***CLASSIC DIVISION RULES OF COMPETITION***

The Classic Division shall consist of Divisions 1, 2, and 3 and represent the highest level of inter-district club play offered by PA West Soccer Association. Divisions 1, 2, and 3 are subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the following rules:

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.
3. 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.
4. All tournament travel will be governed by applicable PA West Soccer Travel/Division Policies
5. Publish and enforce a body of rules and regulations under which the Division will operate. The US Youth Soccer National Championship Series 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).
6. The club having teams in Division 1, 2, or 3 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).
7. All USYS Regional League rules supersede PA West Soccer rules regarding acceptance and participation in USYS Regional leagues.

**Division 1, 2 and 3 Rules:**

**1*. Age Groups and Structure***

1. Divisions 1, 2 and 3shall offer Leagues in accordance with US Youth Soccer playing rules. (single birth years: U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18, U19/20) with four (4) teams being required to form a League.
2. The Classic Division may establish Academy programs for ages U9-U11 that will follow PA West Academy guidelines.
3. Participation in Divisions 1, 2, and 3 is open to all member Clubs. There shall be no restriction on the number of teams.
4. All new teams entering in Classic U12-20 will be entered into Division 3.

**2*. Classic League Team Placement***

1. All entry level U12 teams shall be placed in brackets of no more than nine (9) teams. Each team shall have to play each other at least once a session in their respective bracket not to exceed 8 games.
2. Division 1, 2, and 3 Relegation and Promotion will take place after every playing session. For those age groups playing in the spring session only, team standings from the previous session played shall be used to determine placement; teams must have continuity.

Promotion

* 1. The top 2 teams in Division 2 and the top 2 teams in Division 3 are automatically Promoted to the next higher level. If two teams tie in points for last first place, they will both be promoted

Relegation

* 1. The last 2 teams in Division 1 and the last 2 teams in Division 2 are automatically relegated to the next lower level. If two teams tie in points for last place, they will both be relegated.

**3*. 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.

***4. Forfeiting Division 1, 2, or 3 Games***

Teams forfeiting a regular season game will be referred to the Classic Discipline Chair for review and recommendation to hold a hearing.

***5*. *Sunday Play***

Division 1, 2 and 3 teams, unless having 100% single rostered players, shall not be permitted to play or practice on Sunday unless the game or practice is concluded by no later than 11:00 AM Under no circumstances shall Sunday practice or games interfere with Sunday League travel games. Teams found in violation will lose their next scheduled League home game and travel to the opponent.

6***. Recruitment Rules***

1. 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. The State Office will publish try-out schedules on the PA West Soccer website at the request of all properly registered clubs playing in Divisions 1, 2 and 3.
2. 2. No player nor their family may be offered nor be provided financial inducement as an incentive to tryout for or join a Division 1, 2 or 3 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 Division Director.
3. 3. There shall be no recruitment of a player that has committed to a club with signed required paper work to a Division 1, 2, or 3 team by another Division 1, 2, or 3 team or its representative from the time the paperwork is signed until the conclusion of the Regional Championships.
4. 4. 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 has 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.
5. 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. Clubs may not release a player due to any monetary requirements by the club.
6. 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.

***7. Eligibility and General Rostering Requirements***

1. All teams entering Divisions 1, 2, or 3 must be in good standing and meet the deadlines for registration as set forth in the Youth Division Procedures.
2. For purposes of double rostering and team roster continuity, a team is the same as another team when it has N (half) plus one players or more in common.
3. Players may be rostered only to one team in Divisions 1, 2, and 3

**8. Classic release and Transfer of players**

1. A Parent or guardian may request a release for a player from Divisions 1, 2, or 3 teams at any time and may request a transfer during a transfer window from December 1 through January 31.
2. A team or Club may release involuntarily a player from its roster if the player has violated bylaws, policies, or requirements of the Federation, US Youth Soccer, the State Association, or the member of the State Association through whom the player is registered.

***9. Obtaining a player release and/ or a transfer:***

1. The parent/ guardian of a currently rostered player may request a release from a team at any time.
2. As part of the transfer process the parent/guardian may request a voluntary release from a team at any time.
3. A transfer must be requested within the transfer window between December 1 and January 31 A separate transfer window will be available to true U19 players ending on April 30. Transfers from one classic club to another is a $150.00. This fee that must be paid by the club receiving the player to PA West Soccer along with all proper paperwork, before the player may be added to the receiving team’s roster.
4. Once the transfer has been processed, the State Registrar will remove the player from the previous roster and add the player to the new roster.
5. No team may accept more than five (5) transfers in a playing season.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Teams may not transfer from club to club during a playing season (after they have been rostered) until after the Regional or National Championship (if they have advanced to such a level).
9. 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.