



# Kentucky Youth Soccer Association

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## STATE RULES

### OF THE KENTUCKY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

#### GENERAL

##### PURPOSE

The State Rules contained herein govern Member Organizations and all members of the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (KYSA) in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the KYSA State Bylaws, State Policies and State Procedures.

All competitions shall be governed by the rules stated herein, unless the rules of a specific competition state otherwise. The rules of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) supersede these rules.

These State Rules are intended to provide a uniform set of guidelines governing player eligibility and registration, team formation and player assignments, and playing rules for use by all Member Organizations.

Member Organizations will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin and shall be open to any soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials not subject to suspension under USSF Bylaw 241, and to any amateur soccer organization in its territory.

#### DEFINITIONS

##### Section 1 - General

- **REGISTRATION** means the signing of intent to play the sport of soccer and

the paying of a fee to become a member of this Association.

- **TEAM** means a recognized entity organized for the purpose of playing the sport of soccer.
- **ROSTERING** means assignment of a registered player to a team.
- **ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY** means registered, not under suspension.
- **SUSPENSION** means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges such as, but not limited to the right to play, coach, or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in the game of affiliated soccer. Any person or group (team, club, league, State Board, etc.) that has been suspended shall be in less than good standing for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.
- **ADD** means the addition of a player to a team's roster.
- **VOLUNTARY RELEASE** means the withdrawal of a player from a roster during the current seasonal year at the request of the player or player's parent(s).
- **INVOLUNTARY RELEASE (DROP)** means the removal of a player from a roster during the current seasonal year



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without a request from the player or player's parent(s).

- **TRANSFER** means the movement of a currently or previously rostered player onto another roster or of a player who returns to the same roster within the current seasonal year.
- **SEASONAL YEAR** means the twelve month period between September 1st and August 31st.
- **BIRTH YEAR** means the period between August 1st of the beginning year through July 31st of the ending year. For example, a player who is 10 on August 1st is an Under 11 for the entire seasonal year even when his calendar age changes to 11 due to a birthday. Birth years are as defined by the United States Youth Soccer Association.

## Section 2 - Levels of Competition

The KYSA sanctions play among teams at three (3) distinct levels:

- **RECREATIONAL** – Recreational soccer programs are intended to provide the opportunity for all interested children within the area served by the Member Organization to participate in and enjoy the game of soccer without regard for athletic ability or soccer skills, up to the limits of the Member Organization to accommodate them. Teams are formed in a random manner. Special guidelines are contained herein for Recreational Team Formation and player assignment.
- **SELECT** - Select soccer programs are intended to provide players with advanced skills and an expressed desire

to experience a level of competition beyond that afforded by a recreational program and teams are formed in a non-random manner. Team formation and player assignment guidelines, which govern recreational teams, do not apply to select teams/leagues. Special guidelines are contained herein for Select Team Formation and player assignment.

- **OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT** - District and/or state Olympic Development teams may be formed to represent the KYSA in any competition approved by the KYSA and/or USYSA. The program is administered as proscribed in the State Olympic Development Program Policies as approved by the State Board.

Unless otherwise stated, these rules apply to all players and teams in all levels.

## Section 3 - Types of Teams

- **RECREATIONAL TEAM** – A team put together in a random manner in full compliance with the Recreational Team Policies of the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association as specified herein.
- **SELECT TEAM** – a team put together in a non-random manner that may use a “tryout” or “player ability test” to select players for the purpose of forming a team
- **TOURNAMENT TEAM** - A team put together for the sole purpose of playing in a tournament or other sanctioned competition. The roster for this type team includes guest



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players from one or more Member Organizations. This team can only play in tournaments that accept guest players. All members of the team must be properly registered with the KYSA.

- **US YOUTH SOCCER OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM** - A team selected by KYSA through open tryouts to participate in activities as designated by the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program. District and/or state Olympic Development teams may be formed to represent the KYSA in any competition approved by the KYSA and/or USYSA.

## REGISTRATION/ ROSTERING

### REGISTRATION AND FEES FOR PLAYERS

#### Section 1 - General

These rules apply only to Kentucky Youth Soccer Association Member Organizations and players except as specifically stated otherwise.

#### Section 2 - Youth Players

A youth player is one who has reached the age of four (4) and who has not reached the age of nineteen (19) years prior to August 1 immediately preceding the start of any seasonal year.

- A player who has not reached his/her fourth (4th) birthday as of August 1st of the current seasonal year is not eligible to register with

the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association.

- A player who reaches nineteen (19) years of age at any time during a seasonal year shall be allowed to complete that seasonal year.
- A player who reaches nineteen (19) years of age during August of one seasonal year shall be allowed to complete all of the next seasonal year.

#### Section 3 - Registration

- All players must register with their own Member Organization.
- Date of Registration
  - a. The player is registered from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the Registration form and pays the appropriate fees (registration and insurance).
  - b. The team will be considered as registered with the KYSA upon submission of the appropriate team registration form and payment of the applicable fee to the KYSA.
- Once a player has registered with a Member Organization for a specific level of play, he/she must remain with that organization until a request for transfer is approved by both the organization the player desires to



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register with and the organization the player is leaving.

- Players or teams wishing to compete in a league in a state outside the state in which they are registered must receive permission from:
  - a. The National State Association where they are registered; and
  - b. The National State Association where they wish to play.
- These permissions MUST be obtained for each seasonal year, September 1 through August 31.

highest level of competition. Any player who is rostered/registered to play on two (2) select teams must play with their designated primary team in State Open and/or Eurosport Cup competition unless their primary team does not enter State Cup or Eurosport Cup competition.

- Players who are rostered/registered to play on select team on or after September 1 are not eligible to participate in the fall recreational cup. Players who are rostered/registered on a select team prior to September 1 that remain rostered/registered to that team after the September 1 deadline remain ineligible to participate in the fall Commonwealth Recreational Cup.

## Section 4 - Multiple Registration

- Players already rostered/registered to a team, wishing to roster/register with an additional team, may do so. No player may be rostered/registered to play on more than two (2) teams. If a player is rostered/registered on two (2) select teams they must declare a primary and secondary team.
- If a player wishes to roster/register on both a recreational and select team they may do so, however, if there is a conflict in match schedule, that player must play for the team of the highest level of competition (i.e. Select before Recreational).
- A player may only play in one state sponsored event per season (State Open, Eurosport, and American Cup) and must play in the event of the

- Players who are rostered/registered to play on select team on or after April 1 are not eligible to participate in the spring recreational cup. Players who are rostered/registered on a select team prior to April 1 that remain rostered/registered to that team after the April 1 deadline remain ineligible to participate in the spring Kohl's American Recreational Cup.

## Section 5 - Registration Fee

The player registration fee per player registering shall be set each year by the KYSA. Said accumulated fees must be paid to the KYSA as provided in the By-Laws. The fee paid is for the full seasonal year; only new players in the spring playing period are required to pay registration fees. Players playing on more than one team shall pay the fee for each team to which they are rostered



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## Section 6 - Medical Insurance

All players **must** purchase medical insurance through the KYSA insurer. Fees will be determined prior to each seasonal year. Governmental organizations and certain non-profit national organization having comparable insurance can request to the KYSA Board to have the KYSA insurance fee waived.

## AGE LIMIT DEFINITIONS AND ROSTER LIMITATIONS

### Section 1 - Seasonal Year

- The Seasonal Year shall be from September 1 through August 31 as defined by the United States Youth Soccer Association.
- The Birth Year is not concurrent with the Seasonal Year. The birth year shall be from August 1st through July 31st

### Section 2 - Age Division

- Age Groups shall be comprised of youth players who are, before the first day of August of the immediately prior seasonal year—

Under 19 years of age.  
Under 18 years of age.  
Under 17 years of age.  
Under 16 years of age.  
Under 15 years of age.  
Under 14 years of age.  
Under 13 years of age.  
Under 12 years of age.  
Under 11 years of age.  
Under 10 years of age.  
Under 8 years of age.

Under 6 years of age

- Age Groups for Recreational play will be in multiple year groupings as defined below

Under 19  
Under 16  
Under 14  
Under 12  
Under 10  
Under 8  
Under 6

- Age classification for the spring season will be the same as that used for the immediately previous fall season. Players will not be moved up in age classification during the spring season. Players eligible to play in an Age Group during the fall season will remain eligible to play in the same Age Group during the following spring season.

### Section 3 - Proof of Age

All players registering in the KYSA must provide proof of age. Proof of age shall consist of any of the following:

- A birth certificate,
- A valid drivers license,
- A Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the Uniformed Services of the United States, or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health records,
- Passport,
- Alien registration card issued by the United States government (i.e. I 94),
- A certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age or a



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certificate of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency.

- Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

Each Member Organization is responsible for proof of age of its registered players. If the age of a player is challenged through the appeals process, the Member Organization must furnish the Arbitration council with proof of the player's age.

## Section 4 - Maximum Roster

No Under 12 or above team shall be allowed more than eighteen (18) players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year. No Under 11 and below teams shall be allowed more than twice the number of players on the field during games on its roster at any time during the seasonal year. (Example: An Under 10 team playing 6v6 may not have more than twelve (12) players.)

In the U16-U19 age groups, a team may roster no more than twenty-two (22) players on its "Team" roster and no less than seven (7). If a team carries more than eighteen (18) on its "Team" roster, they are required to provide a "Game" roster for each game they play. The "Game" roster may not have more than eighteen (18) players and they must be players who are listed on the "Team" roster.

## Section 5 - Minimum Roster

No team playing full sided shall be allowed to have less than seven (7) players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year. No team playing small sided 8v8 shall be allowed to have less than six (6) players required on the field at games. No team playing small sided 6v6 shall be allowed to

have less than four (4) players required on the field at games. No team playing small sided 3v3 or 4v4 shall be allowed to have less than the number of players required on the field at games. (I.E. if playing 4v4 at U8, a team must have at least 4 players to play the game.)

## Section 6 - Improper Registration

Any team playing a player who is over age or who is not registered or who is improperly entered on the team's roster shall forfeit the game(s) in which that player takes part. No player may play who is not registered. No player may play a team for which he is not properly rostered or listed as an approved "guest" player. Violations of this section may subject the team and/or players to appropriate disciplinary action.

## Section 7 - "Over Age" Player Registration- FALL SEASON ONLY

For fall seasons, Under 14 teams may add up to three (3) over-age (Under 15) players to their roster as long as league rules allow. The players must be a true U15 player and must be in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade to be eligible.

- The team will be rostered as an Under 14 team through Kentucky Youth Soccer.
- Over-age players cannot play with that team in an Under 14 tournament unless the tournament rules allow such a player.
- The over-age player's cards must be returned to the state office at the end of the fall season.



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- The over-age players will be dropped from that roster for the spring unless the team plays in the age group appropriate to its oldest player. In this case all players will need to be issued new passes to reflect the correct age group of the team and the team shall then be rostered at the appropriate age of the oldest player. The team will also need to be issued a new roster.
- If over-age players are removed from the Under 14 roster, they shall be considered a transfer to a new team.

Except as noted in Section 7 above, players may not play in younger divisions than their age dictates except by approval of the Kentucky Youth Soccer State Board.

## TEAM FORMATION

### GENERAL TEAM FORMATION

#### Section 1 - General

The following rules apply to all teams and organizations, at all levels of competition:

- All players on a team MUST be properly registered with the KYSA and the Member Organization.
- All Member Organizations are required to submit a KYSA team registration form or other approved forms for each team to the designated KYSA State Office.
- Players may be added to a team roster by submission of the supplemental team registration form or other

approved form, so long as maximum roster size is not exceeded. Additions MUST include the date of registration of the player(s).

- Identical team names shall not be used for more than one (1) team in the same age division in a Member Organization. Teams which use the same name; i.e., Club's name MUST be given a numerical prefix/suffix or other clearly distinguishable identification.

#### Section 2 - Eligible Player

A youth amateur player who meets the age, registration and assignment requirements in these State Rules is considered an eligible player if playing on the team to which he/she is assigned.

### RECREATIONAL TEAM FORMATION

The team formation process will be random in nature. "Special" requests by players, coaches, or parents for specific team assignments are strongly discouraged.

- Criteria for player assignment will include NO consideration for the ability of the player or the relative strength of the team.
- All forms of recruiting, invitations, and tryouts are specifically prohibited at the recreational level. Coaches will have no direct input to, or involvement with, the assignment of players to their teams.
- Deliberate creation of single birth year teams is not permitted. Team formation procedures will avoid assignment of a disproportionate number of players



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with the same birth year to the same team.

- Minimum half game playing time is mandatory for all Member Organizations in recreational play.

Teams which fail to meet one or more of the rules for Recreational team formation and player assignment specified herein may be considered as select teams' leagues in any Association sponsored competitions, including tournaments or inter-district competitions. The team status/eligibility will be determined by the State tournament Director or the State Tournament Committee for all competitions conducted by KYSA.

## Section 1 - Formation

Member Organizations shall assign players to recreation teams in the following manner:

- Returning players (those who played in the Member Organization during the prior playing season) may be assigned to the same team on which he/she played in the immediately preceding playing season. If a player elects not to return to the same team, he/she **MUST** be placed in "open" registration and assigned as shown in the paragraph below.
- New players and players electing not to return to the same team will be placed in "open" registration and assigned to teams on a random basis without regard to the ability of the player.
- Players will be automatically moved up to the next Age Group on the basis of birth year only. All players moving up to the next age group **must** be placed in an "open" draw and not moved up as a team.

- Deliberate creation of single birth-year teams is not permitted. The random basis for team assignment should be in separate pools by birth year to facilitate the balancing of ages within age groups. Procedures should ensure that no more than two-thirds (2/3) of the players assigned to a team have the same birth-year (in the upper portion of the age group). The birth year of a player is determined by the player's age as of August 1 of the seasonal year.

- Tryouts are not permitted as part of the player assignment process. Other forms of player evaluation for the purpose of balancing the level of talent and ability among teams and resulting in a random assignment process are permitted.

- Players may be assigned to teams on the basis of geographic location of residence provided such assignment is otherwise random in nature.

- Children of the head coach and not more than one (1) assistant coach may be assigned to that coach's team regardless of the method of team formation, so long as the age requirements stated above are met.

- Deviations from Rules above may preclude participation in the KYSA-sponsored recreational competitions. Exceptions for valid reasons require the written approval of the KYSA Registrar.

## Section 2 - Players

Any recreational player registered to a team is bound to that team for that playing season unless he/she transfers. All transfers shall



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be submitted to the Member Organization in writing on the appropriate form, stating the reason for the request for transfer. All transfer players must be placed in an "open draw".

## SELECT TEAM FORMATION

Select soccer programs are intended to provide players with advanced skills and an expressed desire to experience a level of competition beyond that afforded by a recreational program.

- Team formation and player assignment guidelines, which govern recreational teams, do not apply to select teams/leagues.
- Member Organizations may establish their own criteria for player selection and team assignment provided there is no conflict with the KYSA Bylaws, State Policies, State Regulations and/or State Rules.

### Section 1 - Team/Player Transfers

A select team shall be limited to a total of five (5) transferred players per seasonal year if they wish to be eligible to participate in the US Youth Soccer National Championship competition.

### Section 2 - Player Obligation

- Once a player completes the tryout process with a club/team and he/she (or guardian) signs the club/team registration form, that player becomes bound to that club/team for one year. That player may not transfer to another

club/team unless specified in the guidelines below.

- Any Under 9- Under 14 select player rostered to a team for the fall season must remain with that team for the entire fall season unless they request permission to transfer by completing the Player Transfer Form and obtain a signature from the releasing club. Any player wishing to transfer in the fall must complete the Player Transfer Form and submit it to the state office prior to August 1 of the upcoming seasonal year. No transfers will be approved on or after August 1 for the fall season unless it is within the same club and is approved by a club administrator.

### Free Transfer Window

Players wishing to transfer upon completion of their fall season must request permission to transfer by completing the Player Transfer Form and obtaining a signature from the releasing club. In order to be granted permission to transfer between seasons, paperwork must be received by the state office between November 1 and February 1. No faxed forms will be permitted.

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### Transfer Fee Window

Any select player wishing to transfer to another select club or team outside of their current club between February 1 and April 1 during the spring season must request permission to transfer by



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completing the Player Transfer Form and obtaining a signature from the releasing club. A transfer fee of \$200 must accompany the form made payable to Kentucky Youth Soccer. No faxed forms will be permitted.

## ▪ **Closed Transfer Period**

No select player will be permitted to transfer to another select club or team outside of their current club between April 1 and June 1. Special Transfer considerations must be approved by the Kentucky Youth Soccer Board of Directors.

At any time during the season, players may transfer to another team so long as it is within the same club and is approved by a club administrator.

Any player, regardless of age group, wishing to transfer at any time may be bound to their current team until all appropriate fees have been paid to their current club.

## **Section 3 - Player/Coach Passes**

All players and coaches registered with the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association (KYSA) as a select player or as a recreational player who engages in interstate competition shall carry a United States Youth Soccer Association identification pass.

## **Section 4 – Under Age Players**

- No select team(s) may roster, or register as guest players, more than two (2) players who have not turned eight (8) years of age before the first day of August of the immediately prior seasonal year

- If a player who has not turned eight (8) years of age before the first day of August of the immediately prior seasonal year wishes to play select then that player may not play up more than one single birth year.

- A player must turn seven (7) years of age before the first day of August of the immediately prior seasonal year to be rostered or guest play on a select level team.

## **RULES OF THE GAME**

### **Section 1 - FIFA Rules**

Games played within the jurisdiction of the KYSA shall be officiated according to the rules of the International Football Association (Federal Internationale de Football, FIFA) providing there is no KYSA rule to the contrary. Interstate games shall be played according to the rules of the United States Youth Soccer Association.

### **Section 2 - KYSA Rules of the Game for Inter Association Competition**

The individual member association regulates internal member association play. However, when play is between member associations or is directly sanctioned by or hosted by the state association, play must be under the FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association in the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association's State Playing Rules and State Tournament Rules.

KYSA Rules for Competition shall supersede rules by any other organization or publication.



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KYSA exceptions or additions to the FIFA Laws of the Game vary by the age of the team and are as described in the State Playing Rules listed below.

- [Recreational Cup Policies and Rules of Competition](#)
- [Recreational Festivals Policies and Rules of Competition](#)

## Section 3 - KYSA Playing Rules

Members may form teams in alternative formats for internal member play; however, all competitions shall be governed by the rules stated herein, unless the rules of a specific competition state otherwise:

- [US Youth Soccer Official Modified Under 6 Playing Rules \(3v3\)](#)
- [US Youth Soccer Official Modified Under 8 Playing Rules \(4v4\)](#)
- [US Youth Soccer Official Modified Under 10 Playing Rules \(6v6\)](#)
- [US Youth Soccer Official Modified Under 12 Playing Rules \(8v8\)](#)
- [Kentucky Youth Soccer Playing Rules – U13 & Above - Recommended Playing Rules – Full Sided Soccer Under 13 and above \(11 v 11\)](#)

## Section 4 - KYSA Rules of Competition

The State Board of Directors has approved the following Rules of Competition for competitions directly hosted by the State Association.

All teams playing in competitions directly hosted by the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association must play as described within these playing rules and as described below:

- [State Open Cup Policies and Rules of Competition](#)
- [Eurosport Challenge Cup Policies and Rules of Competition](#)

## Section 3 - Play by Association Teams in Non-Association Competition

## Other KYSA Rules of Competition

### Section 1 - Team Roster

In the event of a question regarding player eligibility, a coach is required to provide a copy of his team roster upon the request of the opposing coach. The roster MUST contain player names, team name, age division, club/league name, recreational or select designation, and birth years. If the team roster is not provided at the time of the request, the requesting coach may advise the opposing coach that he/she is playing the game under protest. This action does not, however, constitute a formal protest, which must be filed as specified herein.

### Section 2 - Penalties for Ineligible Player

Any coach and/or administrator on a Member Organization who allows an ineligible player to participate in a sanctioned game or games and any player who participates in a sanctioned game or games shall cause those game(s) to be forfeited and any such person or persons shall be suspended from all USSF affiliated activities for the remainder of the current seasonal year and the subsequent seasonal year as defined under the current USSF Administrative regulations. Penalties for Ineligible Player shall apply to all interstate and intrastate play.

The Kentucky Youth Soccer Association shall consist of such clubs, leagues, and associations in good standing with the



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United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and with headquarters in the territory herein defined.

Every club, league, and association with headquarters in this territory who is not a member of the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association the KYSA, the United States Soccer Federation, or of the United States

Youth Soccer Association or one of its affiliate organizations shall be deemed unaffiliated.

Members of the KYSA shall not, without the written consent of the district commissioner, have any relationship with such unaffiliated organizations.

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