

PA West Soccer Association Policy Manual Policy #200-7	Revision: #4	Page: 1-2
Subject: Criminal History Clearance	Date Amended: 6-23, 2014; 2-23, 2015; 8-23, 2015	Date Accepted: 9-19-13

Criminal History Clearance Process

Section 1

In accordance with Act 15 of 2015 revising Pennsylvania Act 153, the revised PA West Soccer Risk Management Policy and the operation of the Affinity Sports Online Registration System, PA West Soccer will use the following guidelines to review and qualify coaches/volunteers/referees/employees.

This policy recognizes that coaches/volunteers/referees/employees must be qualified by providing copies of current PA State Police Criminal Record Check and PA Child Abuse History Clearance. Additionally, individuals who have not lived in Pennsylvania continuously for the past 10 years must provide a copy of a current FBI Criminal Background Check; individuals living in PA continuously for more than 10 years must complete a residency verification affidavit. This policy applies to all individuals age 18 and older; further, those under the age of 18-who employed as a coach, referee, or other position must also comply with the requirements of the state law but are granted an exception to the FBI Criminal Background Check requirement and may have their parents complete an affidavit attesting they haven't been arrested for the commission of any of the exclusionary crimes.

All clearances must be obtained from the sources designated by the Commonwealth of PA and be uploaded into the PA West Soccer Online Risk Management system to be reviewed by the Executive Board designee. Clearances may also be delivered to the PA West Soccer office for review.

Per Act 15 of 2015 revising Act 153, clearances shall be valid for five (5) years from the date of issuance.

Section 2

1. Individuals failing or refusing to complete a risk management application and provide the current state required clearances will be not eligible for coaching/volunteering/refereeing/working until such time as a clearance is provided or completed.

Section 3

1. No person shall be permitted to be a coach/volunteer/referee/employed by where the report of criminal history record information indicates that the applicant has been convicted within the last five (5) years regarding any of the following offenses:
 - a) Criminal homicide, aggravated assault, harassment and stalking, kidnapping, unlawful restraint, rape, statutory sexual assault, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, sexual assault, aggravated indecent assault, indecent assault, indecent exposure, incest, concealing the death of another person, endangering the welfare of children, prostitution and related offenses, obscene/unlawful sexual material or performances, corruption of minors, and sexual abuse of children.
 - b) Any offense related to the Act of April 14, 1972 known as "The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act."
 - c) Any offense related to firearms/weapons offenses related to a felony conviction.
 - d) Any alcohol related offense including driving under the influence related to a felony conviction.
 - e) Any out of state or federal offense similar in nature to those crimes set forth in a, b, c, or d.

Section 4

At the conclusion of the five (5) year period defined in Section 3, such individual may apply. It shall be within PA West Soccer's discretion to allow or disallow such individual to coach/volunteer/referee/be employed by PA West Soccer. Such determination shall be made on a case by case basis.

Section 5

Coaches/volunteers/referees/employees with no findings will be designated "eligible" to coach/volunteer/referee/work. Coaches/volunteers/referees/employees will be designated "under review"

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until such time as the uploaded clearances can be reviewed. Positive findings will be designated “ineligible” and the coach/volunteer/referee/employee will be notified.

Section 6

Individuals disqualified in accordance with Section 3 will be provided the opportunity to provide evidence to disprove the findings provided by the designated provider.