be formed on a two year age grouping in all Age Groups, except Under 5 and Under 6, as defined in LYSA RULE 1-5.0 where sufficient players register to form four or more teams for intra-association play or to form one or more team(s) for external league play or mixed Recreational league play at the discretion of the League Directors. The number of teams to be formed in each age group shall be determined by the appropriate League Director.

2-2.2 Competitive Teams: Competitive teams may be formed, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors on a single birth year basis, beginning at age eight (8). Competitive teams may be formed, subject to the approval of the LYSA Board of Directors, on a two year age grouping in cases where the number of registered players in the two-year Age Group is not sufficient to support two single birth year Competitive teams. Competitive teams may be formed as either Mixed or All Girls. Competitive teams shall be formed prior to the formation of Recreational teams for the Fall Season and shall not be reformed in the Spring, except for teams in the Under 16 and Under 18 Age Groups if such teams were not formed in the Fall.

2-3.0 Recreational Player Assignment

2-3.1 Players will be assigned to teams by an League Director according to these rules.

2-3.2 Returning players (those who played in LYSA during the immediately preceding season and who registered prior to the close of registration for the next scheduled season) will be reassigned to the team on which they played during the immediately preceding season, if the age limit as defined in LYSA RULE 1-5.0 has not been exceeded, unless the player's parent or guardian requests a team change. Players requesting a team change will be placed in "open" registration and assigned as set forth in LYSA RULE 2-3.6.

2-3.3 Players not returning to the same team, those moving up in age classification and those registering after the close of registration for the next scheduled season will be placed in "open" registration and assigned as set forth in LYSA RULE 2-3.6.

2-3.4 Players will be automatically moved up to the next Age Group on the basis of birth year only as defined in LYSA RULE 1-5.0, except that a parent or guardian may request that a child be moved up to the next Age Group if the child's birth year is within one year of qualifying for

the next Age Group, and a sibling plays in the next Age Group on the team for which the child will play.

2-3.5 Creation of single birth-year teams is not permitted. An attempt should be made to ensure not more than two-thirds (2/3) of the players assigned to a team may have the same birth-year.

2-3.6 Players in "open" registration will be assigned to teams without regard to the ability of the player. Players may be assigned to teams on the basis of geographic location of residence provided such assignment is otherwise, random in nature whenever possible to do so, with consideration being given in team assignment to the distribution of ages and sexes on each team.

2-3.7 Players for whom a registration is received after the registration deadline may be placed on a team based on a team's need for players regardless of any of the previously mentioned considerations. This means that a returning player may not be returned to a team or a player may not be placed on a geographically convenient team if there is another team that has a greater need for players as determined by the League Director.

2-3.8 Tryouts are not permitted as a part of the player assignment process and recruitment of players currently assigned to a LYSA team by Recreational coaches is prohibited. Violation of this rule may result in the dismissal of the coach or other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the LYSA Board of Directors.

2-3.9 Children of a head coach shall be assigned to that coach's team (unless the Coach requests otherwise) regardless of the method of team formation or geographic location of residence and may be moved up in age classification and assigned to the team coached by their parent if their birth year is within one year of qualifying for that Age Group.

2-3.10 Special requests that do not conform to these team formation guidelines must have the approval of the League Director and Coach involved.

2-3.11 Players in the Under 19 Age Group may be assigned to teams without regard to geographic location of residence.

2-4.0 Competitive Team Player Assignment

2-4.1 Players will be selected for and assigned to competitive teams using the process described by the Lexington F.C. General Rules.

2-5.0 Number of Players

2-5.1 The recommended number of players assigned to a team roster shall not exceed eighteen (18) for full sided teams, or nine (9) for Under 5 and Under 6 teams, fourteen (14) for Under 8 split-squad teams, eight (8) for Under 8 single-squad teams and twelve (12) for Under 10 teams, unless a larger number is agreed upon by the the League Director and the Coach.

- a) Under 8 may form split-squads of 14 players on a single team to keep more children together from the same area under the same coach(es). The split squads

teams will practice together, but will be divvied up by the coach on game day for two 4v4 matches.

2-5.2 Recreational coaches will be required to accept players from “open registration” prior to the first scheduled play date if the number of assigned players is below the allowed maximum for that age group.

2-5.3 Recreational coaches will not be required to accept players from “open registration” after the first scheduled play date regardless of roster size, but may do so at their discretion.

2-5.4 The number of players assigned to a competitive team shall be as described in the Lexington F.C. General Rules.

2-6.0 Adding and Dropping Players

2-6.1 All additional players or replacements for dropped players must be assigned by the League Director with the assistance of the League Director as set forth in LYSA RULES 2-3.0 and 2-4.0.

2-6.2 Coaches may, with the concurrence of the League Director, drop players who miss four (4) or more scheduled events (practices and games) without a legitimate excuse (such as illness or injury), provided no other player on the team has missed the same or a greater number of scheduled events without similar action by the coach and the coach provides the League Director an up-to-date record of team attendance at all scheduled practices and games during the season.

2-6.3 Coaches shall report all roster reductions (player withdrawals, drops, etc.) within 48 hours of receiving notification of the reduction to the League Director.

PENALTY: Disciplinary action, which may include forfeiture of one or more games, shall be determined by the Appeals Committee under the provisions of LYSA RULE 11 - APPEALS AND PROTESTS.

2-6.4 The adding and dropping of players from a competitive team roster shall be done in accordance with Lexington F.C. General Rules.

2-7.0 Multiple Registration

2-7.1 “Multiple registration” within LYSA will not be permitted. Any individual may only be registered to play on one LYSA team at a time.

2-7.2 An individual who is already registered to play on a team affiliated with another organization may not be registered to play on a team within LYSA.

2-7.3 If a LYSA player chooses to be registered to play on another team affiliated with another organization then that individual must inform the LYSA registrar and the coach of their LYSA team of that fact.

2-7.4 If an individual is registered to play on another team affiliated with another organization then that individual must be registered with KYSA such that the LYSA team is their primary team as defined by KYSA rules.

RULE 3 - TEAMS

3-1.0 Required Playing Time

3-1.1 A coach shall not intentionally reduce the playing time of any player on the team who is present for the entire game to less than one-half (1/2) the length of the game for Recreational teams or to less than one-third (1/3) the length of the game for Competitive teams under the age of 15 in any one game unless:

- a) the coach notifies and gives reasonable justification to the player, his/her parent or guardian, and the opposing coach prior to the game;
- b) the player receives a serious injury; or
- c) the player or his/her parent or guardian requests the coach to do so.

3-1.2 If the player, his/her parent or guardian, or the opposing coach believes that the minimum playing time has not been allowed, such person shall notify the League Director at the earliest possible time.

3-1.3 League Director and Director of the Recreational Leagues may arrange a conference between the coach and parent or guardian involved to attempt to resolve the matter.

3-1.4 If, however, the League Director believes the infraction is of a serious nature, or the matter cannot be resolved by a conference, he/she shall forward a response to the Appeals Committee, who will consider it the same as an appeal made by a coach, parent or guardian.

3-1.5 Nothing in this section shall preclude a coach, parent, or guardian from forwarding an appeal from any decisions taken by the League Director.

PENALTY: Disciplinary action, which may include replay or forfeiture of the games in which the violation occurs, to be determined by the Appeals Committee under the provisions of LYSA RULE 11 - APPEALS AND PROTESTS.

3-2.0 Practices

3-2.1 Organized practices are limited as follows:

- a) Training and Junior League teams: A maximum of two (2) per week during the playing season, and may not exceed a total of five (5) hours per week.
- b) Senior and Varsity League teams: A maximum of three (3) per week during the playing season, and may not exceed a total of six (6) hours per week.

3-2.2 In the Under 5 and Under 6 leagues organized practices before the season begins are limited to a maximum of two (2) per week and may not exceed a total of three (3) hours per week. After the season begins, practice will be limited to one (1) per week, plus 30 minutes prior to game time. Recommended practice time in this group is no longer than one (1) hour.

3-2.3 Practices for competitive teams shall be held in accordance with the Lexington F.C. General Rules.

3-3.0 Eligible Players

3-3.1 A player who meets the age requirements of LYSA RULE 1 - ORGANIZATION CONTROL and is properly registered and assigned according to the provisions of LYSA RULE 2 - REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS is considered an eligible player if playing on the team to which he/she is assigned.

3-3.2 In the event of a question regarding player eligibility as defined in LYSA RULE 3-3.1 or player participation as defined in LYSA RULE 3-1.0, a coach may request a player list (roster) from the opposing coach. If the opposing coach does not provide the list at the time of the request, the coach may notify the opposing coach that he/she is playing the game under protest. This action does not, however, constitute a formal protest, which must be filed as specified in LYSA RULE 11 - APPEALS AND PROTESTS.

3-3.3 If a player, coach, parent, Referee or other participant in LYSA believes that a team is fielding an ineligible player or players, he/she shall notify the League Director at the earliest possible time.

3-3.4 Upon receipt of such notification, the League Director shall determine if each such player is an eligible player.

3-3.5 If, in the determination of the League Director, a player is ineligible and has participated in one or more games, the League Director shall declare that said team has forfeited all games in which the ineligible player participated. The ineligible player, the coach of the team using an ineligible player and any other LYSA member involved may also be sanctioned.

3-3.6 The decision of the League Director may be appealed pursuant to LYSA RULE 11 - APPEALS AND PROTESTS.

3-4.0 Team Names, Colors and Uniforms

3-4.1 Team names for newly formed Recreational teams may be selected by the Coach with the approval of the League Director. Team colors for Recreational teams will be selected by the League Director.

3-4.2 Team name changes for existing teams are discouraged and may only be made with the approval of the League Director.

3-4.3 Identical team names may not be used for more than one (1) team within an Age Group.

3-4.4 Proper uniform for LYSA formed Recreational teams will include LYSA approved jersey, shorts and socks. In case of uniform color conflicts, the team designated as "Home" (first team listed) on the schedule shall wear shirts that are distinctly different from the color of the "Visitor" team. Jersey numbers will not be required in this instance.

3-4.5 If a team wishes to have anything in addition to the LYSA logo, the player's number and the player's name on the uniform jersey, that team must receive approval from the LYSA Board.

3-4.6 Each player on a Recreational team shall have a primary jersey that is imprinted on the back with a unique number.

3-4.7 In the case of two teams with the same color jersey, the designated home team shall change to an alternate jersey. The alternate jersey is not required to have imprinted numbers. If the alternate jersey does have imprinted numbers each player must have a unique number.

3-4.8 Uniforms for competitive teams shall be in accordance with the Lexington F.C. General Rules.

3-5.0 Team Sponsors

3-5.1 Sponsorship of Recreational teams is prohibited

3-5.2 Sponsorship of competitive teams shall be in accordance with the Lexington F.C. General Rules.

3-5.3 Only persons or businesses of unquestioned repute in the community may sponsor LYSA activities. The LYSA Board of Directors reserves the right to reject any sponsor.

3-6.0 Play in Non-LYSA Competition

3-6.1 LYSA teams are permitted to play in competition outside LYSA if the competition is scheduled by LYSA or is a post or pre LYSA season tournament or event sanctioned by USYSA or its affiliates and such play does not conflict with LYSA scheduled games, counts as a practice session under LYSA RULE 3-2.0, is governed by the Rules of LYSA, KYSA or USYSA and is approved by the League Director.

3-6.2 Competition in any non-LYSA competition shall be governed according to the Rules of the International Football Association Board (FIFA) plus any specific exception or modifications, which may be established by the league/tournament officials responsible for the competition.

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3-6.3 Play between LYSA teams and other KYSA affiliated organization's teams, unless otherwise provided for by the competition, shall be governed by the KYSA State Rules.

3-6.4 Compliance with LYSA RULE 3-1.0 Required Playing Time is not compulsory in non-LYSA scheduled play outside LYSA unless a similar rule applies to all teams in the competition. However, voluntary compliance is strongly recommended.

3-6.5 LYSA Recreational teams are prohibited from playing outside the state of Kentucky.

3-7.0 Non-LYSA Teams Playing Within LYSA Leagues

3-7.1 A non-LYSA team is a team whose players are not registered directly with LYSA.

3-7.2 At the discretion of the LYSA Board of Directors, non-LYSA Recreational teams may be allowed to play within LYSA Recreational leagues.

3-7.3 All non-LYSA Recreational teams playing within LYSA Recreational leagues are subject to these LYSA Rules.

3-7.4 All non-LYSA Recreational teams playing within LYSA Recreational leagues will be subject to a per team fee, as determined by the LYSA Board of Directors.

3-7.5 The parent organization for a non-LYSA Recreational team is responsible for the proper registration of a team's players and the selection of LYSA approved coaches. Teams with improperly registered players are subject to dismissal from the LYSA league.

RULE 4 - COACHES

4-1.0 Appointment of Coaches

4-1.1 Recreational Teams: The Coach of each Recreational team is appointed by the League Director with the concurrence of the League Director each season. In the event that two individuals wish to coach a team together, the Age Group Commissioner shall designate one as Head Coach. No Recreational team may have more than two (2) coaches. No coach can be appointed to be head coach of more than one team (Recreational and/or Competitive) without the approval of the Director of Coaching and the League Director(s). Coaches of Recreational teams may not be compensated.

4-1.2 Competitive Teams: Competitive team head coaches will be appointed in accordance with the Lexington F.C. General Rules.

4-1.3 All coaches must submit a background check form to LYSA before they can have any interaction with their team.

4-2.0 Rules Compliance

Coaches are responsible for compliance with the rules set forth herein, and with the rules of the International Football Association Board (FIFA), United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association (KYSA), by their team, the members thereof, and those associated with the team.

4-3.0 Reporting of Scores

The coaches of both teams shall report the score of the game, and provide any other statistics required, to the League Director or his/her designee. If a team does report its score that game may be recorded as a forfeit by that team. The scores of games shall be reported no later than one week after the game is played.

4-4.0 Code of Conduct

Coaches shall be responsible for their compliance and the compliance of their team with the LYSA Code of Conduct.

LEAGUE DIRECTOR

5-1.0 Appointment of League Director

The League Director serves as a voting member of the Board of Directors and is nominated and approved for a term of two years by the Board.

5-2.0 Duties of the League Director

The duties of the League Director include:

5-2.1 To oversee and coordinate play within his/her League.

5-2.2 To act as the representative of the coaches within his/her League.

5-2.3 To keep track of field and game equipment in the League, and assure that fields are properly prepared for play.

5-2.4 To act as recipient of game results and maintain League statistics.

5-2.5 To report any serious incidents of unsporting conduct within the League, whether from personal knowledge or the reports of others, to the Director of the Recreational Leagues with his/her recommendations.

5-2.6 To serve as the focal point for communications from the LYSA Board of Directors and/or the Director of the Recreational Leagues to the coaches and players in his/her Division.

RULE 6 - TEAM MARSHAL

6-1.0 Appointment of the Team Marshal

Each team shall have a Team Marshal that is designated by the team's head coach. Competitive teams may delegate these duties to the team coordinator.

6-2.0 Duties of the Team Marshal

The duties of the Team Marshal shall be:

6-2.1 To identify themselves to the game officials before the match and state that they will assist the officials in any way requested.

6-2.2 To monitor the behavior of parents on the team which they have a child. This duty shall include speaking to any individual, as needed, immediately during or following an incident and instructing them that LYSA has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for:

- a) Swearing, cursing, bad language and any profanities that are verbal or acted out
- b) Unsporting language or behavior
- c) Harassments of the officials
- d) The use of noise makers (cow bells, air horns and auto horns)
- e) Acting inappropriately towards any player.
- f) The exercise of any slurs involving but not limited to: eyesight, age, ethnicity, gender, intelligence, over-weight phenotype or religion.

6-2.3 To observe coaches and assistant coaches for both teams to ensure that only the allowed number of coaches (1) plus assistant coaches (two) are on the coaching side for each team during any game, that no coach or assistant takes a position outside of a permissible coaching area. (See also LYSA RULE 12-3.2c). This role shall include reporting any acts of unsporting behavior, violent behavior, abusive behavior, threats or verbal abuse that occur during games or practices to the Director of Coaching.

6-2.4 To be responsible for announcing all sightings of lightening, extreme or hazardous weather or of the audible presence of thunder to officials, parents and coaches, if necessary, to exercise judgment to call for immediate evacuation of playing field AND to ensure that players are removed to appropriate shelter.

6-2.5 To act as a liaison between parents and coaches.

RULE 7 - RECREATIONAL PLAY

7-1.0 Composition of Divisions and Schedules

7-1.1 With the exception of U5 and U6, each Age Group/League will be divided into Divisions according to geographic area or overall league balance. The age balance/ratio of each team should be considered in seeding the Fall Season, if applicable, in divisions U8 and up. The Fall Season record should be used to seed the Spring Season in those divisions if possible.

7-1.2 Assignment of teams to Divisions within an Age Group/League will be made by the League Director.

7-1.3 Playing schedules and field assignments to Age Groups will be made by the Vice President or his/her appointee.

7-1.4 All divisions shall be set no later than 2 weeks before the scheduled start of the season. Any change of division after this time will require the approval of the Board, Vice President or their designee.

7-1.5 Schedules shall be available no later than one week before the scheduled start of the season. Any change of schedules after this time will require approval of the Board, or their designee.

7-1.6 Divisions may be formed with 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11 teams. The preferred format is an 8 or 6 team division.

7-1.7 Sample schedules for each division size may be found in APPENDIX A - SCHEDULES.

7-2.0 Number of Games in One Season

7-2.1 A season will consist of a number of games approved by the LYSA Board or its designee.

7-3.0 Team Standings and Awards

7-3.1 Team Standings shall be determined by the accumulation of points awarded for games during the season in the team's flight. If two teams accumulate the same number of points in the flight, they will occupy the same position in the standings, and the next position will be unoccupied. For example, if two teams tie for first place, the teams are declared co-champions and the team with the next highest accumulated points will be placed in third place. The second place position will be unoccupied.

7-3.2 Points awarded for games shall be as follows: Win - 3 Points; Tie - 2 Points; Loss - 1 Point; Forfeit - 0 Points.

7-3.3 The awarding of trophies and other awards shall be determined by the LYSA Board or its designee.

RULE 8 - RESCHEDULED GAMES

Games will be played as scheduled unless canceled, postponed, terminated, or rescheduled as set forth in these rules. These rules shall apply only to teams playing in LYSA run Recreational leagues.

8-1.0 Postponed Games (Prior to Start of Play)

8-1.1 The Referee(s) in charge of any particular game shall have the authority to postpone said game because of weather conditions or such other special condition(s) affecting the playability of the game with regard to the safety of the players or the preservation of the field.

8-1.2 Any current Board member shall have the authority to postpone any game because of weather conditions or such other special condition(s) affecting the playability of the game.

8-1.3 If a game is postponed as set forth above, he/she shall notify the Director of Officiating, who shall notify the League Director. If a League Director postpones a game or games as set

forth above, he/she shall be responsible for notifying the coaches and Referee assignor as soon as possible.

8-1.4 If any Board member has decided to postpone a game or games, the Referee cannot alter that decision by forcing play.

8-1.5 When the decision has been made that a game shall be played, and 1) one coach or team refuses to play, that team shall forfeit the game, or 2) both coaches or teams refuse to play, both teams shall forfeit the game.

8-2.0 Terminated Games

8-2.1 The Referee in charge of a particular game shall have the authority to terminate the game, once begun, because of weather conditions, any other special condition(s) which affect the playability of the game with regard to the safety of the players or the preservation of the field, or for reasons of persistent or severe unsporting conduct on the part of the players, coaches, or spectators.

8-2.2 The Referee shall notify the Director of Officiating of the decision to terminate the game, providing the reason(s) for termination, the score at the time of termination, the official game time at the point the game was stopped, cautions and/or ejections administered, and any other details which may be required by the Director of Officiating.

8-2.3 Games terminated for reasons other than unsporting conduct (weather conditions, field playability, safety of players, etc.) will be replayed in their entirety, unless at least one half (1/2) of the scheduled game has been completed, in which case the score at the point of termination shall be the final result.

8-2.4 Games terminated for reasons of unsporting conduct shall be reviewed by the League Director, who will decide whether the game is to be replayed, forfeited, or let stand as played (with the final score to be that at the point of termination.) He/she may also take disciplinary action, if appropriate, under the provisions of LYSA RULE 9 - SPORTSMANSHIP, CONDUCT AND SAFETY. The League Director shall report his/her decision to the persons involved within one (1) week of the date of the game in question. His/her decision may be appealed pursuant to LYSA RULE 11 - APPEALS AND PROTESTS.

8-3.0 Process of Rescheduling Games

8-3.1 The League Director may agree to allow a game to be rescheduled if a request is made by the two head coaches involved. Such a request must be made at least two weeks prior to the originally scheduled game.

8-3.2 Rescheduled games must be played within two weeks of the original play date unless authorized by League Director.

8-3.3 The League Director is responsible for:

- a) Notifying the referee assignor of the cancellation and to request referees for the rescheduled game.
- b) Notifying the Director of Fields about the cancellation and to arrange for a field on an alternate date.

RULE 9 - SPORTSMANSHIP, CONDUCT AND SAFETY

9-1.0 Unsporting Conduct

9-1.1 Unsporting conduct by any coach, Referee, player, parent, spectator or other member of LYSA is strictly forbidden at any game, practice or other LYSA function.

9-1.2 Coaches are responsible for the conduct of team supporters and are expected to assist the Referee to control the game. The Referee has the right to eject any coach, player or parent or to terminate the game for reasons of unsporting conduct.

9-1.3 All ejections of a coach, player or parent from a game, as well as any serious unsporting conduct by any person on or near the field of play, shall be reported by the Referee to the Director of Officiating as defined in LYSA RULE 12-7.0 - Law V – The Referees, who shall in turn report the incident to the League Director and the Vice President with his/her recommendations.

9-2.0 Suspension/Discipline of Coaches, Players or Referees, and Other Participants 9-2.1 A LYSA League Director may suspend a coach, player or other participant in his/her League on such teams as he/she deems advisable and necessary, and shall immediately report his/her actions and reasons therefore to the Vice President.

9-2.2 Suspensions may be appealed pursuant to RULE 11 - APPEALS AND PROTESTS, unless otherwise noted in these rules.

9-2.3 A player, coach or other participant may be suspended or disciplined by for any of the following offenses:

- a) striking and/or directing derogatory remarks toward a coach, Referee, player or official of LYSA, before, during or after a game or practice or
- b) receiving two or more ejections from a game in one season or
- c) consuming intoxicating beverages or appearing to be under the influence of either an intoxicating beverage or illegal drug at or near a game or practice or
- d) using any type of unauthorized noise-making, voice amplification or sound generating device prior to, during or after a game or
- e) violation of LYSA General Rules or Bylaws or
- f) unsporting conduct or
- g) such other behaviors that are deemed to be detrimental to the LYSA organization or its members.

9-2.4 If the League Director is not available, the Deputy Director, as acting Director, has the authority to suspend an individual within their league.

9-2.5 If neither the Director nor Deputy Director is available, the Director of Officiating may, in their absence, suspend a member of LYSA for any of the above mentioned reasons.

9-2.6 A player or coach ejected from a game shall be suspended for at least the following regularly scheduled league or tournament game. Scrimmages do not qualify.

9-2.7 Any person suspended from participation for any reason two or more times during a calendar year shall be suspended from participation in all LYSA activities for a minimum of one year.

9-2.8 Any person suspended for fighting shall receive a minimum suspension of five games. The act of fighting shall include:

a) Deliberately striking or attempting to strike another individual.

b) Inciting another person to fight with either verbal or non-verbal gestures.

9-2.9 All suspensions, except for automatic suspensions, shall be made in writing by the authority making the suspension. Such notification should be primarily done by registered mail with return receipt. Secondary notification may be made using electronic mail and/or telephone but will not be considered the primary means for purposes of appeal. Such notification shall clearly explain what offenses were committed, when they were committed and the penalty for each offense. It shall also describe the procedures for appealing. In the case of an automatic suspension, it is advisable that similar notification as described here should also be made.

9-2.10 The Vice President shall be immediately notified of all appealable suspensions. This notification shall be in writing and may be delivered by either regular mail or electronic mail. Such notification shall include the notification letter sent to the suspended party and any other such supporting documents as deemed appropriate.

9-2.11 The Director of Officiating shall be immediately notified of all suspensions.

9-2.12 The registrar or other such person as specified by the Board shall be immediately notified of all suspensions so that they may be properly recorded.

9-3.0 Safety

9-3.1 Coaches

a) Coaches and assistant coaches are responsible for the safety of their players at any game, practice or training event. A coach or assistant coach must provide a safe environment for his/her players including but not limited to the observance of all weather policies in effect and the teaching and use of accepted and safe playing practices and techniques.

9-3.2 Referees

- a) During games the referee is responsible for ensuring that the field is safe and playable and that weather conditions are safe and playable. If the referee believes that either the field or the weather creates unsafe conditions then he/she will suspend the game until those conditions are removed in accordance with existing LYSA policies.
- b) The referee may ask for assistance from his/her assistants, coaches or spectators in assessing the field or weather conditions but the decision to suspend a game for safety concerns is his/hers in accordance with existing LYSA policies.
- c) It is intended that for the purposes of this rule that the term referee is to mean the head referee or the center referee or any person acting in the capacity of a head referee and does not include the assistant referees.

9-3.3 Players, Parents or Other LYSA Members

- a) It is the responsibility of all LYSA members to adhere to all LYSA rules and policies with respect to safety. If a member is aware of a safety issue it is his/her duty to inform the controlling authority for that event as set forth in these rules or other applicable LYSA policies.
- b) If a member is informed of a safety concern it is his/her duty to conform to these rules and existing LYSA policies.
- c) It is intended that for the purposes of this rule that the term "other LYSA Members" include all other members who are not addressed in LYSA Rules.
- d) Any Board member has the authority to terminate games or practices for safety concerns.

9-3.4 Violations

- a) For the purposes of this rule and associated rules and policies a violation will be defined as knowingly ignoring a safety hazard of any kind and placing another person's safety in jeopardy.
- b) If a LYSA member is found to have violated these safety rules or any other LYSA safety policies in effect then that person is subject to suspension or dismissal.
- c) In the case of a coach or assistant coach that person is subject to the authority of the League Director.
- d) In the case of a referee that person is subject to the authority of the Director of Officiating.
- e) In all cases the Board of Directors has the authority to suspend or dismiss anyone found to be in violation of LYSA safety rules or policies.

- f) In the event that a possible violation is reported to LYSA that person who is alleged to have been in violation may be relieved of his/her duties in direct connection with the alleged violation until such time as an appropriate investigation and determination can be made.
- g) In the case of a referee LYSA shall compensate him/her for all games for which he/she was previously scheduled while the investigation is under way. If he/she is found to have been in violation of LYSA rules or policies he/she may be required to relinquish that compensation.
- h) In all cases a determination should be made within 15 days of the allegation coming to a Director's or the Board's attention. If 15 days is not sufficient to investigate and reach a decision then the person alleged to have committed a violation may return to his/her normal duties unless the Board votes to extend the investigation time. The Board may do so by a 2/3rds vote of the Directors meeting to discuss the violation at a regular or special meeting of the Board. Such extensions may only be in increments of no more than 7 days and may be done as often as the Board deems necessary to reach a valid conclusion.
- i) If the person against whom a violation has been alleged is also a member of the Board then that person will be excused from any deliberations by the Board that directly concern the alleged violation.
- j) Any actions taken by as a result of the alleged violations may be appealed pursuant to RULE 11 - APPEALS AND PROTESTS.

9-3.5 Severe Weather Policy

It is the policy of LYSA that any LYSA activity shall be stopped and possibly terminated due to the presence of severe weather. Severe weather shall include but is not limited to:

1. The sighting of lightning.
2. The hearing of thunder.
3. The sighting of a funnel cloud.

If any of these conditions are present during a game, then the referee in charge shall stop the game and instruct everyone to clear the field and seek shelter. After a wait of at least 30 minutes with the absence of any severe weather, the game may be resumed. If after 30 minutes the severe weather continues, the referee may terminate the game.

If any of these conditions are present during a practice or a scrimmage where no referee is present then the coach or coaches are responsible for stopping the practice or scrimmage and instructing everyone to clear the field and seek shelter. After a wait of at least 30 minutes with the absence of any severe weather, the practice or scrimmage may be resumed. If after 30 minutes the severe weather continues, the practice or scrimmage shall be terminated.

In the case of multiple games, practices or scrimmages occurring at a single location, if there is a person or persons on site who have been vested the LYSA Board with the authority for the whole site, such as is the case of a tournament director, then the individual referees and coaches will be subordinate to that site authority's determination of the presence of severe weather and whether the activities should be stopped or terminated.

Any modification of the 30-minute wait time may only be made by the LYSA Board.

If there are no severe weather conditions present but in the opinion of the referee or the site authority the threat of severe weather is sufficiently real then the referee or the site authority may suspend or terminate a game at their discretion.

If at any time during any LYSA game, practice or scrimmage a parent or guardian feels that conditions are dangerous or constitute a possibility of a threat of severe weather that poses a risk to their or their child's safety, then that parent or guardian has the responsibility to remove their child from the game, practice or scrimmage even if the game, practice or scrimmage continues. In that event there shall be no penalty to the parent or child for such an action but consequences such as forfeiture of a game may result.

If the Fayette County area is under a severe weather warning then no LYSA activities shall be permitted to start or continue while that warning is in effect.

This policy was created after reviewing information found at the following sources:

National Severe Storms Laboratory website at www.nssl.noaa.gov.

National Lightning Safety Institute website at www.lightningsafety.com.

National Collegiate Athletics Association website at www.ncaa.org (search for "weather guidelines")

as well as reviewing policies of individual organizations such as:

The current Lexington FC and LYSA weather policies at www.lysa.org .

The severe weather policy of the Georgetown (Texas) Soccer Association at www.georgetownssoccer.org .

The severe weather policy of the city of Louisville, Colorado at www.lightningsafety.com/nlsi_pls/lsvl_plans.html .

9-4.0 Background Checks

9-4.1 All individuals who will serve as Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Trainers or who will have direct contact with LYSA youth participants in their LYSA required volunteer roles must fill out the background check form(s) provided at www.lysa.org.

9-4.2 LYSA will make copies of completed Background Check Forms before their submission to the court system so that LYSA will have a record of coaches that have submitted a form.

9-4.3 Absolutely no rosters will be given out to a coach until a Background Check Form has been received by LYSA.

9-4.4 The Director of the Recreational Leagues and League Directors will coordinate efforts to obtain Background Check Forms on every head coach, assistant coach and trainer in each league.

9-4.5 Failure to submit a Background Check Form by a team's head coach, assistant coaches or trainers will be grounds to suspend a recreational team's practices, scrimmages, games and standings until all forms are received. This suspension will be at the joint discretion of the Director of the Recreational Leagues and League Director.

9-4.6 These conditions will apply to all paid coaches, assistant coaches or trainers in the Competitive division under the supervision of the L.F.C. Office and the L.F.C Director of Coaching.

9-4.7 No head coach, assistant coach or trainer will be allowed contact with a youth player at practices, scrimmages, training sessions, games or tournaments unless a Background Check Form has been received by the LYSA Office.

9-4.8 No head coach, assistant coach or trainer will be eligible to receive payment for services unless a successful background check is received by LYSA or the L.F.C. Office.

9-4.9 Any individual convicted of a violent crime and/or a crime involving sexual abuse or child abuse will be ineligible to serve as a head coach, assistant coach, trainer or any position involving player contact in LYSA programs.

9-4.10 LYSA does not sanction the transport of players by any individual convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs or any individual having 3 or more speeding convictions in the most recent 5 year period. Individuals with a background check reporting any driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs are not permitted to transport players no matter how long ago.

RULE 10 - REFEREES

10-1.0 Certification

10-1.1 All Referees who officiate at scheduled LYSA games must be certified by USSF except for U5/U6 and U8 which may use other LYSA approved referees.

10-2.0 Assignment

10-2.1 Referees shall be assigned to officiate scheduled LYSA games by the Referee Assignor.

10-2.2 In the event that the regularly scheduled Referee does not report for a game any LYSA approved Referee may officiate.

10-2.3 In the event no LYSA approved Referee is available, or if no agreement can be reached between the coaches, the League Director may reschedule the game.

10-2.4 In the absence of a LYSA approved Referee another individual may officiate with the approval of both coaches.

10-2.5 The Referee Assignor will be appointed by the Board.

10-2.6 The responsibilities and duties of the Referee Assignor will be as described in the assignor contract.

10-3.0 Reporting

10-3.1 Referees are required to report within forty-eight (48) hours to the Director of Officiating:

- a) any serious act(s) of unsporting conduct,
- b) any disciplinary action taken which results in the cautioning or sending off from the field of any player or coach,
- c) any suspension or termination of a game, and
- d) any serious injury to any player, coach, or Referee.
- e) the name, primary jersey number and team name for any player involved in any of the above-mentioned incidents.
- f) The date, location and teams involved in any of the above-mentioned incidents.

RULE 11 - APPEALS AND PROTESTS

11-1.0 Form of Appeal or Protest

11-1.1 Appeals or protests pertaining to the interpretation and enforcement of the LYSA Constitution, By-Laws and General Rules must be made in writing, addressed to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee, and postmarked or delivered to an official of LYSA within seventy-two (72) hours of the incident in question and/or notification thereof, except as otherwise noted in these Rules.

11-1.2 When a game is played under protest, the coach or team captain should ask the Referee, in a personable manner, to advise the opposing coach that the game is being played under protest. The name of the Referee should be identified in the protest.

11-2.0 Consideration of Appeals and Protests

11-2.1 Only violations of the LYSA CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS or GENERAL RULES, or application of the Laws of the Game, shall be proper subjects to be considered for action.

11-2.2 Should any person desire to appeal a decision of the LYSA Appeals Committee, they may do so to the full LYSA Board. Decisions of the LYSA Board may be appealed to the KYSA

Arbitration Council. The decision of the KYSA Arbitration Council may be appealed to the KYSA Board and then to USYSA Region 2B Appeals Committee.

11-2.3 Should any hearing body choose not to hear a protest or appeal, that body may, if they desire refer the matter directly to the next higher authority.

11-2.4 Upon receipt of any adverse decision, appeal may be made to the next higher authority.

11-2.5 Appeals or protests pertaining to the interpretation and enforcement of the LYSA CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS and GENERAL RULES made by a coach, Referee, parent or guardian, or official of LYSA will be decided by the Appeals Committee.

11-2.6 All appeals, protests, and reports required by these Rules must be in writing and delivered to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee (Vice President). The proper fee and ten (10 copies) of the appeal and any supporting documents must be enclosed:

a) The protest and appeal fee shall be \$50.00 for all protests/appeals brought before the LYSA Appeals Committee. The number of copies of documentation shall be ten (10) copies. -32-

b) The protest or appeals fee shall be returned if the protest or appeal is upheld. This fee shall be retained if the protest or appeal is denied, unless the Appeals Committee is overturned by a higher authority.

c) One copy of the appeal shall be retained by the Chairman of the Appeals Committee and one copy shall be provided to the LYSA Secretary. Said appeals and protests should contain all supporting documents (letters, affidavits, or other materials) that the aggrieved person wishes to have reviewed by the Appeals Committee.

11-2.7 The Referee's judgment on points of fact connected with play shall be final insofar as the result of the game is concerned.

11-2.8 Upon notification of a party's intent to appeal the Appeals Committee Chairman shall convene a meeting to discuss the appeal within two (2) weeks of the receipt of the appeal. If it is not possible to convene a meeting of the committee in that time the Appeals Committee Chairman may extend the time subject to the approval of the LYSA President or the LYSA Board.

11-2.9 The procedure for hearing an appeal shall be determined by the chairman of the committee consistent with the applicable rules or policies as set forth by KYSA, USYSA and USSF before considering a case to ensure that all applicable rules or policies are properly adhered to.

11-2.10 Decisions of the Appeals Committee shall require a majority vote of the Committee members. **11-2.11** The Appeals Committee Chairman shall provide a written report of the Appeals Committee's decision(s) to all concerned parties within two (2) weeks of the decision. A copy this report shall be forwarded to the LYSA Secretary. **11-2.12** Any decision rendered by the Appeals Committee may be appealed to the full LYSA Board. Such appeal must be made in writing to the LYSA Secretary and must be postmarked within five (5) days of receipt of the decision being appealed. The President shall set a date for the hearing of the appeal to the Board.

Such date shall be within 30 days of receiving the appeal or at such time as a quorum of the LYSA Board can be convened.

11-2.13 At the Board Hearing, the Appeals Committee Chairman or other Committee representative shall present the findings of the Appeals Committee to the LYSA Board. Unless modified by majority vote of the LYSA Board, the parties involved shall have the opportunity to present their case using the following procedures:

- a) The party making the appeal shall be given 15 minutes to make their case before the LYSA Board. They may use all of their time or they may defer up to five minutes of their time for rebuttal.
- b) A representative of the Appeals Committee will then be given up to 15 minutes to respond.
- c) If the appealing party has deferred any of his time for rebuttal then that time shall be taken.
- d) During any of the above times LYSA Board members may ask questions. These questions and their response will count against the time limits.
- e) The time limits may be extended by a majority vote of the LYSA Board members present, if a proper motion to that effect is made.
- f) After both parties have been given time to make their cases, the LYSA Board will then move into executive session to discuss the appeal and render a decision.

11-2.14 The decision of the LYSA Board shall be conveyed by the LYSA Secretary, in writing, within seven (7) days of the decision. This decision may be appealed to the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association (KYSA) Arbitration Council as outlined in the KYSA State Rules.

11-2.15 No person associated with the operations of LYSA at any level may invoke the aid of the courts of any state or of the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within LYSA/KYSA/USYSA/USSF.

11-2.16 The purpose of the LYSA appeal procedure is to provide a fair consideration of matters in dispute within LYSA. Nothing in this procedure shall take precedence over the Rules of LYSA, KYSA, USYSA, and of USSF.

11-3.0 Enforcement of Rules

11-3.1 The Appeals Committee shall have the authority to order any game replayed or forfeited or to take such other action as it may deem advisable for the enforcement of these Rules and the preservation of the principles of LYSA.

11-3.2 The Appeals Committee may ratify, reverse, increase, or reduce all disciplinary actions properly brought before the Committee.

RULE 12 - LAWS OF THE GAME

12-1.0 FIFA Rules

All intra-association games shall be officiated according to the rules of the International Football Association Board (Federation Internationale de Football, FIFA), United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association (KYSA), providing there is no LYSA Rule to the contrary.

12-2.0 LYSA Rules for Recreational Competition LYSA RULES shall supersede rules by any other organization or publication. Changes to LYSA Rules for Competition or these General Rules require the review and approval of the LYSA Board of Directors. LYSA exceptions or additions to the FIFA Laws of the Game are as follows.

12-3.0 Law I – The Field of Play

12-3.1 Dimensions: Fields designated by the LYSA Director of Fields shall be acceptable.

12-3.2 Markings:

a) Field of Play for Under 5 and Under 6

Penalty Area: None

Goal Area: 3 yards x 8 yards

Penalty Mark: None

b) Field of Play for Under 8 Age Group

Penalty Area: None

Goal Area: 3 yards x 8 yards

Penalty Mark: None

c) Field of Play for Under 10 Age Groups:

Penalty Area: 24 yards by 12 yards

Goal Area: 8 yards by 4 yards

Penalty Mark: 10 yards

c) Coaching Areas shall be restricted to the areas along and a minimum of two (2) yards outside the touchlines.

d) Spectator Areas shall be restricted to the areas along and a minimum of two (2) yards outside the touchlines. No one shall be permitted directly behind the goal or within four (4) yards of the goal line.

e) Coaches and players from both teams shall use the side of the playing fields opposite the spectators. During games the coaching staff shall be limited to a maximum of two (2).

f) No dangerous objects (automobiles, benches, chairs, etc.) shall be permitted within three (3) yards of the boundary lines of the field. Play shall not be allowed to begin or continue until this condition is met.

g) For the Under 5 and Under 6 Age Groups, there shall be no penalty area marked on the field.

12-3.3 Goals:

a) Goal dimensions for the Under 5, Under 6 and Under 8 Age Groups shall be 6 feet W by 4 feet H.

b) Goal dimensions for the Under 10 Age Group shall be 6 yards W by 6 feet H.

c) Goal dimensions for other Age Groups may be reduced on certain fields when approved by the LYSA Director of Fields.

12-4.0 Law II – The Ball

12-4.1 LYSA shall use the following three sizes of balls:

Number 3 ball for Under 5, Under 6 and Under 8 Age Groups;

Number 4 ball for Under 10 and Under 12 Age Groups;

Number 5 ball for all other Age Groups.

12-4.2 The Home Team shall provide the game ball. If the Home Team does not have a ball that is acceptable to the Referee, he/she may select a ball provided by the Visiting Team.

12-4.3 In the event a suitable ball of the correct size is not available, the Referee may select a ball of another size.

12-5.0 Law III – The Number of Players

12-5.1 Number of Players

a) The number of players on a Recreational team within LYSA is as described below. The minimum number of players required to start a game for each age group is also below.

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>NUMBER PER TEAM</u>	<u>MINIMUM</u>
U5/6	4 (no keeper)	3
U7/8	4 (no keeper)	3
U9/10	7; including keeper	5
U11/12	9	6
U13/14	11	7
U16/18	8 (small-sided play)	5

If one or both teams do not have a minimum number of players as described in the table above at the scheduled starting time, the game may be delayed for fifteen (15) minutes. If at the end of 15 minutes, one team is unable to field the minimum number of players, that team shall forfeit the game. If neither team is able to field the minimum number of players after the 15-minute delay, both teams shall forfeit the game.

b) After play begins, either team may continue as long as it is able to field the minimum number of players defined above. If, however, either team is unable to field the minimum, the Referee shall stop the game and that team shall forfeit the game.

12-5.2 Substitutions: Unlimited substitution is permitted. A team may substitute as many players as it wishes by indicating the intention to substitute and obtaining the approval of the Referee to do so at the following times:

- a) Prior to the team's throw-in;
- b) Prior to a goal kick by either team;
- c) After a goal by either team;
- d) After an injury, by either team, when the Referee stops play;
- e) At halftime or between periods, by either team; and
- f) After a caution, by either team.

12-6.0 Law IV – The Player's Equipment

12-6.1 Equipment that is dangerous to another player or to the wearer shall not be worn.

12-6.2 If the Referee finds that a player is wearing articles which are not permitted by the Laws or which in his/her judgment may constitute a danger to other players, he/she shall order them removed.

12-6.3 If the player fails to comply with the Referee's instructions, the player shall not take part in the match.

12-6.4 A player who has been prevented from taking part in the game or who has been sent off the field for infringing Law IV, must report to the Referee during a stoppage of play of the game and may not reenter the field of play unless and until the Referee has satisfied himself/herself that the player has complied with the Law.

12-6.5 The proper uniform for LYSA registered teams will include LYSA approved jersey, shorts and socks.

12-7.0 Law V – The Referees

12-7.1 End of Game: Reports of disqualifications, ejections, cautions, serious injuries, game suspensions, and/or verbal or physical abuse to a Referee shall be reported to the Director of Officiating.

12-7.2 Injured Player: The Referee shall, whenever he/she has stopped the game due to the injury of a player, require that the player be removed from the field of play as soon as it is reasonable to do so.

12-7.3 Unsporting Conduct

- a) The Referee has the right to ask the coach and/or assistant coach after appropriate warning and refusal to comply with this warning to leave the area of play should they, in the opinion of the Referee, be affecting the call of the game. Unsporting conduct, harassment or any act directed toward the Referee will be considered to be affecting the call of the game.
- b) If both coach and/or assistant coach are asked to leave the field of play after appropriate warnings, the Referee shall terminate the game unless a responsible adult can assume coaching responsibilities.
- c) Should the spectators become unruly, the game will be stopped, opposing coaches and the Referee will consult and spectators will be asked to maintain order. If, in the opinion of the Referee, order is not restored, the game will be terminated.

12-7.4 Referee Judgment

- a) The Referee is the official timekeeper.
- b) The Referee shall be the sole judge on the field of play and the Referee's decision shall be final. No protest based on a Referee's judgment call shall be allowed.
- c) Any complaint about a Referee shall be directed in writing to the Director of Officiating.

12-8.0 Law VI – The Assistant Referees

A non-neutral assistant referee shall be provided by each team if requested by the Referee. The duties of the assistant referee, subject to the decision of the Referee, shall be to indicate when the ball is out of play; which side is entitled to a corner kick, goal kick, or throw-in; and when substitution is desired.

12-9.0 Law VII – The Duration of the Match

12-9.1 The duration of LYSA games shall be as follows:

Age Group	Game Length
Under 5	four 10 minute quarters
Under 6	four 10 minute quarters
Under 8	four 12 minute quarters
Under 10	four 15 minute quarters
Under 12	two 30 minute halves
Under 14	two 35 minute halves
Under 16/18	two 35-minute halves if small-sided (8v8)
Under 16	two 40 minute halves if full-sided
Under 18	two 45 minute halves if full-sided

12-9.2 Intervals between quarters shall not exceed five (5) minutes or between halves ten (10) minutes without approval of the Referee.

12-9.3 Periods shall not be shortened.

12-10.0 Law VIII – The Start and Restart of Play

12-10.1 In Age Groups which play four periods (quarters), teams shall exchange ends of the field at half-time (after the second quarter), unless the coaches of both teams request exchanges at the end of each quarter due to special condition(s) existing on one half of the field. Kickoff shall pass from one team to the other when ends of the field are exchanged.

12-10.2 A team in clear possession of the ball at the time of a stoppage in play for injury shall restart the play with an indirect free-kick from the point where the ball was at the time of the stoppage. If neither team is in clear possession at the time of an injury stoppage, a drop ball shall be taken to restart play.

12-10.3 Should the start of a game be delayed because of no fault of either team, such as an earlier game finished late, ten (10) minutes will be allowed from the end of that game to the start of the next game.

12-11.0 Law IX – The Ball In and Out of Play

12-11.1 No changes.

12-12.0 Law X – The Method of Scoring

12-12.1 The score of a forfeit game shall be 1 - 0.

12-12.2 The score of a double forfeit game shall be 0 - 0.

12-13.0 Law XI – Offside

12-13.1 For the Under 5, Under 6 and Under 8 Age Groups, there shall be no offside.

12-13.2 For the Under 10 Age Group, there shall be no offside in the recreational leagues, but players are not allowed to loiter without the ball around the opponent's goal area in a flagrant disregard of the no offside rule. Punishment shall be an indirect free kick to the opposing team.

12-14.0 Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct

12-14.1 A player charging the goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area shall be penalized by the award of an indirect free kick.

12-14.2 For the Under 10 Age Group and below, slide tackles which result in physical contact initiated by the tackling player, regardless of whether the ball was played prior to the contact, will be considered dangerous play and shall be penalized by the award of an indirect free kick. If in the opinion of the Referee, a more serious foul (tripping, violent charge etc.) was committed by the attacking player, the Referee shall penalize for the more serious offense.

12-14.3 Cautioned players shall be substituted for immediately.

12-14.4 In the Under 5, Under 6 and Under 8 Age Groups, all fouls shall be penalized by the award of an indirect free kick. There will be no direct or penalty kicks.

12-14.5 **Heading.** In any age group that includes 10-year-olds, including up to U12 in the recreational leagues and U11 in the competitive leagues, heading will be considered dangerous play and shall be penalized by the award of an indirect free kick.

12-14.5 **Punting.** Goalkeepers are prohibited from punting the ball in 7v7 games (U10 and below) If the Goalkeeper punts the ball an indirect free kick shall be awarded and should be taken on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred

12-15.0 Law XIII – Free Kicks

12-15.1 No changes. See Rule 12-14.5 regarding U5-8 Age Groups

12-16.0 Law XIV – The Penalty Kick

12-16.1 No changes. See Rule 12-14.5 regarding U5-8 Age Groups

12-17.0 Law XV – The Throw-In

12-17.1 No changes.

12-18.0 Law XVI – The Goal Kick

12-18.1 No changes. 12-19.0

Law XVII – The Corner Kick

12-19.1 No changes.

APPENDIX A - BACKGROUND CHECK FORM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A-1.0 Responsibility for Background Checks

Creation and revision of a usable Background Check Form (BCF) shall be the responsibility of the LYSA Office Manager.

A-2.0 Availability and Dissemination of Background Check Forms

Availability and dissemination of BCFs will be through LYSA related meetings, materials and media, including the LYSA and LFC Internet sites.

A-3.0 Coordination of the Dissemination and Collection of Background Check Forms

The coordination of the dissemination and collection of BCFs will be through the Director of the Recreational Leagues, the League Directors, the LFC Administrator and the LYSA Office Manager.

A-4.0 Collection of Background Check Forms

The collection of BCFs will be by direct submission to LYSA via its designated online system. Submissions of duplicate background check returns or background check returns performed for other organizations other than LYSA are NOT acceptable due to the possibility of alteration or forgery.

Related Procedures

- a) LYSA will distribute the BCF with registration and coaching materials.
- b) LYSA will receive as many BCFs as possible from coaches with registration materials.
- c) LYSA will distribute team information (rosters, etc.) at Coaches Meetings only to individuals who have submitted a BCF. No individual will be allowed to serve as a Head Coach and assemble a LYSA team for practice or games until a BCF has been submitted.

A-5.0 Post Collection Procedures

- a) Pre-Submission Procedures (before BCFs are submitted to Administrative Office of the Courts, Pre-Trial Services, 100 Mill Creek Park, Frankfort, KY 40601 (1-800-928- 6381)
 1. The Director of Coaching and the LYSA Office Manager will alphabetize BCF applications and photocopy one set.
 2. The LYSA Office Manager will prepare individual envelopes with address labels for BCF applicants (these are return by Frankfort to coaching applicants).
 3. The LYSA Office Manager will drive bulk forms to Frankfort and wait for return or return the next day. Individual forms may be mailed.

Post-Submission Procedures (after BCFs are submitted to Frankfort)

1. The Director of Coaching will perform “mop-up” of missing BCF applications and repeat “Pre-Submission Procedures” as necessary.
2. The Director of Coaching and the LYSA Office Manager will establish a spreadsheet for “Forms Submitted” to Frankfort and a complete listing of “Coaches and Assistant Coaches”.
3. The Director of Coaching will use photocopies of individual BCFs to color code in green individuals who have submitted a BCF and double check against the “Forms Submitted” spreadsheet.

Procedures for Reports Returned From the Administrative Office of the Courts

1. The Director of Coaching and the LYSA Office Manager will match every photocopy of an applicant to a report returned from Frankfort. The Director of Coaching will re-submit BCFs in the event that a report from Frankfort is not received.
2. The Director of Coaching will identify returns of convictions for child or sex abuse, including adult or non-adult rape and will remove from coaching individuals with reported convictions pending any revision of a BCF report from Frankfort. Revision requests are the responsibility of coaching applicants, not LYSA.
3. The Director of Coaching will perform cross-checks against the Kentucky State Police Sex Offender Database (<http://kspsor.state.ky.us/>) for out-of-compliance registries that are in Fayette County, as well as compliant registries. The Director of Coaching will check both compliant and non-compliant registries against coaching applicant data. The Director of Coaching will verify and remove from coaching individuals listed in the Sex Offender Database. In the event that there is a match, the Director of Coaching will make visual confirmation using the photo id in the Sex Offender Database. If visual confirmation is negative, the Director of Coaching will DO NOTHING. If visual confirmation is positive, the Director of Coaching will remove the individual from coaching immediately and notify the LYSA Board. The Director of Coaching will convene the LYSA Board to determine issues related to notifying team families and will request an immediate notification by LYSA of the KY State Police for possible violation of conditions of release, as required by law.

A-6.0 Procedures Related to Convictions That May Disqualify An Individual From Coaching

- a) The Director of Coaching must bring non-compliant issues to the Board in a fashion that is blind and anonymous with regard to the individual, including any identified with regard to:
 1. Drug and alcohol abuse convictions
 2. Drug trafficking convictions

3. Violence, terroristic threatening, stalking convictions or
4. Any convictions that may place youths or adults at risk for harm at the hands of the BCF coaching applicant.

b) The Director of Coaching will obtain LYSA Board decisions on each case and course of action.

c) The Director of Coaching will mediate any and all actions directed by the LYSA Board directly through the highest available Executives of the LYSA Board.

d) The Director of Coaching will redress any exceptional review of BCF returns. It is the responsibility of any recipient that believes that a background check is inaccurate to address these issues with the Administrative Office of the Courts Pre-Trial Services, 100 Mill Creek Park, Frankfort, KY 40601 (1-800-928-6381).

A-7.0 Compliance and Non-Compliance

a) Non-Compliance: An individual shall be considered non-compliant until a BCF is received by LYSA before the beginning of each LYSA season. In the absence of a copy of the BCF, neither assurances of the individual, League Directors, Age Group Coordinators, LYSA Officials or Officers will serve to remove the non-compliance.