



# PA WEST SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## Introduction

### **Article 1 - Introduction**

**1.1** Soccer in western Pennsylvania will be known as a sporting activity where courtesy, common sense, and good sportsmanship prevail. The Youth Board of Directors issue these Rules and Regulations to supplement the current FIFA Laws of the Game and US Youth Soccer rules and are to be followed uniformly. The purpose of these Rules and Procedures is to encourage the playing of youth soccer by providing a uniform and organized standard. Sportsmanship and fair play is the standard in all instances whether enumerated in a written rule or not.

**Harassment, abuse, or assault of referees is not to be tolerated; the right of each player, coach, team/club official, parent and spectator to attend games is a privilege that can be lost by inappropriate conduct.**

**1.2** These rules govern all play. Clubs have the right to retain house rules for their In-House providing such rules are consistent and in accord with PA West Soccer and US Youth Soccer rules. All Districts and Divisions have the right to augment the Rules with the approval of the PA West Soccer Youth Board.

**1.3** A claim of ignorance of these rules and regulations shall not be satisfactory grounds for the waiving of such rules and regulations.

**1.4** Suggestions for change are always welcome and will be reviewed by the Rules Committee of the Youth Board. Please forward any suggestions to the PA West Soccer State Office. Changes are to be submitted by March 1st for consideration for September 1st of the next year. The youth board has the authority and obligation to review the rules at the January meeting each year and change or adjust each and any rule that is in conflict with another rule or any policy handed down from US Youth Soccer national or regional authorities.

**1.5** All illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, and weapons are prohibited at all PA West Soccer sanctioned or sponsored activities. Clubs/individuals who do not comply with this rule will be required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee. Those found guilty of violations of this rule will be subject to suspension for a playing season (one year). The Divisional/District Director will immediately suspend those involved until the Disciplinary Committee has met and decided the case.

**1.6** Teams select the league they will play in based on ability to play in that league with the following exceptions

- A. Boys may not play on Girls Division/Girls Classic Division teams.
- B. No team may play in both Classic and Travel Leagues. A team is considered the same team if there are seven (7) or more players in common on both teams. Teams violating this rule will be suspended immediately from the lower level league of play and will remain suspended until the team meets the requirement of **1.6 B**.
  - 1. The Division 1 Director and Division A Director may grant exceptions to Rule 1.6B in their respective playing divisions provided the players in question have played for their Sunday club requesting the exception for the last two (2) consecutive playing years.

**1.7** **Exception and Effective Date**

Only the Youth Board has the authority to grant exceptions to these rules except as noted below in Article 8.6 (Transfers) and Classic #2 (Eligibility and General Requirements). All other requests for exceptions except as noted below in Article

**Effective 1/1/09 (Adopted 12/15/08)**

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8.6 (Transfers) and Classic #2 (Eligibility and General Requirements) must be submitted in writing to the Youth Board President or his designee (e.g. the Rules Committee) who will include the request on the agenda for discussion at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. A vote on the request will not be taken until the following regularly scheduled meeting. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the members present will be required to grant an exception. All exception hearings will be held in executive session. These rules will remain in effect until revised or amended as provided by the PA West Constitution and By-Laws. These rules supersede all presently effective rules.

Each District/Division shall have the right to impose fines upon its member clubs/teams for non-attendance at presidents meetings, or to require clubs/teams to post performance bonds for various age group participation. Such fines must be approved by a majority of club voting members present (as defined by that District/Division) from the specific District or Division imposing the fine; all such levies must be approved prior to the start of any season and confirmed by the Youth Board.

1.8 Certified letter shall be the official means of communication.

## Definitions

### *Article 2 - Definitions*

***ABANDONED GAME:***

(See TERMINATED GAME [page 5])

***CLASSIC DIVISION:***

A playing division of the Youth Division offering a Saturday playing league for players in their second year of U11 through and including U19 as provided for in Classic Division Rules. The division uses tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively on a basis of talent or ability; The division also has limits on player participation (per transfer rule) previously rostered to another team within the division.

***COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS:***

PA West Soccer will offer the following competitive leagues of play:

Classic Division: (Boys and Girls)

Boys Division 1

Girls Division A

***COMPETITIVE PLAYER:***

A player registered in two (2) or more programs. For example, Community and ODP or Classic or any other national affiliate.

***DISTRICT:***

A geographically defined area in which the elected Director organizes travel for Divisions 2, 3, 4, B, and C Travel Teams and coordinates any In-House (Recreational League) program matters. Each District's governing body has the authority to determine in which of its divisions a team may play based on the division/league's competitiveness and a team's record.

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## ***DIVISION:***

Inter-District Competitive Leagues in which the elected Director organizes travel for that specific league/division (Classic, Boys Division 1, Girls Division A); Divisions 1 (boys) and A (girls) are the highest level of inter club play for the Sunday Leagues and is not restricted to play within a geographic district. Teams in these Divisions are generally composed mainly of intra-club players or those from the same basic geographic area or school district.

## ***EXHIBITION GAME:***

Random game played (one not on league schedule) between two teams. These games can be arranged by the coach, age commissioner, District, League or Playing Division Director and does not affect the outcome of any league.

## ***FRIENDLY GAME:***

(See EXHIBITION GAME above).

## ***GAME SUSPENSION:***

A player/coach is required to miss the team's next scheduled league, Cup or Open tournament game (s).

## ***IMPARTIAL HEARING COMMITTEE:***

An impartial hearing committee is composed of individuals not excluding members of associated club except those who are directly involved in the incident.

## ***IN-HOUSE (Recreational League):***

A league administered at the local level in which it is recommended that:

1. The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is discouraged;
2. The league accepts as participants in the league any and all eligible youths (subject to reasonable terms or registration);
3. A system of rostering players is employed for the purpose of creating a fair or balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating; and,
4. Each player plays at least one-half (1/2) of each game except for reasons of injury, illness or discipline.

## ***INVOLUNTARY RELEASE:***

The removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of team authorities. (See National Championship Rule 101 and PA West Soccer State Cup Rules for restrictions and specific conditions for teams entering such competitions.)

## ***LEAGUE:***

A structured group of four (4) or more teams joined for the purpose of inter-team play under a common set of administrative and competition rules.

## ***LEAGUE GAME:***

A game scheduled by the Playing Division/District/League Director. These are required games.

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## ***MAKE-UP GAME:***

A scheduled league game that is rescheduled because the original game was canceled due to inclement weather, or other emergencies affecting playing conditions through no fault of the participants or spectators.

## ***PLAYING SEASON:***

September 1 of one calendar year thru August 31 of the following calendar year.

## ***PLAYING SESSION:***

The period of play for either fall or spring. Starting and ending dates of actual play (fall or spring sessions) are established by the Youth Board.

## ***PICK-UP GAME:***

Game played where one or more of the following conditions occur:

1. One (1) or more players may not be registered;
2. officials are not used;
3. registered adult supervision is lacking. No player, spectator, or coach is covered by PA West Soccer insurance in such games.

## ***RECREATIONAL LEAGUE***

An intra-club league in which:

- A. the use of try-outs, invitations, recruiting, or any similar process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited;
- B. the club administering the league accepts as participants in the league any eligible youths (subject to reasonable terms on registration);
- C. a system of rostering players is used to establish a fair or balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating;
- D. league rules require that each player must play at least one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline.

## ***RECRUITING:***

Any effort made directly or indirectly on behalf of a team or club to attract a player to said team or club.

## ***REGISTRATION:***

The execution of an intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of fees to become a member of a specific team/club, PA West Soccer, and US Youth Soccer.

## ***ROSTERING:***

The assignment of a registered player to a team.

## ***SCRIMMAGE GAME:***

Practice game played between two PA West Soccer registered teams with no referees.

## ***TEAM CARD ACCUMULATION:***

The number of cards (red and yellow) accumulated by players and coaches on a team as on record at the State Office.

## ***TEAM INTEGRITY:***

A team shall be considered the same team from season to season (different playing years) if one half (1/2) of the previous year's officially rostered players are rostered on the new year's official roster.

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## **TERMINATED GAME:**

A game ended by the referee. The status of the game shall be determined by the proper authority in charge of that game.

## **TRANSFER:**

The removal of a player from a team's roster on the request of the player, and the contemporaneous addition of the player to the roster of another team.

## **TRAVEL LEAGUE:**

Any non-Classic Division or non-Recreation League play.

## **TRAVEL DIVISIONS 2, B (Transitional League):**

A travel league administered by the District for Travel League play in which:

1. Each club determines the process to roster players;
2. The league does not otherwise meet the definition of a Recreational League;

## **TRAVEL DIVISIONS 3, 4, C (Recreational Plus League):**

A travel league administered by the District for Travel League play in which:

1. Each club determines the process to roster players;
2. No try-outs are conducted for these teams (Players can try-out for higher level teams);
3. Each player must play at least one half (1/2) of each game subject to absence, illness, injury or discipline problem;
4. The league does not otherwise meet the definition of a Recreational League;

Divisions 2 and B are the highest level of play within a District in the Travel League.

Division 3, 4, or C are the basic entry levels within a District for Travel League play. New players/teams working on development of skills and strategies are encouraged to play in this Division.

## **VIOLENT CONDUCT:**

The commission of a violent act against an opponent, official, spectator, or teammate at a match or on the way to or from.

## **VOLUNTARY RELEASE:**

The removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of the player.

## PLAYING RULES

### ***Article 3 - Game Specifications***

**3.1** All regularly scheduled games are to be played. Teams in all Districts/Divisions will be provided with a minimum six (6) game schedule two (2) weeks prior to start of playing session. This schedule may be augmented with exhibition games. Teams failing to complete their full schedule will be subject to review and upon recommendation by the Age Group Commissioner may be required to justify their failure to complete their schedule. The coach/team can be subject to suspension for one (1) year and the club can be subject to a fine. This team may also be prevented from participation in the *PA West Soccer State Cup* or *PA West Soccer Open* tournaments.

The following specifications are applicable to in-house and travel competition administered by the PA West Soccer Association.

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## 3.2

### A. Game duration and ball sizes:

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Ball Size</i>	<i>Circumference</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Under 19	Two 45 min halves	# 5	27" - 28"	14 - 16 Oz
Under 18	Two 45 min halves	# 5	27" - 28"	14 - 16 Oz
Under 17	Two 45 min halves	# 5	27" - 28"	14 - 16 Oz
Under 16	Two 40 min halves	# 5	27" - 28"	14 - 16 Oz
Under 15	Two 40 min halves	# 5	27" - 28"	14 - 16 Oz
Under 14	Two 35 min halves	# 5	27" - 28"	14 - 16 Oz
Under 13	Two 35 min halves	# 5	27" - 28"	14 - 16 Oz
Under 12	Two 30 min halves	# 4	25" - 26"	11 - 13 Oz
Under 11	Two 30 min halves	# 4	25" - 26"	11 - 13 Oz
Under 10	Two 25 min halves	# 4	25" - 26"	11 - 13 Oz

### B. Game Dimensions

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Roster Size</i>	<i>Field Size (max/min)</i>
U13-U19	11 v 11	18*	90 x 120/50 x 100
U11-U12	9 v 9	16	50 x 80/50 x 70
U10	<u>6v6/7v7</u>	14	45 x 60/40 x 55
<u>U8</u>	<u>4 v 4/5 v 5 (no keepers)</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>20 x 25/30 x 35</u>
<u>U6</u>	<u>3 v 3/4 v 4 (no keepers)</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>15 x 20/25 x 30</u>
U12-U19**	11 v 11	18*	90 x 120/50 x 100

\*May roster 22, but may only dress 18 for a match (excludes U12 to U15 teams intending to compete in the National Championship Series/PA West Soccer State Cup).

\*\*Classic Division only

## 3.3 Player Equipment

- A. All players on the field must be attired in matching uniforms consisting of shorts, jersey (with number), socks, shin guards, and legal soccer shoes. The uniform must consist of the club's official color and name. In case of a color clash, the home team will change.
- B. All or any member (s) of any team are permitted to wear extra protective clothing including gloves or garment protruding beyond the uniform without dangerous, protruding or hard objects, provided that:
  1. The proper team uniform is worn outermost;
  2. Referee discretion may be used to determine if any item of protective clothing is considered to go beyond the purpose of providing protection.

## 3.4 Scheduling of Games

- A. Each District/Division (other than for in-house recreational league play) shall arrange to schedule games in the most reasonably feasible manner for the teams registered for play. Traditionally, this means games are scheduled by a playing Division/District/League Director/Age Group Commissioner (hereinafter referred to as the "Scheduling Commissioner") who will create/coordinate a "pre- Schedule" to provide the opponent each team will play, the date set for it, and whether the game is home or away.
- B. Such a "pre-schedule" is to be created and circulated to all coaches before the playing session. Immediately upon receipt of the pre-schedule, each coach is to provide the pre-schedule to his club. Each club is then to provide the game time for each home game, and each coach is responsible for ensuring such game time and game location/directions and declared shirt color information is communicated

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promptly to the Scheduling Commissioner by the second week of the playing session, if not earlier. The Scheduling Commissioner shall then circulate the official schedule to all teams, now listing the times of the games and locations and declared shirt color of the home team so as to provide the teams with the necessary information to assist players, coaches and parents in their planning how each player can best coordinate his/her soccer commitments with other family needs.

- C. In the event a team does not communicate this game time information to the Scheduling Commissioner so that the opponents of that team can know as far in advance as practicable the time of day the game is to start, the “away” opponent has the right (provided it is exercised at least one week before the scheduled game) to notify the scheduled “home” coach (and Scheduling Commissioner) that the “away” team elects to play the game at their “home” and provided the original “away”/now “home” team obtains officials to referee and line the game and a game time and site is designated and directions to the site (if needed) are provided, the originally scheduled “home” team will now be required to play away at the site designated by their opponent. The originally scheduled “home”/now “away” team will be required to bring payment for the center referee and two linesmen in a form (i.e., check or cash) and reasonable amount designated by the original “away”/now “home” team. The original “away”/now “home” team will have the right to declare shirt color and shall make all arrangements necessary to ensure the field is ready for play, officials are scheduled, and such team shall have all responsibilities as if they were the originally scheduled home team (except that the responsibility for paying the referee/linemen at the field is now the responsibility of the original “home”/now “away” team). In the event the original “home”/now “away” team does not bring proper payment for the game officials, that team’s soccer club shall pay the cost of the game officials plus an additional \$30.00 if paid within three weeks of the game, and if not promptly paid, shall be responsible for paying an additional \$30.00 for each month thereafter that the charge of the game officials has either not been paid to them or reimbursed to the original “away”/now “home” team/club. If the original “away”/now “home” club paid the officials they obtained, all late payment fees shall go to the now “home” club; if the officials were not paid by the now “home” club, the late fees shall be divided equally and paid to the officials.
- D. It is recognized that there shall be reasons (e.g., late addition of teams to the schedule or other reasonable, unforeseen causes) that could delay issuance of the schedule by the Scheduling Commissioner where the schedule is not circulated before the playing session. In such a situation each team has two weeks from when the schedule is circulated to ensure the Scheduling Commissioner is provided with the intended game times.
- E. It is also recognized that there shall be good-faith reasons why a game (date or time) may need to be changed even though pre-scheduled. In such an event, it is intended that good faith and good sportsmanship will prevail to understand exigencies that may arise. In such an event that the time of the scheduled game needs to be changed by the home team, such a change must be communicated to notice as promptly as can be undertaken.
- F. In the event there is a dispute regarding the above, it shall be resolved by the Scheduling Commissioner in the most expeditious, yet reasonable, fashion. The Scheduling Commissioner, shall have the right to make the determination to resolve the dispute; if the Scheduling Commissioner desires he has who shall have the right, but not the obligation, to include other District/Division officials in the decision-

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making process and/or convene a District/Division hearing if felt necessary to resolve the dispute. If time is of the essence, a decision/ruling that allows the game to be played (even if time does not allow the most informed or ultimately best decision or does not allow for full due process) is preferred rather than no game being played because of a dispute; subsequent action can then be undertaken to redress any injustice that did occur.

### **3.5 Home Team Responsibility**

- A. Provide a properly marked playing field of regulation size and place a hash mark outside both the touchline and the goal lines at the 10-yard mark to assist the assistant referee in judging encroachment on the corner kick.
- B. Whenever possible, the fans from both teams are to be on the opposite side from the players. No one is permitted in the first two yards of the out-of-bounds area which is designated for the assistant referee.
- C. Provide at least three (3) game balls of proper size, properly inflated.
- D. Provide regulation size goals, nets and corner flags as required by USYSA Rules.
- E. Provide a three-man referee team. The Center Referee must be a currently certified USSF referee. Failure to provide a certified referee for a game is a violation and will be handled by the Disciplinary Committee at the District/Division level. Visiting Coach should file the report within 48 hours to the State Office and Divisional/District.
- F. In the event a schedule has not yet been circulated by the Scheduling Commissioner listing game times, location/directions, and declared shirt color of home team, the home team is to call visiting team no later than the Tuesday evening before the game with time, place, directions, etc. for the upcoming game. The home team is to declare their shirt color; failure to do so by this time gives the opposing coach his choice of colors. Games should be started within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time. The home team shall notify the Scheduling Commissioner that a game has not been played within the allotted time period minutes of the scheduled starting time. Should a color conflict arise, at the start of the game, the home team will change.
- G. Notify the visiting team at least two (2) hours plus travel time prior to the starting time for a rained out game.
- H. Make-up: If teams are unable to decide upon a make up date, the Age Group Commissioner or District /Division Director will set the date and place if necessary.

### **3.6 Visiting Team Responsibility**

- A. The visiting team shall notify the Divisional/District Director or Age Group Commissioner that the game was not played due to lack of referees.
- B. The visiting team should arrive at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game to allow time for check in and instructions from the referees.
- C. Visiting team should call the home coach if not called by the home coach by Wednesday prior to the scheduled game.

## **Article 4 - The Game**

### **4.1 Prior to the Start of the Game**

- A. Coaches/Managers will provide the following items to the referee:
  - 1. Original Sticker roster.

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2. Player passes for all players who are present and for up to three (3) coaches/managers. Players arriving late must give their passes to the referee/assistant referee before they can enter the game.
3. Two (2) properly completed (by the Coach/Manager) lineup cards.
4. No game will be played without presentation of the above items.

### 4.2 *Officiating*

- A. A currently certified referee shall be appointed to officiate each game with the authority assigned to him as specified in the "Laws of the Game" (FIFA). Officiating of all games will be governed by the Laws of the Game and the Rules of Competition subject to any modifications in these playing rules. Assistant Referee: Should also be certified, but if a certified assistant referee is not available, club linesmen may be used. It is required that PA West Soccer USSF referees use a DSC system (diagonal system of control - three man system).
- B. The center referee must be two (2) years older than the age group he/she is refereeing.
- C. The referee will keep the player passes, and one set of lineup cards. He will give each team the lineup card for its opponent. The referee shall not allow any player or coach/manager to participate in the game who does not have a valid player pass or coach's pass.
- D. Players shall not be allowed to play:
  1. With an injury which can be aggravated by playing or which constitutes a danger to others.
  2. Wearing a cast or splint unless the cast or splint is padded in such a manner to conceal it entirely.
  3. The referee will instruct the player with the padded cast that if the cast is used as a weapon, the player will be given a red card and subject to suspension.
  4. With anything dangerous to self or others such as jewelry, etc.
- E. No one may enter the field of play without the referee's permission.
- F. The referee shall remove any player with visible blood on the player or his/her uniform. The player may not return to the game until all signs of blood are removed.
- G. The referee has the final decision regarding postponement or cancellation at game time or he may abandon a game during play if he feels that weather or field conditions merit abandonment.
- H. If a game is called due to inclement weather, darkness, or other unsafe conditions, the game may be replayed in its entirety. Any game shall be deemed completed after commencement of the second half.
- I. At the end of the game:

The referee will record the score on, sign, and return two (2) signed lineup cards (one from each team) with the entire form completed if appropriate (cautions, ejections, or injuries) to the winning coach or the home coach in event of a tie. These cards are to be submitted to the appropriate Age Group Commissioner. The Age Group Commissioner records the information and in the event of a caution, ejection, or injury, submits these line-up cards to the State Office.
- J. The referee must file misconduct reports within 48 hours to the State Office. (Failure to do so will not affect any disciplinary action). This report must include:
  1. The player name
  2. Identification number (or phone number) - not a jersey number
  3. Team name
  4. Club name

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|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 5. Date and time of game           | 6. Teams involved |
| 7. Age Group and Division/District | 8. Boy or girl    |
| 9. Location                        | 10. Referee names |

Reports must be filed for all injuries, red and yellow cards of player, or caution or ejection of coach, and any abuse or referee assaults. Failure to file report is grounds for disciplinary action.

- K. The decision of the Referee on points of fact connected with play shall be final, and the results of the game cannot be appealed.
- L. Coaches under the age of 18 must be in the company of at least one coach of legal age at all times.
- M. Coaches 18 and younger must be at least two years older than the age group they are coaching.

### 4.3 Coaching

- A. Coaching from the sidelines, i.e. giving directions to one's own team on points of strategy and position, is permitted, provided:
  - 1. Neither mechanical nor electronic devices are used.
  - 2. The tone of voice is informative and not a harangue.
- B. Each coach or substitute player is to remain within the "coaching area." The coaching area shall be defined as 10 yards on each side of the centerline.
- C. No coach, player or spectator is to use profanity.
- D. No coach, player or spectator is to incite, in any manner, disruptive behavior of any kind.
- E. It shall be the responsibility of each coach and/or manager to maintain proper spectator conduct. They shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of the spectators for or from their respective teams.
- F. A team may have as many coaches with passes as it wishes. However, at the start of the game, a team may declare only three (3) coaches/managers that may be a part of the bench for the game. Removal of the coach/manager by the referee does not permit another coach/manager to join the bench.
- G. If the above rules are violated, the referee shall ask the offending party for compliance with the rules. A caution (equivalent to a yellow card) may be issued at this time if the referee deems it necessary. If the offending party refuses to comply the referee shall dismiss the party from the game. A referee has the right to ask the coach to leave the game and he will serve the same suspension as an ejected player. If he refuses, the game will be abandoned. The referee shall report such violation to the State Office in writing. Red and yellow cards (warnings and ejections) to coaches are verbal in nature and do not have to be shown to coaches per FIFA rules.
- H. Any coach or manager found guilty of using ineligible player (s) (overage, improperly registered, or under judicial suspension) will be suspended immediately for a period of one year.)
- I. It shall be the coach's responsibility to notify the District/Division Director and State Office when a game is played prior to the normal game day thus effecting the return of the ejected player's player pass. (Example: game previously rained out played on Tuesday evening. Coach notifies the District/ Division Director that the make-up game was played and the ejected player did not play. District/Division Directors will confirm and notify the State Office to return the player pass to the Coach). Only District/Division Directors or predetermined designee where an emergency arises have the authority to release player passes from the State Office

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- J. The winning coach or home coach if event of a tie will send one set of lineup cards to the designated league person within 48 hours to validate the game score. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a forfeit.
- K. Rostering of coaches can be at any time during the playing season and are not bound to any tournament roster freezes including State Cup or Open Tournament.

#### 4.4 Substitutions

- A. Substitutions may be made on any stoppage of play with the consent of the referee.
  - 1. Players must be at the center line ready to enter the game.

#### 4.5 Game Protest Procedures:

- A. By the conclusion of the match, when line-up cards and rosters are being returned to the coaches, the coach of the protesting team must tell the referee he/she wishes to protest. The referee must note on the line-up card and on the referee report that a protest has been made.
- B. The protesting coach must contact within 24 hours, his playing Division/District Director or Age Group Commissioner stating the reason for the protest.
- C. A formal letter of protest must be sent to the District/Division Director accompanied by a \$50.00 club or certified check made payable to PA West. The letter must be postmarked within 48 hours of the game's completion.
- D. The playing Division/District Director may allow the protest or forward the protest to the District /Division Discipline Board to be resolved. Copies of all protests are to be forwarded to the Division /District Director.
- E. Appeals may be made in accord with procedure outlined in the PA West Soccer Constitution and By-Laws and Article 10 of these Rules. All appeals must be made by an affiliated club of PA West Soccer in good standing. The appeal must be in writing on club letterhead by certified mail to the Youth Board Hearing and Appeals Chair. The protest must be accompanied by a club or certified check made payable to PA West Soccer Association for \$100.00

#### 4.6 Other Protest Procedures:

(See Article 10, *Other Protest Procedures, Hearings and Appeals*)

#### 4.7 Exhibitions

##### **EXHIBITION GAME:**

Exhibition games can be arranged by the coach, age commissioner, District, League or Playing Division Director. All required procedures must be followed before these games can be played. All PA West Soccer rules and regulations will be enforced *with single exception of requiring team rosters. Teams can be composed of players possessing currently valid player pass from same club*, but any red cards issued in these games will carry over to the next scheduled league game. These games cannot be used to wipe out a red card so the player/coach can play in the next scheduled game. No make-ups on exhibition games are required.

### **Article 5 - Misconduct (Players/Coaches)**

- 5.1 To participate in a game without a valid player pass or coach without a valid coach's pass shall be an automatic suspension for two (2) games. The above action shall be grounds for protest by the opposing team.

- 5.2 Misconduct on the Field of Play

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- A. One Red Card (in a season): One (1) game suspension for the next played league game. (except as in **5.2.G** below);
  - B. Two Red Cards (in a season): Three (3) game suspension for the next three (3) played league games;
  - C. Three Red Cards (accumulated all leagues/tournaments combined, *except US Youth Soccer National Championship Series games*, in a season): Indefinite suspension. The player must appear before the Disciplinary Board before he/she may be reinstated;
  - D. A red card and its suspensions will be carried over from season to season;
  - E. Any player or coach receiving four (4) cards (red and/or yellow) in one playing season (September 1 through August 31) shall be subject to a hearing to determine if additional time will be required besides the minimum one (1) game in conjunction with any additional game suspension;
  - F. Any coach receiving three (3) ejections (equivalent to red card) in a season is automatically suspended for one (1) year;
  - G. A player or coach who receives a red card/ejection for violent conduct shall be automatically suspended for two (2) games, unless a hearing shall be held to determine if this punishment is warranted for the act committed or if a more serious punishment is needed. If a hearing is not held before the third game following the suspension, the player's/coach's card shall be returned and he/she shall be eligible to play unless or until it is determined otherwise by a hearing that season;
  - H. If a player or coach receives a red card/ejection and then proceeds to commit verbal abuse or any other offense which, on its own, meets the criteria for a red card offense, the referee shall submit a report and a hearing shall be held to determine if additional penalties shall be imposed.
- 5.3 Travel outside PA West Soccer without proper permits or without prior notification of the State Office when guest players are used is grounds for suspension or probation (see **6.3.A**).

### 5.4.1 Suspension Because of Litigation

Any person participating in a PA West Soccer program who becomes a defendant in litigation detrimental to the welfare of youth players or litigation based on activities detrimental to the welfare of youth players, shall be suspended from all soccer-related activities. Suspensions under this rule shall be determined by the Youth Board of Directors. Matters detrimental to the welfare of youth players shall include crimes of moral turpitude and felonies. The person has a right to appeal the suspension only over whether the matter which is the substance of the accusation, if true, is detrimental to the welfare of youth player.

- 5.4.2 On completion of the litigation, the suspended person may inform the body suspending the person under Section 1 of this playing rule that the litigation has been completed and request that the suspension be terminated and the person reinstated. The suspending body may grant the request of the person or, if the decision of the litigation was adverse to the person, may continue the suspension for a period specified by the suspending body, fine the person, terminate all membership of that person with the suspending body and its members, or any combination of those authorized penalties.

## ***Article 6 - Travel: Tournaments, Friendlies & Exhibition Games***

- 6.1 The Youth Board has delegated authority to the State Office, State Registrar, and Youth Board President to approve all travel. Travel to tournaments hosted by PA West Soccer

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clubs or other National State Associations in Region 1, except NJ and CT<sub>2</sub> (of US Youth Soccer) require only a simple notification form to be completed (See PA West Soccer web site Forms Page). Travel to participate in tournaments, leagues, friendlies, or exhibition games of other USSF members require permission from the State Office after tournament, league, friendly, or exhibition game rules have been received. In most cases travel to these venues will not be covered by PA West Soccer medical or liability insurance. Teams so traveling must notify each player/parent of non-insurance coverage. Formation of a tournament travel team must be approved by the State Registrar or Youth Board President. Tournament rosters will only be approved if all players on such rosters are rostered on other US Youth Soccer teams. No Under-11 Tournament Teams will be permitted until July 1<sup>st</sup> in the year they would be eligible to play in a true U-12 age group as of that September 1st. Formation of tournament teams in the U-10 age groups is not permitted.

- 6.2 Travel to other states within Region 1 (except New Jersey) for friendly or exhibition games require no notification. A current list of reciprocal agreements for free travel from states outside Region 1 should be on file with both the State Office and State Registrar.

### 6.3 *Tournament Travel*

Except as provided in these rules regarding U-8, U-9, U-10 travel, there shall be no restrictions or limitations on travel providing the team submitting an application complies with all provisions of the *US Youth Soccer Travel and Tournament Policy Manual* including the use of the appropriate forms (*refer to US Youth Soccer TTPM Section 201*). According to USSF Policy 601-7 league play takes precedence over other travel. To be granted permission to travel during the normal PA West Soccer league sessions, a team may only travel on non-scheduled game weekends or have rescheduled any weekend games scheduled. It is the responsibility of the player and coach of the team traveling to notify in a timely manner other affected teams.

It is recommended that all teams also carry copies of each player's birth certificate or other proof of age because some tournaments require or may request such proof (*refer to US Youth Soccer TTPM Section 203 [c]*).

Any team forfeiting a league scheduled game in order to participate in a tournament will be fined \$100.00. Such team will also be denied entry into all PA West sanctioned tournaments for the remainder of that playing season. All make-up league games must be played by the end of the playing season as defined by the PA West Calendar.

- A. A team that travels without having approval to travel as provided under Part II of the *US Youth Soccer Travel and Tournament Policy Manual* and PA West Soccer rules is subject to penalties by PA West Soccer and US Youth Soccer, including any or all of the following: monetary penalties, denial of permission to travel in the future, revocation of any approval given to travel that has not yet occurred, and suspension or termination of membership of the parties responsible. Violation of this rule may make a team ineligible for any state sanctioned tournaments such as the Open or State Cup.
- B. A second offense will require a disciplinary hearing for the coach with a minimum of one (1) year suspension. The club will also be subject to probation, suspension, or fine;
- C. Only club checks accepted. Other forms of payment cause the permission to be rejected. (The club check is proof that the team has club permission to travel);
- D. Fees for travel permits/email notification shall be:
  1. FREE - received in state office 21 days or more before the date of the tournament.

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2. \$10.00 - received in state office less than 21 days but more than 14 days from the date of tournament.
  3. \$25.00 – received in the state office less than 14 days but more than 7 days from the date of tournament.
  4. \$50.00 – received in the state office less than 7 days from the date of the tournament.
  5. There will be a \$15.00 charge for each submission of change or addition (such as adding additional guest player/s. Note: the charge is per Submission Date).
  6. Travel paper fees will be charged the above rates based on the submission date of the completed paperwork package (exceptions are high school players/teams traveling in November and college players/teams traveling in May).
  7. Rosters not submitted at least 14 days prior to the date of the tournament will incur an additional fee of \$15.00.
- E. Teams wishing to travel to countries outside the 50 states of the United States and the District of Columbia, must submit two (2) applications to travel and a \$50.00 check to USSF. These must be submitted at least 90 days in advance. PA West Soccer will forward to USSF for processing.
- F. U10 travel teams may only attend tournaments using US Youth Soccer U10 Modified playing rules.
- G. Tournament Hosting Fee: All Non-State sponsored tournaments must pay an amount equal to the highest entry fee charged per tournament. All outdoor tournaments (from 3 v 3 up to and including 11 v 11) sponsored by PA West Soccer member clubs require state sanctioning.

### ***Article 7 - Special Rules***

#### ***7.1 Rules of Play for U6 thru U12 Travel League***

- A. All games will be conducted under the US Youth Soccer Small-sided Playing Rules for the appropriate age group. Copies of these rules are available at the PA West State Office.
- B. Sponsoring clubs will insure that each player plays at least half of every game.
- C. All teams will be required to have goal posts that comply with US Youth Soccer Small-sided Game initiative recommendation.
- D. Each playing district/division may choose to offer U10 travel provided said playing division has a minimum of four (4) teams to form a league.
- E. The only tournaments U10 travel teams or players may attend are tournaments using US Youth Soccer Small-sided initiatives.
- F. A maximum roster per each age group shall be that as established by U S Youth Soccer.
- G. U11 and younger shall be permitted to play up on an older team. Provided the following criteria is met:
  - a. The player's club permits players to play up.
  - b. The player's parents must provide a consent form to the club for which they play and copy must be sent to the State Association.

Each District may elect to administer U10 In-House or lower play consistent with US Youth Soccer rules. In-House U10 (or lower in age groups) teams or players may participate in In-House District Festivals, specially designated PA West Soccer Tournaments, or as approved by the District Director.

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## 7.2 *Special Tournament Roster Rule:*

Coaches wishing to travel to tournaments during the month of August only, may use either the current year's stickered roster or the roster for the new year that will begin September 1st provided all players are of an eligible age to travel out of state at the time of the tournament.

## 7.3 *Guest Players to Tournaments:*

Teams taking players to a tournament who will play as "Guest Players" (not rostered on the team) must complete a Player/Team Status Form for each participating guest player and submit with roster and travel permit request. A fee of \$15.00 will be charged each time a submission of change/addition is made other than with the original request. The Player/Team Status Form must be signed by an official of the player's current rostered team (if dual rostered, the higher division team). This rule does not apply to the PA West Open Tournament.

## 7.4 *TOPSoccer*

"TOPSoccer" players will be granted exceptions to the rules and regulations. Exceptions must be in writing and sent to the State Office, State Registrar, and TOPSoccer Director.

## 7.5 *Recruiting:*

Any direct contact from a coach, player, administrator, club/team representative, or parent of a player to another player, parent, or potential player/parent for the purpose of soliciting the registration, try-out, or play of the second player for the first player's team or club.

A. General newspaper ads, public notices, or posters advertising try-out dates are not to be considered recruitment. Phone calls, messages, e-mails, letters (whether bulk mail general type or individual personal), interviews, conversations are considered direct contact recruiting.

B. Once a player has submitted his/her fees and forms to a club, he/she is registered to that team/club and may not be recruited to play on another team within the same division/league.

C. Currently rostered players may not be recruited until the end of the Open tournament (for Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, A, B, and C) or the State Cup competition (or Regional/National competition if the teams are advancing to those levels) for Premier/Classic teams.

D. There is no restriction or limitation upon the times at which a player not rostered or no longer rostered may be recruited.

E. Recruitment, solicitation, or invitation of U11 or younger players to play for a coach, team, club outside the player's normally recognized geographic area in any venue during any session shall be considered a violation of recruitment.

F. Recruiting violations can lead to disciplinary action against the offending team coach and/or soccer club representatives. If a hearing is requested and the hearing committee finds that a violation occurred it may suspend the team coach and or soccer club representative for a period of up to one year per violation. If more than one player is involved, each player recruited will be considered a separate infraction.

## Procedures

### *Article 8 - Registration*

(For complete registration process, see "**Registration Process**" (Pages 26-32))

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- 8.1 All players in PA West Soccer club associations must be registered with the state association.
- A. All players will be rostered.
  - B. Tampering or altering a player or coach's pass, stickered roster, or birth certificate will result in a minimum of one (1) year suspension for the person or persons responsible. Should a club be involved, the club will also face disciplinary action.
- 8.2 All teams will have properly validated rosters listing registered players/coaches/managers. Teams registered and rostered with PA West Soccer must participate in a league organized and operated, or sanctioned by PA West Soccer.
- 8.3 Each District and Division Director, subject to the Youth Board approval, has the responsibility to ensure that there is not unfair competitive balance. In considering the fair competitive balance:
- A. In the rostering of teams in the U12 and younger Sunday travel league 75% of the players rostered to the team shall be from the generally accepted geographical area of that club.
  - B. Teams will play in divisions based on the following criteria:
    - 1. Any team with 0 competitive players may play in Division 4/D.
    - 2. Any team with no more than two (2) competitive players may play in Division 3/C.
    - 3. Any team with no more than four (4) competitive players may play in Division 2/B.
    - 4. Any team with five (5) or more competitive players shall play in Division 1/A.
- District and Division Directors reserve the right to move teams between divisions. The guidelines for these moves include but are not limited to a team's record and the percent of change of the roster from the previous season.
- Any exceptions to the above will be handled by the District and Division Director as a hardship case.
- 8.4
- A. Teams are permitted to roster a maximum of 22 players at any given time except for the U10, U11, and U12 age groups playing in Travel leagues and U12-U15 teams intending to participate in the National Championship Series/PA West Soccer State Cup. No further exceptions. Only 18 players may dress for a game;
  - B. U11-U12 travel teams may only roster a maximum of 16 players at any given time; U12 teams playing small-sided 8 v 8 in the National Championship Series may only roster 14 players. No further exceptions.
  - C. U16-U19 Classic Division teams rostering more than 18 players must submit a complete over-rostering acknowledgement form;
  - D. U11-U12 Travel Teams may only roster a maximum of 16 players at any given time;
  - E. U10 Travel Teams may only roster a maximum of 14 players at any given time;
  - F. Any team entering the State Cup Competition/Tournament must play in a sanctioned league whose rules specifically meet the following requirements: U12-U15 rosters are limited to 18 players, except those U12 teams that will play small-sided 8 v 8, maximum 14 player roster; U16 and older may roster up to 22 players, but only 18 may dress for each game;
  - G. A player may only play on more than one team in the Sunday League provided that all such play is with one soccer club and the teams are not in the same age group;
  - H. A player playing on more than one team must notify the coach of each team he/she is playing on that he/she is playing on more than one team;

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- I. In order to be rostered, all Classic Division players must submit a properly completed PA West Soccer Registration Form to their club registrar which will then be submitted to the Classic Division Registrar along with the team's official roster and player passes.
- 8.5 The minimum age for soccer players in PA West Soccer shall be four (4) years old. The age of four (4) must have been reached prior to August 1st preceding the current playing seasonal year
- 8.6 *Transfers*  
Player transfers between teams during a playing season are based on the level of competition:
- A. In-House (Recreational League) - no restrictions limiting transfers between teams or clubs;
  - B. Travel (Competitive or Recreational Plus Leagues) - no restrictions limiting transfers between teams or clubs in Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, A, B, and C as long as clubs agree providing the affected roster does not fall below 12 players (See exception below 8.6.C);
  - C. Division 1 and Division A teams entering the State Cup must comply with all national and State Cup rules;

### ***Article 9 - The State Office***

- 9.1 The State Office will record all referee reports, injuries, yellow and red cards. Ejected player passes or coach's passes will be retained for the suspension period and will then be returned to the team head coach after the District/Division Director or predetermined designee in case of emergency requests such return.
- 9.2 The State Office will provide the state registrar, the playing Division Directors, the District Discipline Board chairperson, and the Hearings and Appeals chairperson with lists of injuries, yellow and red cards. The District/Division Director or Discipline Board chairperson may institute actions against coaches/players/clubs/teams/associations if the record merits such action.

### ***Article 10 - Other Protest Procedures, Hearings and Appeals***

Make-up and procedures for District/Division Disciplinary/Hearing Board Committees and Youth Division Hearings and Appeals Committee.

- A. In order to best comply with the requirements of the PA West Soccer Constitution, the following rules of competition shall reflect the procedures to be followed for Hearings and Appeals;
- B. All decisions rendered by the Youth Board Hearings and Appeals Committee shall be confirmed by a simple majority vote of the Youth Board, after the expiration of time for appealing the decision of the Youth Board Hearings and Appeals Committee (within ten [10] days of receipt of the decision).
- C. Each geographic District and each playing Division (e.g., Division I, Girls, Classic League, and others which may be established) shall have a Disciplinary/Hearing Board Committee Chairperson who shall be responsible for receiving the periodic reports of red and yellow card infractions for players in their District/Division, convening a committee to provide a hearing for any discipline invoked under **Article 5** or further review the probationary status of any player, coach or team earlier determined. The Disciplinary/Hearing Committee is further authorized to otherwise review the conduct of any player, coach, team, or club in said District/Division to ensure compliance with applicable rules and regulations and acceptable

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sportsmanship and gentlemanly conduct standards. Said Disciplinary/Hearing Board Committees are empowered to render appropriate penalties or sanctions. While a hearing should occur within 30 days of the triggering reason for the discipline, reasonable efforts shall be undertaken to provide a hearing within 15 days of the invoking of any suspension unless said District/Division wishes to use a scheduled monthly Disciplinary/Hearing Committee meeting for purposes of said hearing. The Disciplinary/Hearing Board shall attempt to hold a hearing and render a ruling before the expiration of a suspension so invoked, but unless as otherwise provided (e.g., Section 5.2 G, supra), the failure to render a ruling before the expiration of the suspension does not abrogate the suspension. Hearings held at PA West sponsored Tournaments may be held with verbal notice

- D. If a player or coach wishes to appeal a District/Division Disciplinary/Hearing Board disposition or if they are dissatisfied with an action or inaction of PA West Soccer as it affects their playing status or being sanctioned/approved for play or travel and wish to protest this, they may do so by maintaining an Appeal to the Youth Division Hearings and Appeals Committee pursuant to the PA West Soccer Bylaws (see Youth Division Organizational Rules, Chapter 27, and Chapter 7, "Appeals"). The following process is to be followed:
1. If an Appeal from a disciplinary action, the Appeal must occur in writing within ten (10) days of receipt of the District/Division Disciplinary/Hearing Board findings. The Appeal must be sent certified mail to the PA West Soccer State Office (with a \$150.00 check from the club) and by certified and regular mail to the Youth Board Hearings and Appeals Chairperson (with copy of check sent to PA West Soccer State Office); the sender shall also obtain a date-stamped "Proof of Mailing" from the U.S. Post Office and maintain the same for review. A detailed statement as to the basis for the Appeal shall be submitted, signed by an appropriate official of the appellant club. The Hearings and Appeals Chairperson shall review the Appeal, be authorized to conduct fact-finding by reviewing the matter with any of the parties, District, Division, or otherwise, and upon confirming a legitimate Appeal exists and has been properly filed, the Hearings and Appeals Committee will be convened to review the Appeal being taken from the action of the District/Division.
  2. If a protest or Appeal is being made on a matter not involving action of a District/Division Disciplinary/Hearing Board, the appellant is first to contact the Youth Board President to determine if this is a matter properly reviewable by the Youth Division. If so, the President may refer the matter to the Hearings and Appeals Committee Chairperson for appropriate fact-finding (including, if necessary, the convening of the Hearings and Appeals Committee to include the District/Division Director for the team(s) in question) and ruling, or the President may refer the matter to the Youth Board of Directors for review, or the President may take such action as may be appropriate. If the matter is to be reviewed by the Youth Board Hearings and Appeals Committee or the Youth Board of Directors the same procedures must be followed in the taking of the Appeal as set forth above in subparagraph "1" with the addition that the Youth Board President is to be copied on the Appeal (by regular mail) and 12 copies of all statements, facts and arguments for consideration shall be submitted to the State Office with the Appeal for distribution.
  3. If an Appeal is taken from the Hearings and Appeals Committee to the Youth Board of Directors, this must occur in writing within ten (10) days of receipt of hearing findings. No further appeal fee must be paid, but the Youth Board may overturn the decision of the Hearings and Appeals Committee only by a three-quarters vote of the total voting members present of the Board of Directors.
  4. The next level of appeal shall be to the USSF by completing a Notice of Appeal in accordance to USSF procedures (currently USSF Bylaw 705) providing for the party to

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complete a USSF Notice of Appeal with appeal fee to be submitted within ten (10) days of receipt of the decision rendered by the Adult or Youth Divisions or Referee Committee or other PA West Soccer final decision. The Federation's Appeals Committee has the jurisdiction to approve, modify or reverse decisions.

5. The Youth Division procedures for the taking, hearing and disposition of Appeals are implemented to provide the most convenient forum in which to convene a disciplinary hearing and shall serve to satisfy the Youth Division Organizational Rules embodied in the PA West Constitution, particularly Chapter 27, "Hearings and Appeals Committee," especially insofar as they set forth provisions of the Youth Division (allowed under PA West Soccer Bylaws, Chapter 7, "Appeals, Grievances and Disputes") as to how the Hearings and Appeals Committee/Board shall be composed and allowing periodic disciplinary hearings in each District/Division/League.
6. In the event any District/Division/League is believed by a player, coach, team or club not to be providing a proper and timely disciplinary hearing, the aggrieved shall contact the District /Division/League Director and/or the Youth Division Hearings and Appeals Chairman, who shall rectify the situation by expeditiously convening a proper District/Division/League Disciplinary Board hearing or referring the matter directly to the Youth Division Hearings and Appeals Committee (in which event no \$150.00 appeal fee need be paid for this stage of review).
7. The composition of a District/Division Disciplinary/Hearing Board shall be determined by the Disciplinary/Hearing Board Chairperson in each District/Division with the advice of the District/Division Director; the members of the Disciplinary/Hearing Board shall serve either by special appointment for a given case or date of hearing, or may be generally appointed until replaced. The composition of a Youth Division Hearings and Appeals Committee may include any members appointed by the Hearings and Appeals Committee Chairman, who shall seek the advice of the District/Division/League Director involved, but the final selection of Committee members shall be that of the Hearings and Appeals Committee Chairman. The Hearings and Appeals Committee review/hearing need not be chaired by the Hearings and Appeals Committee Chairperson but shall report to the Hearings and Appeals Committee chairperson.

### CLASSIC DIVISION RULES OF COMPETITION

Adopted April 22, 1991

Revisions: February 18, 1995; May 8, 1996; May 17, 1997;

May 11, 1998, February 15, 1999, June 1, 2000, May 14, 2001; June 1, 2002, June 1, 2003, March 8, 2004, March 14, 2005, March 13, 2006, May 12, 2008

*The Classic Division will represent the highest level of inter-district club play offered by PA West Soccer Association.*

The Classic Division is a playing division which:

1. Defines the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability *as permitted*;
2. Limits the participation of players (per transfer rule) previously rostered to another team.

The Classic Division shall consist of this League:

#### **Classic League**

All Region 1 rules supercede PA West Soccer rules regarding acceptance and participation in Region 1 sponsored leagues.

When PA West Soccer offers both fall and spring sessions of a league, teams wishing to qualify for State Cup through Region 1 sponsored leagues must play in both fall and

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spring sessions of these Region 1 leagues also (Spring only Region 1 leagues will not qualify a team for State Cup if the PA West Soccer requirement is for play in both a fall and spring sanctioned league). Teams are encouraged to play in these leagues and these leagues are recognized by PA West Soccer as qualifying leagues (providing the continuance of session play is adhered to) for the State Cup tournament.

- \* Provide an opportunity for advanced players, coaches and teams to compete against and to learn from others of similar abilities
- \* Promote programs that will protect the rights and best interests of the players
- \* Provide programs that will enhance the development of players and coaches
- \* Games or practices on Sunday will be only as authorized in these Rules and other applicable rules of PA West Soccer and its Youth Board of Directors. All tournament travel will be governed by applicable PA West Soccer Travel/Classic Division Policies
- \* Publish and enforce a body of rules and regulations under which the Division will operate. The US Youth Soccer National Challenge Cup Rules shall be the basis for the Division. The right to add additional playing rules shall be reserved for the Division provided such rules shall be approved by the Youth Board of Directors (in accordance with PA West Soccer Constitution and By-Laws).

The club sponsoring a classic division team shall assume all responsibility which will include financial obligations to PA West Soccer, disciplinary actions, and such other questions that may arise concerning the team's obligations in operating procedures. The team shall be responsible for activities that are related to forming and operating a team, i.e. fields, referees, players' registration. Clubs may sponsor two teams in any single age group in the Classic Division only if they result from current Classic clubs merging provided each team maintains roster continuity of  $N(\text{half}) + 1$ . No additional second teams may be added once the merger is approved.

### ***1. Administration***

The Classic Division shall be governed by a Board of Directors and Voting Members.

The members will be made up of one (1) representative from each of the PA West Soccer registered Classic clubs in good standing and one voting member for every eight (8) PA West Soccer registered non-classic club teams in the classic league.

The Classic Division Director as well as Classic Division Board of Directors shall be responsible to the PA West Youth Division for proper operation of the Division's leagues. The Classic Division shall meet at least once before each playing session. A quorum at any special meeting or bi-annual meeting of the League shall consist of 50% (rounded up to next higher number) of the voting members in good standing.

The Classic Division shall have the following officers:

- Classic Division Director
- Assistant Classic League Director
- Boys Commissioner
- Girls Commissioner
- Secretary
- Hearings and Appeals Chair

The officers shall be elected by the recognized voting Members, shall serve a one-year term, and may be re-elected for subsequent one-year terms. Officers need not necessarily be current Members. Officers shall be elected by the membership at the meeting held prior to the spring playing session. These rules shall not preclude anyone from assuming concurrent offices.

The Membership shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Elect the Classic Division officers;
2. Establish entry fees and other fees necessary for the operation of the Division;

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3. Approve the Classic Division budget as required by the PA West Soccer Youth Division;

4. Recommend, administer and enforce Classic Division rules.

**The Classic Division Director** is charged with the overall administration of the Classic Division leagues. The director shall appoint such committees, as necessary to carry out such function. The director shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the division's leagues. The director shall oversee the financial operations of the division. The Director shall represent the Classic Division on the PA West Soccer Youth Board.

**The Assistant Classic Division Director** shall have the authority to perform the duties of the Classic Division Director in their absence. The Assistant Classic Division Director will have the authority to attend, act and vote (to the extent permitted) at PA West Soccer meetings in the absence of the Classic Division Director.

**The Secretary** shall be responsible for having a record taken of the minutes of all Committee meetings and keep records of scores. He shall have available at all meetings copies of the minutes of previous meetings and shall act as historian. The Secretary may appoint, with membership approval, an assistant.

**The Girls and Boys Commissioners** shall be responsible to schedule and track the session games as directed by the membership's competition committee and collect the session game cards. Commissioners may appoint age group assistants to assist in their duties.

**The Hearings and Appeals chair** shall be responsible for chairing the Disciplinary Committee. The chair shall have the duties and responsibilities provided for in Article 10B of the PA West Soccer Youth Division Playing Rules.

### ***2. Organizational Meetings***

The Classic Division Director is required to hold at least two (2) organization meetings per year, one for fall and one for spring. Teams wishing to play in the classic league must have their Classic Division registration forms in the State Office by the deadline set by the division. At the meeting, the Boys and Girls commissioner will lead a discussion as to the best way to schedule and structure each age group to provide the best competition within the guidelines established by the Division. Only teams represented by recognized voting Members at the meeting may vote on the playing session structure. Non-voting member teams will not have a vote.

### ***3. Eligibility and General Requirements***

The Classic Division is dedicated to providing the highest level of competition possible. Entry therefore shall be restricted to teams from Classic Clubs (as defined by PA West Soccer By-Laws Section 23.6.1) provided that provisions are made to allow entry to Non-Classic Club teams consistent with requirements of PA West Soccer By-Laws Section 23.9. Clubs sponsoring Non-Classic Club teams shall agree to abide by the rules of the Classic Division.

Each team wishing to enter the Classic Division will be required to file a team registration form with the State Office by a pre-set deadline to be included in the current league schedule. Any team not filing the registration form by the required date will not be included in the current league schedule. The PA West Soccer stickered roster and any other form prescribed by the State Office Registrar shall be a team's official entry into the Classic Division. Teams will register through the State Office Registrar. The Registrar shall pre-set a date for each session when registrations are due.

All PA West Soccer Club, registration and procedures must be met before a team is eligible to participate in the Classic Division.

For purposes of double rostering, a team is the same as another team when it has seven (7) players or more in common.

For purposes of demonstrating the continuity of a roster, a team is considered the same as the previous team if N+1 of its players where N is half the number of players rostered with the previous team (rounded down to next lower number) at the end of the last playing season.

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Players may be rostered only to one team in the Classic Division. (Dual rostering occurs when a player is rostered to a Travel League team in addition to his Classic team). A parent or legal guardian of a player on U12-U14 teams may request a transfer between teams during a transfer window from December 1st and January 10th; All U15 and above transfers must be requested by February 1st. The parents must submit a request in writing with submission of a \$150.00 fee (payable to PA West Soccer) to the state office and must be approved by the Classic Division Director subject to the league guidelines. Should a transfer not be granted by the Classic Division Director a hearing will be set by the Hearings and Appeals chair for the division.

Once the transfer has been granted, the player's original team must present the team roster to the Classic Division Registrar to remove the player within four (4) weeks of the date on the letter.

No team may accept more than five (5) transfers in a playing season. Teams are prohibited from releasing players to add transferred players during the playing season. Abuse of the transfer rule or improper release of a player can result in hearing. If a hearing is requested and the hearing committee finds that, a violation occurred, it may suspend the team coach for a period of one year per violation.

Teams may not transfer from club to club during a playing season (after they have been rostered) until after the State Cup or Regional or National Championship (if they have advanced to such a level).

PA West Soccer Playing Rules shall govern play. Should a violation occur, a disciplinary hearing shall be held in accordance with the Youth Division Playing Rules, PA West Soccer Constitution and By-Laws.

## ***4. Age Groups and Structure***

The Classic Division may establish programs for ages U9-U10-U11 that will follow PA West U9-U10-U11 guidelines. No teams from this program will be able to play in the PA West Open Tournament. Clubs sponsoring teams participating in the classic division small-sided game may form two (2) teams in a gender for 8 v 8 play, maximum 14 player roster. This is only in age groups requiring small-sided games.

The Classic Division shall offer all age brackets of play listed in accordance with the US Youth Soccer playing rules. Brackets shall be available to correspond with the Region I Tournament of Champions (single birth years: U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, U19)

The Classic Division shall consist of two leagues, the Premier League and the Classic League. Premier League shall be the highest level of play in the Youth Division and shall be limited to teams that qualify, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the following rules.

The Classic League shall be a high level league consisting of teams from community clubs, class "B" or "C" members or teams/clubs relegated from the premier league as set forth by the rules below.

A Premier/Classic membership committee (CMC) is to review all new club applications and recommend to the Classic Division board, entry to the Classic Division. The Classic Division board, made up of one representative from each of the Classic clubs and one voting member for every eight (8) PA West Soccer non-classic club teams in the classic league will then decide to accept, reject or send back to the CMC for more review. Membership is subject to the approval of the Youth Board.

Entry into either league is given below. Except for the entry-level age-group, they shall determine the structure of the competition within each age group.

For these purposes, they shall:

a) A New Club may only apply to the Classic Division if an existing Classic Club drops out or does not maintain the eight (8) team minimum and the Classic Division drops below 12 Classic clubs or if the amount of the general youth players in PA WEST increase by more than 5000 U-12 to U-18 players in one playing season (year).

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- b) Construct more divisions than A or B if necessary within each league and/or each age group and assign teams to each division
- c) Consolidate age groups if necessary to improve competitiveness and/or to comply with national championship game requirements.

Decisions of the Committee regarding the supervision and management of the leagues shall be consistent with the relegation rules provided below. Further, no decisions may be made regarding the structure of the competition except at the meeting preceding an age group's first playing session per year.

### ***5. Classic League Team Placement***

All teams playing in the fall must declare their teams on the PA West Soccer Classic League web site by July 15 and register their teams by August 1. All teams playing in the spring must declare their teams by February 15 and register their teams by March 1.

#### **A. Premier League**

Participation in the Premier League shall be restricted to Classic Clubs as *of January 1, 2006* who qualify and Classic league teams that finish as a semi-finalist or finalist (first through fourth place) in the PA West Soccer State Cup National Championship series.

- a) All Classic Clubs must field a minimum of eight (8) teams in the U11 – U18 age groups. If a club falls below eight (8) teams, the club is moved in to the Classic league. This would happen once all clubs have declared the number of teams that they will commit for the spring playing session (March 1).
- b) At the entry-level age group, PA West Soccer Premier League teams shall be placed in one flight. Each premier league team shall have to play each other at least once a season.
- c) For age groups playing in both the fall and the spring sessions, team standings shall be determined by the cumulative record. No adjustments shall be made for teams that elect to play in only one session.
- d) U-14 age group may play an exhibition session in the fall.
- e) For age groups playing in the spring session only, team standings from the previous session played shall be used to determine placement.
- f) There shall be a Premier A and Premier B level if there are 8 or more teams in an age group.
- g) Teams that drop out of the Premier League A level for reasons other than for playing in Region 1 leagues PA West State Cup qualifying leagues, shall have to re-qualify by playing in the B premier league. Premier A teams shall be allowed to resume play in the Premier League provided that they observe the continuity rule.
- h) Premier 'A' teams whose roster continuity is broken shall have to re-qualify by being assigned to the B Premier Bracket.
- i) Teams may not transfer from club to club during a playing season (after they have been rostered) until after the State Cup or Regional or National Championship (if they have advanced to such a level).

#### **B. Classic League**

Participation in the Classic League will be open to Community Clubs, class "B" or "C" members or teams/clubs relegated from the premier league only. There shall be no restrictions in the number of teams that can apply to the Classic League.

A team that wishes to join the league in a particular age group shall be allowed to play in the Classic League only upon approval of the Classic Division membership committee (CMC)

- a) At the entry-level age group, all teams shall be placed in one flight. Each team shall have to play each other at least once a season.
- b) For age groups playing in both the fall and spring sessions, team standings shall be determined by the cumulative record. No adjustments shall be made for teams that elect to play in only one session.

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- c) There shall be a Classic A and Classic B level if there are 8 or more teams in an age group. For age groups playing in the spring session only, team standings from the previous season played shall be used to determine placement.
- d) Teams may not transfer from club to club during a playing season (after they have been rostered) until after the State Cup or Regional or National Championship (if they have advanced to such a level).

### C. Relegation

- a) Premier A and B flight teams that finish the season within the relegation zone.
  - 1. The last ranked team in the A flight will be placed in the B flight as the top ranked B flight team.
  - 2. The top ranked team in the B flight will become the last ranked team in the A flight.
- b) Any Classic league team finishing as a semi-finalist (third or fourth place) in any State Cup National Championship Series will be automatically placed in the B group and any Classic League team finishing as a finalist (first or second) in any State Cup National Championship Series will be automatically placed in the A group (if there are two groups) of the Premier League allowing that team the same relegation zone as the premier clubs.
- c) The CMC committee shall review the Classic teams that finish the season with less than 2 wins or ties with the possibility of being removed from the Classic league.

### PA West Soccer Classic League Club Evaluation Form

At the end of the current PA West Soccer/Regional playing season and by July 1 of the year, each Classic Club president or director must submit a club evaluation form for their respective club. This form must be submitted to the Classic League Membership Committee for review for their club teams. The Classic Membership Committee will review each club's evaluation and make a determination as to the overall club/team strength.

### **6. Points for Season Play**

WIN	=	Three (3) Points
TIE	=	One (1) Point
LOSS	=	Zero (0) Points

These points will be used to determine standings for the season.

End of Season Tie Breakers: If two or more teams are tied in the number of points the tie will be broken as follows:

- 1) Winner of head to head competition (not be used for multi-team ties);
- 2) Goal differential (goals scored all season minus goals allowed all season). Team with highest differential wins higher position in the standings;
- 3) Most goals scored in all League season games;
- 4) Fewest goals allowed in all League season games;
- 5) The team with the fewest yellow and/or red cards (A red card shall be considered to correspond to two yellow cards)

In the event that a game(s) has (have) been forfeited, if any other tied teams played the opponent that forfeited to the other tied team(s), then all the games against the opponent will be omitted before applying the above tie breaker rules.

If three or more teams are tied for a position then the tie breaking rules will be applied to determine the first position among the teams tied and then the tie breaking rules will be reapplied amongst the remaining teams to determine the second position, etc.

### **7. Number of Games in the Season**

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- a) Teams in the entry-level age group should play each other at least once during either the fall or the spring sessions subject to the minimum number of games as established by PA West Soccer (see Article 3.1).
- b) Teams in the other age groups shall play at least the minimum number of games as established by PA West Soccer (See Article 3.1).
- c) Doublerheaders and mid-week games are permitted.
- d) All teams must have their season schedule of game times and locations in to the proper division Age Group Commissioner by the second week of the session. Failure to do so could result in the loss of all home games. The original scheduled home team remains responsible for all field rental and referee fees incurred by the original away team.

### **8. Forfeiting of Games**

Teams that forfeits a regular season game will be referred to the Classic Division Discipline Chair for review and recommendation to the Membership for action by a majority vote of the Members present at a duly called meeting of the Classic Division in which a quorum is present. Member Clubs that cannot control their teams will also be referred to the Discipline Chair for review and recommendation to the Membership for action by a majority vote of the Members present at a duly called meeting in which a quorum is present. Actions taken toward a team can be a fine of up to \$100.00 per game to a suspension from the league for multiple offences. Actions taken toward a Club for multiple team offences are fines up to \$500 and or a One (1) year club suspension.

### **9. Sunday Play**

Single Rostered Players - Any team having 100% single rostered players, shall be permitted to travel, play, or practice at any time provided they fulfill their scheduled league game requirements. Team having dual rostered players shall not be permitted to play or practice on Sunday after Noon. Under no circumstances shall Sunday practice or games interfere with Sunday League travel games.

### **10. Recruitment Rules**

A team may advertise for players to the public through the media or by poster, flyer, or the like, at any time of the year.

A player nor his family neither may be offered nor be provided financial inducement as an incentive to tryout for or join a Classic Division team. This section shall not prevent a team from forgiving fees and expenses in a true financial hardship case if an approval is obtained from the Classic Division Director.

There shall be no recruitment of a player rostered to a Classic Division team by another Classic Division team or its representative from August 1st until the conclusion of the State Cup Tournament. Violation of this rule can lead to disciplinary action against the offending team coach and/or soccer club representatives. If a hearing is requested and the hearing committee finds that a violation occurred it may suspend the team coach and/or soccer club representative for a period of up to one year per violation. If more than one player is involved, each player recruited will be considered a separate infraction.

Parents may apply for a player transfer to an open roster spot on any team during the mid-season transfer window subject to the Classic Division rule number 3.

Clubs may only consider a transferred player during the mid-season transfer window when a roster contains an open position. No player may be released from any team in order to accept a transfer player. Refer to Classic Division rule number 3 for penalties for misuse of this rule.

Clubs participating in the classic division may form U11 teams for 8 v 8 play, maximum 14 player roster.

The State Office will publish try-out schedules at the request of all properly registered clubs playing in the Classic Division.

These rules are not intended to place a limitation upon the many times at which a player not rostered or no longer rostered to a Classic Division team may be recruited.

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## ***11. Miscellaneous***

All teams must have their season schedule of game times and locations in to the proper division Age Group Commissioner by the second week of the session. Failure to do so could result in the loss of all home games. The original scheduled home team remains responsible for all field rental and referee fees incurred by the original away team.

No Classic Division team is permitted to play on Sundays, excepted as otherwise expressly provided. Under no circumstance shall Sunday practice interfere with Sunday League travel games. Doubleheaders and mid-week games are permitted.

## ***12. US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Information***

The US Youth Soccer has a national team championship program called the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series. Any team who participates in an approved four (4) team league is eligible to participate. Upon entry into the Classic Division, each team/club will be provided information on the PA West Soccer State Cup that is part of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series.

Violation of the Travel Policy may make a team ineligible for the State Cup.

## ***13. Incomplete Games***

The decision of the International F.A. Board interpreting FIFA Law VII states as follows with respect to incomplete games: "If the match has been stopped by the referee, before completion of the time specified in the rules, for any reason stated in Law V, it must be replayed in full unless the rules of the competition concerned provided for the result of the match at the time of such stoppage to stand.

The following rules of competition shall apply to Classic Division Games:

1. If the game is terminated in accordance with Law V (d) prior to the half time, the game shall be replayed in full;
2. If the game is terminated under Law V (d) following the commencement of the second half, the result of the match at the time of the termination shall stand;
3. If the termination is due exclusively to serious misconduct attributable solely to the coach and/or players of one of the teams, the non-offending team may petition the Classic Division Director to have the game declared as a victory in the standings for the non-offending team;
4. If a team withdraws from the match prior to its completion, the result shall be declared as a forfeit in favor of the opposing team;
5. A team is found to have played a player ineligible under Classic Division, PA West Soccer or US Youth Soccer rules, shall have the match declared as a forfeit in the favor of the non-offending team;
6. A team which appears for a scheduled match with an insufficient number of players to play the match under applicable rules or without the proper credentials (roster and player passes) for the game to commence, shall have the result declared as a forfeit in favor of the non-offending team;
7. Should a match be terminated once begun due to the inability of a team to continue to field the required minimum number of players, the result shall normally be governed by Rules 1 and 2, however, upon petition by the non-offending team, the circumstances will be reviewed and the Classic Division Director may award a victory by forfeit in favor of the non-offending team when it appears that the offending team did not make reasonable efforts to field a representative number of players;
8. A forfeit shall be considered a non-played game as to the offending team;
9. Should a team break any of the above rules, a hearing can be requested by contacting the Discipline Chairperson.

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## PA West Soccer STATE CUP RULES OF COMPETITION

State Cup 2008

### ***Ground Rules for Entry***

To be eligible to play in the PA West Soccer State Cup and subsequent Regional and National Championship games, a team must play in a PA West Soccer sanctioned League and be in good standing with said league. All U12 and U13 teams must play in both fall and spring sessions of said PA West Soccer sanctioned League to be eligible to compete in the PA West Soccer State Cup.

### ***Game Format:***

Tournament format will be comprised of a round robin preliminary round with teams in brackets, semi-finals and final round. Preliminary round brackets will be composed of four (4) teams per bracket with a maximum number of brackets set at four (4). If the total number of entered teams does not equal 4, 8, 12, or 16 there shall be a draw except for seeded teams for the play-in of a single game(s) (challenge games) between the excess number of teams to determine the spots for the round robin competition. The nature, site, and fees for the play-in game(s) (challenge games) shall be determined yearly by the State Cup Committee except that: each year, the seeding for the State Cup shall be: 1-the top three (3) teams from the previous year's State Cup will be seeded in the order of their finish; 2-the winner of the President's League will qualify as the number 4 seed for the State Cup. If the President's League first place finisher is qualified as a top three seed in the State Cup there will not be a seed from the President's League. This shall occur except when an age group has less than eight (8) teams enter the tournament but entries for the age group include the top four (4) teams from the previous year's tournament. The State Cup Committee has the right to seed and schedule the group as required to fill a four (4) team sub group through the use of first round games. If required (all other teams will play single-elimination games) first round matches for the remaining group. First round games shall be scheduled and seeded at the discretion of the State Cup Committee.

### ***Point System:***

The State Cup Point System will be the same as the Regional Championship Point System as amended from time to time. Changes made to the Regional system shall be considered as a change to the PA West State Cup Point System and notification will be made to each team entering said state competition.

## AFFILIATE INTERPLAY RULES OF COMPETITION

February 15, 1999

Teams from other National Affiliates may play in PA West Soccer scheduled leagues providing the following rules are met:

1. Teams must have proof of registration with their parent organization;
2. Teams agree to play within the rules and regulations of PA West Soccer and shall play in the District/Division as assigned by the Youth Board;
3. Teams must have a designated home field;
4. Teams must use three (3) USSF referees per home game;

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5. All players and coaches will be issued PA West Soccer player passes; the passes are required at every game;
6. All teams will be rostered on PA West Soccer travel roster forms;
7. All rosters will be sent to the PA West Soccer State Registrar with the proper paperwork: Birth Certificate; player picture attached to pass; copy of registration with affiliate club; proper fee on a club check;
8. The fee schedule for affiliate teams playing in PA West Soccer will be established by the Board of Directors with the advice of the Youth Board.

### PA WEST SOCCER REGISTRATION PROCESS (2008 – 2009)

#### Rosters

The playing season starts September 1st and ends August 31st. All rosters must be typed in alphabetical order (last name first). Full name of the club must be spelled out. Club name must be listed as on file with PA West Soccer. Initials are not permitted. Team must have a name. No rosters with white out or correction tape will be accepted for registration. Copied rosters are acceptable.

PA West Soccer only rosters teams who will play in its sanctioned leagues (except U-19 teams who may only roster to play in the National Championship series starting at the state level). Teams/clubs fraudulently rostering teams and then not playing in leagues registered for will be subject to a discipline hearing which could result in denial to play in any PA West Soccer activity for a period of at least one (1) year.

The following information must be provided on the roster:

1. State Code Number: 11
2. District: 1 - East 2 - North 3 - West 4 - South 5 - Mountain 7 - Lake
3. League: 1 - In-house T - Travel C - Classic S - TOPSoccer
4. Club number: This is the 3 digit # assigned to every club
5. Coaches & Managers: Last name, first name, street address, city, zip, ID#, area code, phone number.
6. Players: Last name, first name, street address, city, zip, birth date, sex, ID#, area code, phone number.
7. Age: U6, U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U19
8. Division of Play: Boys 1, 2, 3, 4 Girls A, B, C
9. Classic: 5 In-house - Leave Blank
10. Travel Teams Only: The letter "C" in a column in front of each player's name who plays in any competitive program.
11. ALL Rosters must be typed and done in landscape format (11 x 8 ½) – not portrait format (8 ½ x 11).
12. Official Rosters will be returned stickered. Color will vary each year.

Classic league: Teams must submit their rosters from the previous state cup with their registration.

All Classic Division players must submit a properly completed PA West Soccer registration form before they can be considered registered to a club/team. Player passes are not part of the registration documentation; they are part of the rostering process that follows the registration process and are required for play.

Adds/Transfers must be done in the appropriate area of the roster. DO NOT incorporate these players or coaches in with the original rostered players.

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When submitting changes to a roster, the old stickered roster must be relinquished. (It is preferred that adds/transfers be done on the work copy roster; however, if the roster is computer generated, the registrar must enter the original date of rostering as well as any subsequent change dates).

In-house players must include information for #1 thru #7 as listed above. However there are no team rosters. The club must submit a list of all players to be registered in their respective age groups. U6, U8, U10, etc.

TOPSoccer children will not play by age but by their individual ability.

Contact your district/division registrar to find out how many copies of rosters they require.

All coaches, managers and volunteers must fill out a disclosure form or supply a copy of their Act 33/34. These forms must be given to your club registrar. The club registrar will keep these on file. Anyone not submitting one of these forms will not be permitted to roster. This is risk management required by the National Association.

U10 rosters may hold no more than 14 players. No exceptions.

U11-U12 rosters may hold no more than 16 players. No exceptions.

Teams are permitted to have a maximum of 22 players (except U10, U11 and U12 teams playing in Travel leagues and U12-U15 teams intending to participate in the National Championship Series/PA West Soccer State Cup) on their rosters (No further exceptions or transfers will be permitted). U12-U15 Classic Division teams may only roster a maximum of 18 players at any given time; U16-U19 Classic Division teams may roster up to 22 players. Only 18 players may dress for a game.

At the beginning of the spring session Divisions 2, 3, 4 (boys) and B, C (girls) may reorganize their rosters. Total revisions are permitted.

## **In-house Rosters**

All in-house registration must be submitted to the state office, not to the district registrars.

The following should be submitted to the state office:

1. Rosters (via email or disk is preferred)
2. Check for \$11.50 per player not previously paid for on travel team. These players must have a "T" in front of their name to indicate on a travel roster as well.
3. Two copies of rosters – if not submitted by email roster or disk; if file is emailed, they will not get stickered roster back until payment arrives in state office.

District Registrars are not to accept in-house rosters.

If club includes in-house registration fees with travel registration check, it should be noted when sending check to the state office so the appropriate reconciliation can be completed between registration and payment.

In-house Roster layout:

Landscape format

Club name, club # and district on top of each page.

Players sorted by age group then alphabetically within age group.

Rosters need to include:

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First name  
Last name  
Address  
City  
St  
Zip  
Phone #  
Birthdate  
Gender

If any information is missing, rosters will be rejected and will need to be corrected ASAP.

## Registration Fees:

### Club:

In-House	<u>\$11.50</u>
Travel Players (1 fee per player)	<u>\$12.50</u>
Travel team	\$ 25.00

### Classic:

<u>U11 Teams</u>	<u>\$275.00 per team</u>
Team Fee (per team – club sponsoring only 1 team)	\$ 525.00 per team *
Team Fee (per team – club sponsoring 1-4 teams)	\$ 425.00 per team *
Team Fee (per team – club sponsoring 5+ teams)	<u>\$ 350.00 per team *</u>

\*Includes up to 18 players

## Transfers

All Classic, Division 1 and Division A teams must fill out the Player/Team Status Form when releasing or transferring a player. Only five (5) transfers are permitted throughout the seasonal year (See definition below). The old player pass must be submitted with all releases. No transfers are permitted without verification of released player. A transfer is any player dropping from a team and being placed on another team either within the same or other club. A player who is released from a Classic Division team during a playing season may not play for another Classic team during the same playing season. All Classic Division player and coaches passes must be laminated after being stamped by registrar. Such passes are only good for one seasonal year.

## Definitions (Registration, Rostering, Transfer, Release)

According to National Rules and regulations:

**Registration:** The execution of an intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of fees to become a member of US Youth Soccer. (**CLASSIC NOTE:** PA West Soccer considers a player registered to a club/team after completion of the above as well as submission of a Classic Division Registration Form)

**Rostering:** The assignment of a registered player to a team. (**NOTE:** PA West Soccer considers a player rostered to a club/team only after the roster and passes have been submitted to the appropriate registrar and each submitted item has been stamped by said registrar). Payment, if not required when Pre-Registering, must be made with submission of roster and passes – the state will not post bill.

**Transfer:** The removal of a player from a team's roster on the request of the player, and the contemporaneous addition of the player to the roster of another team. National rules state at the time a team names its National Championship roster it may not have more than five (5) previously rostered players. To maintain State, Regional, and National eligibility for competitions an official transfer form must be completed;

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**Involuntary Release:** The removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of team authorities. To maintain State, Regional, and National eligibility for competition a team/club may only "release" a player for one of three reasons: 1-the player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance; 2-the player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season; 3-the player has violated rules of the USSF, US Youth Soccer, or PA West Soccer.

**Voluntary Release:** The removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of the player. Teams/Clubs must honor release requests from players/parents; however, a player who is "released" from a Classic Division team during a playing season may not play for another Classic Division team during the same playing season unless he/she wishes to be considered as a "transfer" and follow the above rules.

### **ID #**

ID# will consist of the following:

The last 6 digits of the player or coaches' social security number except for Classic Division players/coaches which will be preceded by the number "5"

No spaces or dashes are to be used

Contact the state registrar for further instructions or in the event a social security number is not provided.

**Player Passes** - Valid for two seasonal years except for Classic Division.

### **ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID FOR PLAYER REGISTRATION**

Old stickered players pass.

Original birth certificate.

Copy of birth certificate made by parent or guardian.

Uniformed services id and privilege card (DD Form 1173)

Board of health records

Passport

INS certificate issued by immigration

Current Driver's license

**ABSOLUTELY NO BAPTISMAL OR RELIGIOUS CERTIFICATES OR AFFIDAVITS ARE ACCEPTABLE. THESE ARE AGAINST NATIONAL RULES. (rule 4033 section 1)**

1. Player passes are required for the following:

- a. Classic Division Teams.
- b. Division 1, 2, 3, 4 (boys).
- c. Division A, B, C (girls).

2. Filling out the player pass:

- Front:**
- a. State: PA West Soccer
  - b. Member classification (Player, Coach, Asst Coach, Manager, Trainer, etc.)
  - c. Name: Player, Coach or Managers Name (Last name first)
  - d. Birthdate: Required for all players but not for coaches or managers
  - e. Team #: This is the club #, ex.: 121
  - f. Age Group:
  - g. ID#: Last 6 digits of the social security # (Classic add prefix "5")- no dashes or spaces

- Back:**
- a. All pictures must be glued or scanned on pass. No pass will be accepted with the picture taped or stapled to the back. It is recommended that the picture be 1" in diameter.
  - b. All passes must be signed by the player in ink. No pass will be accepted if signed in pencil. Signatures must match the roster and front of player pass.

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Although names are listed as last name first, signature must be signed with first name first. **Example:** Smith, James B. The pass cannot be signed Jimmy Smith, Jim Smith. It must be signed James B Smith.

c. If a pass is signed by anyone other than the player, the club may be sent home from tournaments requiring signature verification. Further sanctioning is possible.

**NOTE:** Only elected District/Division Registrars, State Registrar, or Youth Division President may sign player/coach passes or team rosters. District/Division Directors or other State Office personnel are not authorized signatures.

### TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF PA WEST SOCCER EXHIBITIONS & OTHER AFFILIATED GAMES

Travel to officially sponsored US Youth Soccer tournaments requires only a simple notification process thru E-Mail to the State Office unless the tournament to be attended requires official travel papers from PA West Soccer. After submission of notification, an e-mail will be returned as notification of receipt of request.

When tournaments or visiting states require travel permits or participation is with other USSF associations, the Youth Board has delegated authority to the State Office, State Registrar, or Youth Division President to approve all travel permits for travel outside PA West. Formation of a tournament travel team must be approved by the State Registrar or the Youth Board President as per the approved playing rules.

No Under-11 Tournament Teams will be permitted until July 1<sup>st</sup> in the year they would be eligible to play in a true U12 age group as of that September 1. No Under-10 Tournament Teams will be permitted.

The coach is responsible for securing a travel permit if required prior to leaving the boundaries of PA West Soccer. Permits may be hand delivered and processed at the state office during normal business hours.

Type first two sections, sign and return the travel form to the state office:

Provide one copy of your stickered roster, approved host form for the tournament and a club check, if applicable, payable to PA West Soccer.

### Fee Structure ALL CLUB CHECKS

FREE - if received in state office 21 days or more before the date of tournament.

\$10.00 - payable to PA West Soccer, if received in state office 14 to 21 days before the date of tournament

\$25.00 - payable to PA West Soccer, if received in state office 7 to 14 days before the date of tournament

\$50.00 -payable to PA West Soccer, if received in state office less then seven (7) days before the date of tournament

Travel permit fees will be charged the above rates based on the submission date of the completed paperwork package (exceptions are high school players/teams traveling in November and college players/teams traveling in May).

\$15.00 per submission payable to PA West Soccer, if tournament papers/roster need revision or addition of guest player/s

Teams traveling outside the United States and the District of Columbia:

\$10.00 payable to PA West Soccer

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## PA WEST SOCCER ASSOCIATION

\$50.00 payable to USSF

These forms must be submitted 90 days before tournament date. PA West Soccer will forward to US Soccer Federation for processing.

Guest players: Completed Player/Team Status Form must accompany travel permit. A separate form is required for each guest player and must be signed by both the player and the coach/official of the player's current rostered team (if dual rostered, the higher division team).

No more than 18 players permitted on a roster.

The team traveling to a tournament without travel papers or to an illegal tournament (non sanctioned) will be placed on probation for a 6-month period. The coach will be subject to a disciplinary hearing and may be suspended or placed on probation for up to one year. A second offense will require a disciplinary hearing for the coach with a minimum of one (1) year's suspension. The club will also be subject to probation, suspension, or fine.

Only club checks accepted. Other forms of payment cause permission to be rejected.

Except as provided in these rules regarding U8, U9, U10 travel, there shall be no restrictions or limitations on travel providing the team submitting an application complies with all provisions of the *US Youth Soccer Travel and Tournament Policy Manual* including the use of the appropriate forms (*refer to US Youth Soccer TTPM Section 201*). According to USSF Policy 601-7 league play takes precedence over other travel. To be granted permission to travel during the normal PA West Soccer league sessions, a team may only travel on non-scheduled game weekends or have rescheduled any weekend games scheduled. It is the responsibility of the player and coach of the team traveling to notify in a timely manner other affected teams (for dual rostered players on identified secondary teams). PA West Soccer insurance covers play in US Youth Soccer sanctioned tournaments and may cover play in other USSF affiliate organizations providing the rules are consistent with US Youth Soccer rules and the same field protections are in place. Submission of tournament rules will expedite processing.

It is recommended that all teams also carry copies of each player's birth certificate or other proof of age because some tournaments require or may request such proof (*refer to US Youth Soccer TTPM Section 203 [c]*)

Any team forfeiting a league-scheduled game in order to participate in a tournament will be fined \$100.00. Such team will also be denied entry into all PA West Soccer sanctioned state tournaments for the remainder of the playing season. All make-up league games must be played by the end of the playing season as defined by the PA West Soccer Calendar.

U10 travel teams may only attend tournaments using US Youth Soccer U10 Modified playing rules.

Coaches wishing to travel to tournament during the month of August only, may use either the current year's stickered roster or the roster for the new year that will begin September 1st provided all players are of an eligible age to travel out of the state at the time of the tournament.

### **Player Requesting Play in Another State**

1. Must receive a copy of the Player/Team Status Form signed by other State Registrar and team official

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2. Complete PA West Soccer Player/Team Status form and have signed by designated PA West Soccer State Official\*
3. Complete PA West Soccer player pass and have stickered by designated PA West State Official \*
4. Indicate on form which team will be primary team for State Cup Competition
5. Submit all forms/fees to receiving state

### **Player Requesting Play in PA West Soccer from Another State**

1. Must receive a copy of the Player/Team Status Form signed by other State Registrar and team official
2. Complete PA West Soccer Player/Team Status form and have signed by designated PA West Soccer State Official \*
3. Submit other state player pass and have stickered by that state's State Registrar
4. Indicate on form which team will be primary team for State Cup Competition
5. Submit all forms/fees to receiving state/district/division registrar

### **Team Requesting Play in Another State**

1. Obtain permission from Youth Board first
2. Must receive a copy of the Player/Team Status Form signed by other State Registrar and team official
3. Complete PA West Soccer Player/Team Status form and have signed by designated PA West Soccer State Official \*
4. Complete PA West Soccer player pass and have stickered by designated PA West State Official \*
5. Indicate on form which team will be primary team for State Cup Competition
6. Submit all forms/fees to receiving state

### **Team Requesting Play in PA West Soccer State Association from Another State Association**

1. Obtain permission from Youth Board first
2. Must receive a copy of the Player/Team Status Form signed by other State Registrar and team official
3. Complete PA West Soccer Player/Team Status form and have signed by designated PA West Soccer State Official \*
4. Submit other state player pass and have stickered by that state's State Registrar
5. Indicate on form which team will be primary team for State Cup Competition
6. Submit all forms/fees to receiving state/district/division registrar

**\*NOTE:** Designated PA West Soccer State Officials for 2007-2008 are the State Registrar, Youth Board President, and Office Administrator

### **Adds, Drops & Transfers**

The registrar should return three (3) rosters after the initial registration.

1. The roster with their signature, date and sticker. Used for all games played.
2. The roster with their signature & date labeled for the age commissioner.
3. The roster with their signature & date only. This is known as the work copy. This is the roster where any adds, transfers and deletes are to be done if a computer-generated roster will not be used.

### **Adds**

Place all players that are being adding after the original registration in this section of your roster in alphabetical order. Do not do this on the original stickered roster. All the signatures and dates must

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appear on this roster from the original roster. Take this to your registrar with the required amount of copies. Return the original stamped roster. The registrar will stamp a new one.

### **Deletes**

When dropping a player, place a line through the player being dropped. Turn in the player pass to the registrar along with the required amount of rosters. You must also turn in your stamped roster. The registrar will stamp a new one for you. For Classic, Division 1 and Division A Player/Team Status Form must accompany these rosters.

### **Transfers**

Place the player in the transfer section of the roster. When dealing with the Classic league, Division 1 & A make sure the original team has already dropped this player from their roster. Make the required amount of copies and turn into the district/division registrar along with the original stickered roster.

**For Classic, Division 1 and Division A** Player/Team Status Form must accompany these rosters. At the time a team names its National Championship roster it may not have more than five (5) previously rostered players. Transfer from Classic teams is restricted (See PA West Soccer Playing Rules 8.6.D and Classic League Rules [Rules of Play])

### **District/Division Pre-Registration**

Each Club is responsible for pre-registering all playing teams for the coming season with its District/Division Director prior to August 1 for fall play or March 1 for spring play (contact District/Division Director for required form); failure to do so may result in denial to play or assignment to play in a different district/division. This pre-registration is required for participation in any league, tournament, or other PA West Soccer sponsored activity during that forthcoming session.

Classic Division clubs must submit team registration fee at time of submission of Pre-Registration Form for each team it will be fielding in the coming session; there will be no refunds for teams subsequently withdrawing from play.

### ***TEAM AGE BRACKETS***

	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>
<b>U19</b>	8-1-89 to 7-31-90	8-1-90 to 7-31-91
<b>U18</b>	8-1-90 to 7-31-91	8-1-91 to 7-31-92
<b>U17</b>	8-1-91 to 7-31-92	8-1-92 to 7-31-93
<b>U16</b>	8-1-92 to 7-31-93	8-1-93 to 7-31-94
<b>U15</b>	8-1-93 to 7-31-94	8-1-94 to 7-31-95
<b>U14</b>	8-1-94 to 7-31-95	8-1-95 to 7-31-96
<b>U13</b>	8-1-95 to 7-31-96	8-1-96 to 7-31-97
<b>U12</b>	8-1-96 to 7-31-97	8-1-97 to 7-31-98

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<b>U11</b>	8-1-97 to 7-31-98	8-1-98 to 7-31-99
<b>U10</b>	8-1-98 to 7-31-99	8-1-99 to 7-31-00
<b>U9</b>	8-1-99 to 7-31-00	8-1-00 to 7-31-01
<b>U8</b>	8-1-00 to 7-31-02	8-1-01 to 7-31-03
<b>U6</b>	8-1-02 to 7-31-04	8-1-03 to 7-31-05