

**Georgia Youth Soccer Association Rules and Regulations**

**Document 1.01**

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**Note:** Georgia Youth Soccer Association Rules and Regulations (1.01) is the combined and unified version of the following GYSA pamphlets: GYSA Athena Division Program Rules (2.14), GYSA Classic Division Program Rules (2.06), GYSA Premier Division Program Rules (2.13), Georgia Junior Division Program Rules (2.05), Modifications to the Laws of the Game for Recreational Team Games (1.07), and Rules And Regulations for Youth League Play (1.06).

This document supersedes those published before.

Housekeeping (renumbering, etc.) may be made to all future modifications to the rules contained herein, without a specific housekeeping amendment being proposed and approved at each general meeting.

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Lack of knowledge of these rules will not relieve any coach, team official, parent or player of a team participating in or seeking entry into these programs from the responsibilities and possible penalties herein. All leagues, teams, team officials, parents and players, by their participating in GYSA program play, agree that they are bound by these rules.

## 1000. Administration

**1100. GYSA Programs:** The GYSA Select Programs Divisions (Athena, Classic, Junior, Premier) and Recreational Programs are the responsibility of the respective GYSA Representatives. Each representative will appoint a committee, subject to approval of the GYSA President, to administer their program. The GYSA Board Representative shall serve as the committee chairman. A list of each committee's membership stating name, age group represented, position and contact number, shall be available in the GSSA office for all member leagues. Each Committee shall be given wide discretionary authority to administer the program as long as same is consistent with the rules and policies set by member leagues and directives from the GYSA Board of Directors in the operation of their duties. Each Committee shall be directly responsible to the GYSA Board of Directors in the operation of their duties.

**1110. Recreational:** The Recreational Program is a developmental soccer program for all youth players. The league accepts as participants any eligible youths, without regard to skill level (subject to reasonable terms of registration).

The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or similar process to roster players to any recreational team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited. Recreational players may not be "cut" from the team.

A system for rostering players to teams must be used to establish a fair and balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating in the same age group within the league.

**1111.** To further enhance the Recreational Program, GYSA supports USYSA's teaching philosophy with respect to small-sided soccer in U-06, U-08 and U-10. This philosophy allows the game to be the teacher by maximizing each player's touches on the ball and encourages all the players to develop their skills in all positions. Further, the philosophy discourages intense competition until the older age groups.

**1113. There shall be a Recreational Program Committee with one representative from each district in the Association added to the committee and each district committee member shall have a "District Recreational Program Committee" with at least three and no more than four members from that district, each from a different league. District Recreational Program Committees are responsible to the league. District Recreational Program Committees are responsible to the Recreational Program Director and are subject to GYSA review per Section 1000.**

**1120. Athena:** The Athena Program is both a developmental and select soccer program for girls' teams.

**1130. Premier:** The Premier Program is a select developmental program for boys' teams, as boys' teams are defined by USYSA.

**1140. Classic:** The Classic Program is the select program for boys' teams.

**1150. Junior:** The Junior Program is the coordinating body for U-19 boys' select soccer, boys and girls Junior Elite (U-15 and above teams eligible to apply), and boys and girls secondary Spring teams.

## 1200. Season

**1210.** The USYSA Seasonal Year runs from September 1 through August 31, of the following calendar year, and shall be comprised of two seasons of play: Fall and Spring.

**1220.** The Fall season of play commences with the first league game of the Fall season and terminates with the completion of the last league or play-off game.

**1230.** The Spring season of play commences with the first league game of the Spring season and terminates with the completion of the last league or play-off game.

**1240. Select: The number of games and length of the playing seasons shall be determined by the select programs' respective committees. Every program shall provide for play in both Fall and Spring. The program committees will not schedule matches in conflict with the Snickers State Cup where applicable.**

**1300. Participation**

**1310.** Each league participating in Athena, Premier, Classic or Division I Juniors play must have a minimum of one "standard" or "standard equivalent" recreation team for each select program team entered. A "standard" recreation team for a league shall be defined as any of its properly rostered U-12 or older recreation teams. A "standard equivalent" recreation team shall be defined as a team comprised of 12.5 players in the U-6, U-8, or U-10 age groups (i.e., small-sided program players). It follows that the number of "standard equivalent" teams belonging to a league is calculated by dividing the total number of U-6, U-8, and U-10 players registered in that league by 12.5.

**1320. Teams must meet published "Team Declaration" deadlines. Failure to meet the deadline may result in non-acceptance of team.**

**1350.** Select Programs: A condition of entry of a team is field and\_referee availability in proportion to the number of teams entered. Teams for which leagues are\_not able to provide the required fields and referees may not be admitted. Failure to provide fields and referees may result in the removal of teams from the select program.

**1400. Administrative Procedures**

**1410.** Any questions on rules, policies, procedures of select divisions should be addressed to that division's committee for resolution.

**1415. Recreational:** All recreational inter-scheduling functions shall be performed under the auspices and subject to the approval of the GYSA Recreational Director and/or Committee(s).

**1416. District Recreational Program Committees will ensure that all leagues have the ability to inter-schedule in a practical manner and will be subject to final review and approval of the GYSA Recreation Program Director to guarantee participation.**

**1420.** Scheduling and other administrative duties required for the coordination of each Select Division will be performed by their respective division committee.

**1500. Team Assignments**

**1501.** Team assignments into playing divisions and age groups by the respective committees shall be final and are not subject to appeal.

**1503.** A team may request to play in an older age group, but not in a younger.

**1520. Athena and Premier:** The respective committee will assign teams to appropriate playing divisions according to the following guidelines:

**1521. Age** groups may be divided into divisions by the Committee based on the best available information.

**1523.** At the end of each playing season, the Committee may reassign teams to a higher or lower division.

**1560. Classic:** The Classic Division Committee will assign teams to appropriate playing divisions at the start of each season (i.e. - Fall & Spring), according to the following guidelines:

**1561.** There will be six single-year age group divisions ranging from U12 to U17, with 2tier divisional program when possible.

**1563.** Classic Division I will have a maximum of 10 teams per single age group, and Classic Division II will have a maximum of 10 teams per single age group. (Note: Exact number of Division II teams will be determined by the Classic Committee and cannot be appealed.)

**1565.** Classic Division team placement will be determined by points accumulated during the previous season (i.e. - either Fall or Spring). That is, relegation between Classic I and Classic II and Classic II and Premier A will occur twice a year and will be based season upon the points standings from the previous season. Promotion from Premier A to Classic II will be based on the previous season (Fall or Spring) standings.

**1565.1.** The bottom 2 teams in Classic I at the end of each playing season (i.e. - Fall or Spring) will play in Classic II during the next season.

The top 2 teams in Classic II at the end of each playing season (i.e. - Fall or Spring) will play in Classic I during the next season.

The bottom 2 teams in Classic II at the end of each playing season (i.e. - Fall or Spring) will play in Premier A during the next season.

The top 2 teams in Premier A at the end of each playing season (i.e. - Fall or Spring) will play in Classic II during the next season.

**1565.2.** Teams in Classic I must maintain a majority of players from the previous season to maintain their slot unless section 1565.1 is appropriate, or roster has equal kind players to maintain the majority.

**1565.3.** If 2 teams in Classic II disband, and the majority of the newly-formed team is comprised of Classic II players, the new team will remain in Classic II, unless 1565.1 prevails, or roster has equal or greater kind players to maintain the majority.

**1567.** The Classic Division Committee can modify these requirements where, in its judgment, compelling considerations justify it.

**1569.** If one league merges with another in its entirety, the slot(s) assigned to that league's Classic Division team(s) will not be vacated, but retained by the merged entity if the team or teams meet all other Classic Rules provisions.

**1580. Classic and Premier -- Inter-division Relegation**

**1585.** Promotion from Premier Division A to Classic II will be based on the standings from the previous season (i.e. - Fall or Spring).

**1590. Junior**

- 1591.** Teams will be divided into two divisions of play (Division I - Advanced and Division II) with as many sections in each division as necessary.

**1600. Age Classifications**

**1610. Team Age Classification**

- 1611. **RECREATIONAL:** Age groups will be: U-6, U-8, U-10, U-12, U-14, U-16, U-19.
- 1613. **ATHENA:** Age groups will be: U-10, U-11, U-12, U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17 and U-19.
- 1615. **PREMIER:** Age groups will be: U-10, U-11, U-12, U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17.
- 1617. **CLASSIC:** Age groups will be: U-12, U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17.
- 1619. **JUNIOR:** The age group will be U-19.

**1620. Player Age Classification**

**1621. Member leagues must register all their players between the ages of 4 and 19 with GYSA.** Player classification for the soccer year shall be determined by the player's age as of August 1. **More specifically, a player who becomes nineteen (19) on or after August 1 immediately preceding the start of any seasonal year is eligible to play in the upcoming year's U-19 age group. On the other hand, any player who becomes four (4) years of age on or after August 1 immediately preceding the start of any seasonal year is too young to become registered with GYSA and thus is NOT eligible to play in the upcoming year on a U-6 age group GYSA team.**

- 1623. A player may play on an older age team , but may not play on a younger age team.
- 1625. Proof of age must be presented if deemed necessary. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate or birth registration issued by an appropriate governmental agency, Board of Health records, passport, alien registration card issued by the United States Government, certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, or a certification of an American citizen born abroad, issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

**1700. Team Registration**

- 1710. Only teams properly registered with a league or association affiliated with GYSA may be entered in the select programs or recreational divisions.
- 1720. Players may be registered with only one team at any given time, except where specifically allowed by GYSA Rules and Regulations.
- 1730. Any team with a player on its roster who is overage, who is a member of another team's roster (except where these regulations specifically allow for dual registration), or who utilizes a player not on the official state roster in violation of GYSA Rules and Regulations, shall forfeit each game in which that player takes part. and the coach may be suspended from all GYSA participation for up to 1 year.

**1740. Restrictions**

- 1743. No U-06 or U-08 team shall be allowed less than 5 nor more than 12 registered players at any given time.
- 1744. For U-10, no team shall be allowed less than 8 nor more than 14 registered players at any given time.
- 1745. No team (U-11 and up) shall be allowed less than 11 nor more than 18 registered players at any given time.

1746. No indoor  
 team shall be allowed with less than 5 registered players at any given time.
1747. Premier and Athena: All U-10 teams are limited to a maximum of 4 players younger than the single year age group eligible for participation. Those players may only be one year younger than the single year age group.
1750. Team rosters accompanied by at least the appropriate minimum number of signed player registration forms must be submitted to the Georgia Youth Soccer Association no later than the date designated and published by GYSA.
1751. Each league is responsible for insuring that the registrations actually arrive by the designated date.
1753. Failure to meet these deadlines may prevent a team from playing in this program.

## 2000. League Responsibilities

### 2100. Team Selection

2110. Each individual league will be responsible for selecting its teams for play in the Select Division Programs.
2120. Team formations shall comply with all rules of GYSA as amended.

### 2200. Coach Selection

2210. Each league is responsible for the selection of coaches for its teams.
2220. All recreation program coaches must meet a *minimum* coaching license requirement as follows:

#### 2220.1

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>License Level</u>
U-06	G Certificate
U-08	G Certificate
U-10 to U-12	F Certificate
U-14 to U-19	<b>Recreational E Certificate</b> Or E Certificate

- 2220.2 **Recreational** coaches have a **six-month** grace period to attain initial required license and the same when moving from one level to another.
2230. All coaches (head coaches, **assistant coaches** and trainers) must meet a *minimum* coaching license requirement as follows:

<u>Program Division</u>	<u>License Level</u>
Athena Division C & D	State "E"
Premier	State "E"
Junior Div. II	State "E"
Athena Division A & B	State "D"
Classic	State "D"
Junior Division I	State "D"

2240. When coaches move from one program division level to another they have a one-year grace period to attain the required level license. [Example: **Recreational to Premier B or Athena D**, Athena C to Athena B, Premier to Classic, Junior II to Junior I].

**2243.** Coaches found to be in violation will be suspended from coaching until such time as they obtain the proper license. Leagues shall not designate an individual with the proper license as the coach simply to circumvent the intent of this rule. It is the responsibility of the league to insure that its coaches are properly licensed. **Clubs/Associations shall provide a list signed by a club/association official of select teams and their coaches and trainers and license level of each on the date select team declarations are due.** Failure to do so may result in the league not being allowed to participate in the select programs.

**2250.** All select program youth coaches and assistant coaches of a GYSA select program team, shall receive a registration card. No more than four such cards will be issued per team. The card shall indicate the current license level of the holder, if appropriate. A recent picture of the individual must be affixed to the card along with the signature and shall be presented to the referee with the player cards so as to properly identify the coach(es) of the team.

**2261.** Any individual dismissed from a team technical area will be treated as a coaching official for that team.

**2300. Referees**

**2310.** Every team has the right to a neutral referee and assistant referees.

**2311.** No referee or assistant referee shall officiate a game in which a relative is coaching or playing unless both coaches provide their specific prior consent by signing both game cards. (U-06 and U-08 are exempt from this rule.)

**2312.** No referee or assistant referee shall officiate a game where they were a recent (within 1 year) member or coach of either team unless both coaches provide their specific prior consent by signing both game cards.

(U-06- U-08 are exempt from this rule.)

**2320.** The individual leagues are responsible for providing referees, playing fields and times.

**2321.** In the event the appointed referee fails to appear within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, and where assistant referees are present, one of the assistant referees shall take charge if he/she feels capable of refereeing the game and both coaches mutually agree.

**2322.** In the event that neither assistant referee agrees to take charge, the coaches may agree upon a volunteer referee.

**2323.** If no such agreement is reached, the game will be postponed.

**2324.** In the event a referee becomes ill during the game, the above procedure shall be followed.

**2325.** If the game is postponed, both coaches should notify their scorekeeper and division chairman.

**2330.** The dual system (i.e., two referees) of refereeing is not approved for GYSA Program games.

**2340.** Reporting violations rests with the visiting coach, and should be referred in writing to the appropriate Division Committee or for Recreational games, to the home league.

**2350.** The referee(s) is in complete charge of the field and adjacent areas from the time the referee arrives at the game site until the referee departs. The referee is empowered to:

**2351.** Rule on what equipment or accessories are considered dangerous (casts are not allowed at any time – reference rule 5740).

**2352.** Issue cautions, send offs, and dismissals for the entire period.

**2353.** Terminate a game for coach, player or spectator misconduct.

**2354.** Refuse to allow the game to be played if in the referee's judgment, the field is unplayable due to length of the grass, inadequate lines, or other impediments.

**2354.1 Refuse to allow the game to be played if there is not a credentialed coach on the sideline with present or, if necessary, a responsible adult identified on the game card and associated with the team.**

**2355.** The referee may depart the area certain of receiving his/her fee.

**2360. Recreational Programs**

**2361.** U-06 and U-08: Each league reserves the right to determine whether to use certified referees, club linesmen, coaches or parents during these games.

**2362.** U-08: For inter-scheduled games, it is recommended there be a certified referee provided.

**2363.** U-10 and older: Each league shall provide at least one certified referee for each game scheduled at its own fields.

**2364.** U-10 through U-16: Leagues are encouraged to provide assistant referees for all games.

**2365.** U-10 through U-16: For inter-scheduled games, it is strongly recommended that two certified assistant referees be utilized.

**2366.** U-19: Each league shall provide three currently certified USSF referees for each home game.

**2380. Select Programs Divisions**

**2381.** Each league shall provide three currently certified USSF referees for each home match.

**2382.** The referee (center official) will be a minimum of 1 year of age above the maximum eligible playing age of the age group to be officiated (except for those young referees who have been placed on a fast track for upgrade by the GSSA Referee Committee).

**2383.** Subsequent to the third reported violation of a league using an underage referee (i.e., center official), the home league will be assessed a penalty for each violation that has occurred during the playing season (except for those young referees who have been placed on a first track for upgrade by the GSSA Referee Committee).

**2384.** The league of the home team shall maintain and forward to the state office in a manner specified by the GYSA Board, a record of all games played and registered officials employed in them.

**2385.** At the conclusion of each playing season, each league shall pay a fine per official for each occasion in which (a) a game was played but a registered official was not used as a referee or assistant referee, or (b) a game was postponed, but not in accordance with the rules of the appropriate division.

**2386.** League fines due under this provision shall be paid before any of that league's teams shall be registered in the select programs divisions for the following season.

**2390.** If a league knows in advance that 3 certified and qualified referees will not be available for a select game, the game may be rescheduled with approval of the appropriate program committee. This approval will require appropriate communication with the league's referee assignor.

**2391.** If a game is postponed for failure to provide required officials within the time limit for a GYSA Select Program Division game, the following criteria will apply.

- 2392. For teams traveling a distance (one-way) of 50 miles or greater from their home field:
- 2393. The game will be replayed at the home field of the original visiting team.
- 2394. In addition, the original home league will be billed for the cost of the referees required once the game has been replayed.
- 2395. A game cannot be played under protest due to the lack of the required number of certified referees. If a coach agrees to play/continue play once they become aware of the number and types of referees (certified versus club), the coach gives up the right to protest the game based on the number and types of referees. This does not eliminate the right to protest other misapplications of the rules.

## 3000. Participation

### 3100. Registrations

- 3110. All player registrations, transfers and drops must be validated by the league registrar before being submitted to the GSSA Office.
- 3113. If two or more registrations are submitted for any one player by the acceptance date, then the player is required to resubmit a final registration form indicating his/her team preference.
- 3114. A player registration form will not be accepted if a parent or guardian of the player has not signed and dated the registration form in the place provided
- 3130. **Dual Registrations: U-15 and above Athena, Premier, Classic, and Ga. Junior Division I players may additionally register on a secondary team formed at the club/association of their primary registration. If a secondary team does not exist at the home of a player's primary registration then the Ga Junior Representative may give written permission for that player to seek registration at another club/association that provides a secondary team. A Club/association that has contact without verifying the player has written permission from the Ga. Junior Representative will be subject to all the possible sanctions regarding illegal recruiting.**
  - 3131. The primary and secondary team registration must be in place with the GSSA Office.
  - 3133. The secondary team registration will require an additional GYSA registration fee.
  - 3135. In play during the seasonal year, the primary team will always take precedence over the secondary team games.
  - 3137. A player may not play for more than one team on the same day, nor will dual registrations be accepted for teams' participation on the same scheduled day.
- 3140. **Junior**
  - 3144. Players leaving the team they are currently registered with must surrender their player pass to the GSSA office before they will be registered or transferred to another team.
  - 3145. Spring Season Play: A team that participated in the previous Fall season may participate in the current Spring season by submitting re-registration player forms and using the player passes issued during the Fall season.
  - 3146. A team that participated in the previous Fall season and that does not wish to participate in the current Spring season may disband by surrendering all player passes issued to that team to the GSSA Office.

**3147.**

disbanded teams are free to register with teams participating in the current Spring season as new players. Players from

**3148.** Teams may not disband during a Fall or Spring playing season and a Junior Elite team may not disband during a seasonal year. If a team disbands during either a Fall, Spring, or seasonal year playing season then the association may be sanctioned by a monetary fine and/or exclusion from the playing program, and/or other such sanctions, as the program committee deem appropriate.

**3150. Select Programs**

**3151.** Athena, Classic, Junior, and Premier: There are special rules for eligibility in the GYSA Annual Statewide Recreational Tournament that applies to players who have registered in these divisions for the seasonal year.

**3152.** Once a player has signed a player registration form with an affiliated league, the player is bound to that league from the date that registrations are due to the state office (see rule 1750) to the date that registrations are due to the state office for the next seasonal year of play. If a registration form is signed after the date that registrations are due to the state office, the player is bound to that league from the date that the registration is submitted to the state office to the date that registrations are due to the state office for the next seasonal year of play. The only exceptions are if a transfer or release request is approved, or a player's team only participates in the fall season, or a player sign with a secondary team.

**3200. Transfers, Releases, and Adds**

**3240. Recreational Programs**

**3241.** Once a player has signed a player registration form with an affiliated league, the player is bound to that league for the specified playing season (fall or spring), unless a transfer request is approved.

**3242.** Once a player is rostered to a team, a transfer is required to move to another team during that season.

**3243.** After completion of the Fall playing season for which a player signed a registration form, the player may register for the Spring season with another league. A Transfer Form must be completed and attached to the new league registration form in order to track player movement.

**3244.** For tournament purposes, a recreational player may play with another team as a guest player within the rules of the given tournament. Invitations to players listed on valid rosters for out-of-league play, such as indoor or guest player, must be initiated through the player's coach.

**3250. Select Programs**

**3253.** Transfers that have been approved by both associations will automatically be processed. Transfers in excess of three will bar the team from participation in the Snickers State Cup. The Select Program Representative in cooperation with the GYSA Registrar will review the paperwork submitted with each request when an association opposes a request to transfer. Then it is incumbent upon the GYSA Registrar to either approve or deny the transfer request on the merits of each case.

**3254.** Requests for Transfers between teams in the same league will be processed at any time and require a transfer form. Each request will be reviewed by the GYSA Registrar and will be permitted on a one-transfer/player/seasonal year basis.

**3255.** A team shall be limited to three (3) previously rostered ("transfer") players during the USYSA seasonal year if that team desires to play in the Snickers State Cup. Players rostered to Recreational Teams (as defined by the USSF Administrative Rule Book, Section 4094) are not considered to be previously rostered for the purposes of counting "transfers."

- 3256. For tournament purposes, a Select Program player may play with another team as a guest player within the rules of a given tournament. Invitations to players listed on valid rosters for out-of-league play, such as Indoor or guest player, must be initiated through that player's coach or it is considered illegal recruiting. Once a coach has been informed that his player is being considered for guest play he may not deny that player the opportunity to participate unless there is a direct conflict with a team function, i.e. regular season game or team participation in a tournament; nor may he deny the other coach an opportunity to contact the player for the express purpose of inviting him to participate in a tournament as a guest player. However, if a coach contacts a player prior to contact with the player's coach then he will face sanctions which may include but not be limited to the following: a warning, coach suspension, tournament play restrictions for his teams, team advancement restrictions, coach dismissal, and team suspension. If a coach is found to arbitrarily deny a player the opportunity to guest play than he will be subject to sanctions imposed by the Ethics and Grievance Committee.
- 3257. For the purpose of tracking player movement, a transfer form is required when a player moves in or out of a Select Program.
- 3258. Teams within a league registering for the Fall season cannot re-organize/re-form outside of the above restrictions for the Spring season.
- 3259. No team shall be allowed to transfer from one league to another during the seasonal year.

**3280. Releases of Select Programs players**

- 3281. Any player registered to a GYSA Select Program team is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless he/she requests release, is released, or unless a transfer request is approved the primary team disbands, or the player signs with a secondary team. If the player sign with a secondary team the player is bound to the secondary team for as long as the secondary team plays or until his primary team resumes play.
- 3283. In the case of a player requesting a release, the required GYSA form shall be submitted through team coach, affiliated league and GYSA Select Program Committee to GYSA Registrar, stating reason for the release request.
- 3285. The team coach may request a player be released involuntarily from a team, only if player is unable to play for one of the following reasons:
  - 3285.1 Player has violated USYSA rules or state disciplinary rules.
  - 3285.2 Player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance.
  - 3285.3 Player is injured in such a manner, he/she will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season.
- 3286. To request the release, the coach must complete and forward the required GYSA Form for approval.
- 3287. For each request, the appropriate GYSA Program Committee who will verify that the release request is a valid request and recommend either approval or disapproval based on contact with the named player/parent and/or coach.
- 3290. **Junior:** A team may accept no more than three (3) transferring players per playing season **if that team wishes to remain eligible for the Snickers State Cup.**

**3300. Tryouts, Evaluations, and Advertising**

- 3310. No league may assess a player for a recreational Program, until the player has signed a player registration form with that affiliated league.

**3320.** Violation  
may result in disciplinary action against the affiliated league.

of this provision

**3330.** Player evaluations for U-10 Premier and Athena, and tryouts for Premier, Classic and Athena(U-11 and up) may not be held before the approved and published date.

**3340.** Athena, Classic, Premier, and Junior: All member leagues shall have open tryouts for all select teams **Clubs/Associations may advertise their tryout schedules in the media of their choice at any point after the tryout dates have been set by GYSA and not be considered illegal recruiting provided the following conditions are met:**

**3341.** The **announcement/advertisement** must be **limited to the following:** tryouts must be open to all players, the name of the **club/association** must be clearly stated, its business address, and telephone number, complete dates, times, places **and coaches** for tryout sessions **may be included if available.**

**3342.** No language can be incorporated which would deny the right or ability of any youth soccer player of the correct age to participate; or which would restrict eligibility for the team to any arbitrary prerequisites such as particular school, church, housing, subdivision, etc.; nor can the advertisement serve in any way, directly or indirectly, to coerce or threaten players to try out for a particular league's team versus another.

**3345.** A league may advertise for unregistered players at any time.

**3346.** **No select player may sign or commit to a primary team before an offer sheet has been signed by the coach or designated league official, nor prior to the approved and published date(s) by GYSA.**

**3400. Recruitment**

**3401. Premier, Classic, Athena (U-14 and Under).**

**3410.** Recruiting players either through verbal or written contact, the news media, or other public announcement is not allowed from the date that Fall team and player registrations are due for all GYSA Select Programs until the approved and published date in the spring of the following year. From the approved and published date for recruiting a player may train, guest play (within the rules for tournament guest play), play a friendly, or attend any camp at another association up to but not including the approved and published signing date.

**3415.** It is the responsibility of team officials to verify the status of any prospective player to discern if they are listed on the roster of a select Division Program affiliated team before any contact is made with the player or their parents. If team officials do not verify the status of any prospective player to discern if they are listed on the roster of a select division program affiliated team prior to any contact with the player or their parents then the team officials are considered to have illegally recruited the player. This holds true, even if the parent initiates that contact.

**3420.** Any attempt by a coach, team official, parent of a player, and/or anybody acting on behalf of the team or league to recruit, directly or indirectly, entice, lure or interfere with a signed player whose registration has been submitted and received by the GYSA, will be reported to the Ethics and Grievance Committee for disposition.

**3421.** Recruitment Sanctions: If a coach, team official, player, parent of a player, or anybody acting on behalf of the team is found guilty of illegal recruiting, the sanctions may include, but are not limited to the following: warning, coach suspension, tournament play restrictions, team advancement restrictions, coach dismissal, and team suspension.

**3440. Select (U15 and Above)**

- 3441.** Once a player has signed a GSSA registration form and that form has been accepted by GYSA (i.e. - GSSA office), no person may directly or indirectly induce or attempt to induce that player to leave the team he has registered with during the playing season without 14 days written notice to the player's coach.
- 3442.** No registered player may directly or indirectly contact any other team during the current playing season without 14 days written notice to his present coach.
- 3443.** Inducement shall be defined as contact between players, coaches, or persons acting on behalf of either, whether written or verbal, and shall include tryouts and unscheduled matches involving other registered players.
- 3444.** If a member is found to be guilty of recruitment, the member shall be suspended from participation for all or part of the current playing season, and all of the next playing season.
- 3445.** If a member is found to be guilty of recruitment a second time, the member shall be suspended for all or part of the current playing season and all of the next playing year.
- 3446.** If a member is found guilty of recruitment more than two times, the member shall be suspended for 5 consecutive playing years for each violation in excess of two.
- 3447.** On a date determined by the GA Juniors Program Director a player may be recruited for play on a secondary team provided written notification has been provided to the player's primary team coach of record. A secondary team is formed for the express purpose to give players an opportunity to play while either their primary team has disbanded, is not playing during the period from February to May, or is playing a short, friendly, or tournament season. A secondary team is not eligible for Snickers State Cup play.

**3500. Senior Trial Matches (Juniors)**

- 3510.** The player may play for both teams (USSF).
- 3520.** Youth games take preference (USYSA).
- 3530.** The Youth Player must register with the Senior Team and must meet all senior registration requirements.
- 3540.** The player remains registered with the youth team (USYSA).
- 3550.** The player retains youth eligibility so long as youth registration is maintained.
- 3560.** Suspensions or other disciplinary actions must be honored by both affiliated leagues.

**3600. Professional in GYSA**

- 3610.** In keeping with the amateur nature of GYSA, and to reduce the potential for conflict of interest and abuse, GYSA prohibits all professional sports persons from participation as players in GYSA.
- 3620.** A professional sports person is defined for this purpose as anyone who derives a significant portion of their income from involvement in professional sports.

## **4000. Playing Rules**

**4050. Practices:** After the season of play starts, no team will be normally allowed to practice more than 3 times per week.

**4051.** U-06 and U-08: After the season of play starts, no team will be allowed to practice more than 2 times per week.

### **4100. Select Programs Divisions – Passes**

**4110.** All teams will be required to have USYSA player and coach passes issued by GYSA with the player and coach's recent picture permanently affixed and signature thereon.

**4120.** A team that does not present its passes to the referee prior to the beginning of the match shall forfeit that match unless, in the Division Committee's discretion, valid extenuating circumstances were present.

**4130.** Referees must collect and check the passes before each game.

**4140.** Any player without a proper pass shall not be permitted to play in the match.

**4150.** Passes will be returned after the match. The referee will send a written report to GYSA for all send-offs, ejections, injuries and game terminations.

### **4200. Team Obligations: Spectating and Field Set-up**

**4210.** The Home Team Coach is responsible for contacting the opposing coach the week of, and at least 72 hours prior to the game to verify location, time and uniform color. This applies to all regularly scheduled and make-up games.

**4220.** The Home Team Coach will be responsible for contacting the opposing coach as early as possible if their game should be canceled due to unplayable field conditions.

**4230.** The home team is to provide the game ball, a properly lined and cut field, nets and corner flags.

**4240.** All spectators, coaches, and sidelined players must stay clear of the touchline between the corner and the 18-yard extension of the penalty box.

**4250.** When at all possible a LINE should be placed three to five (3 to 5) yards behind the touchline to keep coaches, spectators and substitutes back from the field and out of the linesman's way.

**4251.** All coaches, spectators and substitutes should remain three to five yards behind the touchline when physically possible.

**4253.** The referee or assistant referee may, at any time, restrict the sideline movement of coaches, players and spectators.

**4260.** A league representative may judge fields under their responsibility unplayable. It shall be their responsibility to notify the opposing coaches, referees, and other parties as soon as possible after a field closure.

### **4300. Scores: Select Programs**

**4310.** The winning coach of a match (or both coaches if a match is tied or there are disciplinary actions), or someone on their behalf, must call in the score of their games to the scorekeeper (or other person appointed by the appropriate Division Committee) within 72 hours of the match.

**4330. Athena, Classic, Junior and Premier: Scoring:**

4331. Win            5 points

4332. Tie            2 points

4333. Loss          0 points

4335. The maximum number of points a team may obtain in a match is 5.

4336. Standings will be based on accumulated points, adjusted by penalty points.

4337. Games decided by forfeiture will be recorded as 3-0 score.

4338. To determine divisional standings, in case of a tie in total points within any Division or Sub-division thereof, the following tie-breaking procedure will apply:

4338.1 Results of head-to-head competition.

4338.2 Fewest goals allowed.

4338.3 Largest difference in goals scored verses goals allowed (maximum three per game).

4338.4 Coin Toss.

4400. **Awards:** All select programs' youth awards for seasonal play shall be appropriate medals.

**5000. RULES OF USYSA AFFECTING GAME PLAY AND YOUTH MODIFICATIONS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME**

5010. The Rules of Play used will be the "FIFA Laws of the Game", as modified by the USYSA Official Administrative Rulebook and those modifications contained herein.

5020. In case of conflict, the appropriate Division Rules shall apply.

**5100. LAW #1: THE FIELD OF PLAY**

5110. Outer Dimensions (Yards)

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Minimum</u> <u>L x W</u>	<u>Maximum</u> <u>L x W</u>
U-06	20 X 15 (approx.)	30 x 20
U-08	40 x 20	50 x 30
U-10	60 x 40	80 x 60
U-12 to U-19	100 x 50	120 x 80

5120. Inside Dimensions (Yards)

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Penalty</u> <u>Area</u>	<u>Goal Area</u>	<u>Penalty Kick</u> <u>Mark</u>
U-06	None	Optional	None
U-08	None	Optional	None
U-10	30 x 12	14 x 4	10

**5130. Goal Dimensions**

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Inside Width</u>	<u>Inside Height</u>
U-06	2 yards (approx.)	4 feet (approx.)
U-08	4 yards (approx.)	6 feet (approx.)
U-10	6 yards (approx.)	6 feet (approx.)

**5140.** No one (spectators or participants) shall be allowed behind the end lines during the course of a game.

**5141.** The referee shall halt the game, if necessary, to enforce this rule.

**5143.** Further action by the referee shall be considered, if necessary, under provisions of Law #5 and Law #12.

**5150.** Field size will not be a matter for protest.

**5200. LAW #2: THE BALL**

**5210.** U-06 and U-08 shall use a #3 ball.

**5220.** U-10 through U-12 shall use a #4 ball.

**5230.** All others shall use a #5 ball.

**5300. LAW #3: NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

**5310.** The following shall be the number of players for each age division to take part in a match, the minimum required to begin a match, and the minimum required to continue a match once started:

	<u>U-11 to U-19</u>	<u>U-10</u>	<u>U-08</u>	<u>U-06</u>
Maximum number on the field	11	8	4	3
To Start Match	7	6	3	3
To Finish Match	7	6	3	3

**5320.** Prior to the start of a match, a complete team roster shall be prepared by each team coach and presented to the referee, except in the U-06 program.

**5321.** The referee shall not allow a match to take place unless a roster is presented.

**5323.** The roster should be prepared on the form (i.e., game card) furnished by each league or select program division, and shall include the name and number of each registered player on each team, whether present or not. If the form is not available, the team roster shall be written on a piece of paper.

**5325.** Ineligible players shall be marked with an "X".

**5327.** A player not listed on the roster at the start of the game shall be ineligible to play in that game.

**5400. LAW #3: Substitutions -- All Programs**

**5410.** Players being substituted must exit the field of play prior to players coming on the field.

**5420.** All players should leave and enter the field at the middle of the field.

**5430.** In playoff matches, subs may be made at the beginning of any overtime period at the discretion of the coach. Compulsory substitution need not be followed.

**5440. Recreation:** Each player must play a minimum of half of each half of a match, if he/she meets practice participation requirements **set by their club/association.**

**5441.** U-06, U-08 and U-10: Half of each half is the mandated playing minimum per player. It is recommended that whenever possible all players should play three-fourths of each game, unless the player is unwilling or unable.

**5443. Athena, Classic, Premier:** Each player must play a minimum of half a match, **if he/she meets reasonable practice participation requirements set by their club/association.**

**5445. Junior:** Junior Division I and II teams are not required to have all registered players of the team who are present at match site play at least one half of the match.

**5450.** It is the responsibility of the team coach, employing the unlimited substitution procedures, to assure that this policy is carried out.

**5460.** No player shall leave the field of play prior to the expiration of the game without the consent of the referee.

**5500. LAW #3: Substitutions – For U-06 through U-12 Recreational Teams**

**5510.** There shall be four times to substitute.

**5520.** At two of these times, substitutions are mandatory:

**5521.** In the middle of the first half of play; and

**5523.** In the middle of the second half of play.

**5530.** At the other two times, substitutions may be made at the option of the coach:

**5531.** At half time; and

**5533.** In case of an injured player substitution, the opposing team may also substitute (one player for each injured player substituted).

**5540.** At mandatory substitution time, all players on the bench must be substituted, unless injured or listed as ineligible on the team roster presented to the referee prior to the start of the match.

**5550.** Both teams shall substitute at the same time.

**5560.** At mandatory substitution times, the referee shall whistle at the first dead ball after the times specified below, and allow (i.e. - wave on, call on, etc.) substitutes to enter the field:

	<u>FOR MATCHES WHOSE HALF-TIME DURATION IS:</u>	<u>WHISTLE AT FIRST DEAD BALL AFTER:</u>
<b>5561.</b>	25 minutes	11th minute
<b>5563.</b>	30 minutes	14th minute

**5570.** Failure of a team to follow the participation and/or substitution rule must result in a forfeit of the match; this includes playoffs and championship matches.

- 5580. If this comes to the referee's attention during a match, he shall make a record of it on the game report, notify each coach, and then see that the match continues and is completed.
- 5590. U-10 Goalkeeper Participation: In recreational play, the goalkeeper must be given at least as much time in each game as a field player as he/she plays as goalkeeper.
- 5591. U-06 and U-08: It is strongly recommended that there be no goalkeeper and that all players be field players.
- 5592. U-06 and U-08: If a goalkeeper is used, it is strongly recommended that the players be rotated equally so that every player plays the field and goalkeeping.
- 5593. U-06 and U-08: All GYSA sponsored events and tournament games will be played with no goalkeeper.

**5600. LAW #3: Substitutions – All Select Programs and U-14 and over Recreational Teams**

- 5610. Substitutions shall be unlimited except where specified otherwise in the Rules and Regulations.
- 5620. Select competitions may specify substitution policies.
- 5630. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:
  - 5631. Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
  - 5632. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
  - 5633. After a goal, by either team.
  - 5634. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops the play. Substitutions shall not be limited to only the injured player or his team.
  - 5635. At half time.
  - 5636. After a caution, by either team.
  - 5640. Substitutions are not allowed during the stoppage of play for a player being sent off (red card).

**5700. LAW #4: PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT**

- 5710. All players on the same team shall wear the same color uniforms.
- 5711. They will be individually numbered and legible.
- 5713. The number on the shirt must correspond to the player number for that player as shown on the game card.
- 5715. The goalkeeper shall wear a shirt of a different color from his teammates, the referee, and his opponents, and does not require a number.
- 5720. The referee shall determine if there is a conflict of team colors.
- 5721. In the event of a conflict of team colors, the home team shall be required to change to alternate jerseys.
- 5723. Alternate jerseys may be T-shirts of contrasting colors.
- 5725. If a team is required to change to alternate jerseys, numbers on the jerseys shall not be required.

- 5727. Playing in "skins" shall not be allowed.
- 5730. U-10 and younger age groups shall wear only molded cleats or tennis shoes.
- 5740. Players shall not play with a cast.
- 5750. All players must wear shin guards covered with socks.
  - 5751. Shin guards must be a commercially manufactured product specifically designed for the purpose.
  - 5753. Home-made products such as newspapers or bandages will not be allowed.
  - 5755. Players may not participate with improper equipment.
- 5760. Any screw-in cleat that is broken or damaged in any way so as to expose any internal structure or present surface deformations with sharp edges or projections that might endanger any player coming in contact with it is prohibited and must be removed and/or replaced before that player is allowed to play.

**5800. LAW #5: REFEREES -- Recreational Division**

[Note: Inter-league Recreational and Select Programs' referee requirements are at 2300. -- League Responsibilities, Referees]

- 5810. In the event a referee is not present at a league match, the coach of each participating team shall each referee one-half of the game, the halves to be selected by mutual consent or by a third person agreed upon by both coaches.
- 5820. In any event, the game must be played.
- 5830. In any games whose outcome is protested by one of the coaches of the participating teams, the referee will see that the entire game is played and then submit a report to the league.

**5850. LAW #6: ASSISTANT REFEREES -- No modifications**

**5900. LAW #7: DURATION OF THE GAME  
Length of Games, Overtime Periods, and Ball Specifications (USSF 2107)**

5910. The length of games, ball size, ball-weight, ball dimensions, and match tie breaking rules for each age group shall be as follows:

Group	Game Length	Overtime Periods (Cup & Tourn.)	Ball Size	Circum- ference	Weight
5911	U-19	Two 45-min. halves	Two 15-min. halves	#5	27-28 14-16 oz.
5911.1	U-17	Two 45-min. halves	Two 15-min. halves	#5	27-28 14-16 oz.
5912.	U-16	Two 40-min. halves	Two 15-min. halves	#5	27-28 14-16 oz.
5913.	U-15	Two 40-min. halves	Two 15-min. halves	#5	27-28 14-16 oz.
5914.	U-14	Two 35-min. halves	Two 10-min. halves	#5	27-28 14-16 oz.
5915.	U-13	Two 35-min. halves	Two 10-min. halves	#5	27-28 14-16 oz.
5916.	U-12	Two 30-min. halves	Two 10-min. halves	#4	25-26 11-13 oz.
5917.	U-11	Two 30-min. halves	Two 10-min. halves	#4	25-26 11-13 oz.
5918.	U-10	Two 30-min. halves	Two 10-min. halves	#4	25-26 11-13 oz.
5919.	U-08	Four 12 min. qtrs.	Two 5-min. halves	#3	23-24 11-12 oz.
5919.1	U-06	Four 8-10 min. qtrs.	N/A	#3	23-24 11-12 oz.

- 5920. All matches of U-10 age group teams and above shall have a 10 minute half-time interval. All other age groups shall have a 5-minute half-time interval.
- 5130. For league championship or playoff games, if no team has won the match at the end of regular play, overtime periods may be modified or nullified.

**5940.** If the game is still tied after overtime periods, FIFA "Kicks from the Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner.

**6000. LAW #8: THE START OF PLAY**

- 6010.** If a team cannot field the required minimum number of players within 5 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, that team will forfeit the game. In the event that neither team is able to field the required minimum number of players, then both teams will forfeit the game.
- 6011.** For extenuating circumstances, the appropriate program Committee shall have the right to waive this rule.
- 6020.** Each team shall be represented at the field of play by a coach or assistant coach or a parent appointed in his/her place for the duration of the game. A team not so represented shall forfeit the match.
- 6030.** The referee shall make the final decision, at the field of play, as to whether or not to begin the match, based upon his/her judgment of the condition of the field of play, the weather, or any other factor he considers pertinent.
- 6040.** U-06: The opponents must be three (3) yards from the center mark while a kick-off is in progress.
- 6050.** U-08: The opponents must be six (6) yards from the center mark while a kick-off is in progress.

**6100. LAW #9: BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY -- No Modifications**

**6200. LAW #10: METHOD OF SCORING**

- 6210.** All forfeits shall result in a score of 3-0 against the team being penalized.
- 6220.** In the event of a forfeit, the 3 goals shall not be credited to any one member of the winning team, but to the team as a whole.

**6300. LAW #11: OFF-SIDE**

- ~~**6310.**~~ U-06 and U-08: There is no off-side.

**6400. LAW #12: FOULS AND MISCONDUCT -- U-10 and Under Modifications**

- 6405.** U-06 and U-08: It is recommended that the game official explain ALL infractions to the offending player.
- 6410.** Harassing the Goalkeeper: When the goalkeeper has taken possession of the ball within his own penalty area, opposing players are required to move away and to the side so as not to interfere with the goalkeeper putting the ball into play.
- 6420.** Opposing players shall not play or touch the ball until it has left the penalty area.
- 6450.** PENALTY: For any infringement of this modification an indirect free-kick shall be awarded at the spot of the infringement given the overriding provisions of Law XIII.
- 6460.** Pass-back to the Goalkeeper: A goalkeeper shall be penalized for handling the ball intentionally passed to him from the feet of a teammate.
- 6470.** Cases and Rulings:
- 6471.** The goalkeeper punts the ball, which strikes an opponent who is in the penalty area.

Ruling: Indirect Free Kick to the goalkeeper's team at the spot where the ball contacted the opponent.

- 6472.** The goalkeeper parries the ball to the ground.  
Ruling: The goalkeeper took initial possession with the parry (not deflection). The ball is not playable by the opposition until the ball clears the penalty area.
- 6473.** The goalkeeper punts the ball, which strikes a teammate within the penalty area and rebounds into the goal.  
Ruling: Goal. The ball is in play.
- 6474.** After taking possession of the ball, the goalkeeper and a teammate pass the ball back and forth repeatedly within the penalty area.  
Ruling: Indirect Free Kick from spot where time wasting is determined by referee.
- 6475.** The goalkeeper parries the ball to his feet and dribbles to the top of the penalty area. If the ball is picked up by the goalkeeper, this would be a second possession infringement. If the ball is kicked from the ground out of the penalty area, play on, no infringement.
- 6476.** After taking possession of the ball, the goalkeeper rolls the ball to a teammate who is within the penalty area. The teammate then kicks the ball out of the penalty area.  
Ruling: Play on, no infringement.

**6500. LAW #13: FREE KICK -- (Direct and Indirect)**

- 6510.** U-06 and U-08: All free kicks will be indirect.
- 6511.** U-06: All fouls shall result in an indirect free kick with the opponents three yards away.
- 6512.** U-08: All fouls shall result in an indirect free kick with the opponents six yards away.
- 6520. U-06:** No kicks shall be taken by the attacking team within 3 yards of the defenders' goal.
- 6521. U-08:** No kicks shall be taken by the attacking team within 6 yards of the defenders' goal.

**6600. LAW #14: PENALTY KICK**

- 6610.** U-06 and U-08: No penalty kicks are to be taken during games.

**6700. LAW #15: THROW IN**

- 6710.** U-06 and U-08: A second throw-in must be allowed if the player makes an improper throw-in on the initial attempt. The second throw-in takes place after the game official explains the proper method.

**6800. LAW #16: GOAL KICK**

- 6810.** U-06: The kick may be taken within three (3) yards from the goal line and the opponents must be three (3) yards away from the ball.
- 6815.** U-08: The kick may be taken within three (3) yards from the goal line and the opponents must be six (6) yards away from the ball.

**6900. LAW #17: CORNER KICK**

- 6910.** U-06: Throw-ins may be taken in place of corner kicks. If corner kicks are used, the opponents must be three (3) yards away from the ball.

**6920.** U-08:  
be six (6) yards away from the ball.

Opponents must

## **7000. Sportsmanship**

### **7200. Conduct**

- 7210.** All that is dishonorable, un-sportsmanlike, and ungentlemanly is particularly and expressly condemned.
- 7215.** **All persons in authority will conduct themselves in a manner that will not contribute to the delinquency of minors.**
- 7216.** **GYSA encourages moral and social responsibility.**
- 7220.** Any player, coach, or parent guilty of such violations will be subject to disciplinary action by their respective leagues or by the GYSA or by both.
- 7230.** Rules of conduct to be adhered to by participants at all Youth Soccer events are:
- 7231.** Offensive, insulting, and abusive language will not be tolerated, either on field of play or in field's general area.
  - 7232.** Ungentlemanly conduct will not be tolerated.
  - 7233.** Respect for referee, either on field or in field's general area, must be shown by all.
  - 7234.** Punctuality by both teams and referee must be practiced out of courtesy for others.
  - 7235.** Dangerous play must not be taught or encouraged. All players must be taught to "play the ball" and not the "man".
  - 7236.** Proper respect for opposing teams and spectators must be exhibited by all.
  - 7237.** Alcoholic beverages will not be permitted in the general area of the field.
- 7240.** Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, officials and spectators.
- 7250.** Physical violence, foul and abusive language, harassment of players or referees **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**
- 7260.** The use of noise-making or amplifying devices is **PROHIBITED.**
- 7270.** Such conduct will be reported by the referee even in situations where cards were not awarded.
- 7290. Junior**
- 7291.** Prior to the start of the match, each coach shall designate to the referee a player who will be the team captain. The captain shall wear a distinctive armband. If the captain is removed from play, his replacement shall wear the armband and shall report to the referee before play resumes.
  - 7293.** The captain shall be the only person to communicate with the referee during the match, and only with the referee's permission. At half time the coach may speak to the referee in a courteous manner.
  - 7295.** Each coach shall be held responsible for the conduct of players and spectators on his respective side or area of the field. A coach may request (through his captain) the referee's assistance in stopping play to remove an unruly person from the match side.
  - 7297.** At no time during the match may players from opposing teams speak to each other, to the referee (except the captain) or the assistant referees. Coaches may instruct their players on the field only

captain.

through

the

**7300. Match Terminations, Suspensions, and Forfeits**

- 7310.** Games played short time through any cause (i.e., suspended or canceled by the referee) shall be replayed in their entirety providing neither team is at fault.
- 7320.** Should one of the teams be adjudged at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the Division Committee as to whether the game is to be replayed or declared forfeit.
- 7330.** Coaches who feel that their players are receiving an excessive number of cards, or that the referee has lost control of the match, are cautioned against using these reasons to justify removing their team from play.
- 7340.** If a coach removes his team from the field of play without proper justification, his team will forfeit the match and the coach will be suspended from his team's next match. Further D&P action may result.
- 7350.** Teams that do not show for scheduled games will be responsible for reimbursing the home team league for the cost of the referees' fees for that game. The Director of the Playing Division of the teams involved must officially declare the game a forfeit. A home league official must notify and bill the league of the forfeiting team, and inform the Program Director, as well as the designated GYSA administrator. League obligations under this provision shall be paid before any of that league's teams shall be registered in the select programs divisions and the inter-league recreational scheduling for the following season.
- 7353.** In the event that neither team is able to field the required minimum number of players, then both teams will show a 0 - 3 (forfeit) loss.

**7360. Inter-league Recreational**

- 7361.** Failure of a team to show up for a scheduled inter-league game, without prior notice to the opposing coach will result in a forfeit of that game.

**7370. Athena, Premier, Classic and Junior**

- 7371.** Games, once scheduled, will be played as scheduled except in extreme extenuating circumstances and cannot be changed until approved by the Division Committee or its representative.
- 7373.** Rainouts or unplayable field conditions will be determined by the referee at the field or the league official of each home league. In cases where games are canceled by the league official or referee, the coach of the home team shall notify the opposing coach of the canceled game and of the rescheduled date, time and field within 5 days of original game date.
- 7374.** The opposing coach must be given 5 days notice of the new game date except where minimum 5 day notification would cause the game to be played after the last scheduled playing season date established by the GYSA.
- 7375.** The Division Committee may set the date if the two opposing coaches cannot mutually agree on an acceptable date.
- 7376.** The Division Committee will resolve any disputes or conflicts regarding scheduled or rescheduled games, and its decision shall be final.
- 7377.** Both teams involved in every forfeit will file a report with the appropriate Division Director. A team that forfeits three (3) or more games in a playing season will be prohibited from participating in that seasonal year's *Snicker's* State Cup or any other GYSA hosted state championship tournament. A team that forfeits three (3) or more games in a playing season will be denied travel permission for out-of-state competition for a period of one year from the date of the last forfeit. The Director of the playing division in consultation with their committee will review each report and rule on additional sanctions, if any. Additional sanctions may include but are not limited to the following: warning, coach suspension,

additional tournament play restrictions, team advancement restrictions, coach dismissal and team suspension.

**7378. A visiting team that forfeits the first game of a home and away series also forfeits the right to host the second game at their home field. The location of the second game becomes the option of the initial home team.**

**7390. Junior**

**7391.** It is the responsibility of the forfeiting team coach to inform the opposing team coach and the Junior Division Representative of his intention to forfeit a match at least 48 hours prior to the start of the match.

**7393.** If a team forfeits 3 matches in a playing season without following the above rule or without permission of the Junior Division Representative, that team will be suspended from participation during the next playing season.

**7394.** Junior: If the match cannot be rescheduled during the season, the home team shall forfeit the game.

**7395.** The team forfeiting a match and its league will be responsible for any referee fees incurred in the forfeited match.

**7400. Misconduct**

**7405.** Referees must submit written reports of all player and coach misconduct, including cautions and ejections, directly to the GYSA, postmarked within 48 hours after the game.

**7410.** Any player or coach ejected from a game shall be automatically suspended from the next game scheduled and played under USYSA affiliation and competition.

**7415.** In the event a player or coach refuses to leave the field after having been ejected by the referee, he shall be automatically suspended from the next 2 games.

**7420.** In the event the team is disbanded or has played its last game, the sanction will be served at the next game(s) to be played/coached accordingly.

**7425.** Games forfeited and then played, as scrimmage games will not count for the game suspension(s).

**7430. Note:** Since some coaches coach more than one team, game suspension(s) will apply to the team for which the coach received the ejection.

**7435.** In the event a player or coach abuses either physically or verbally, a player or coach after a contest in the general area of play, he shall be suspended as determined by the Board of Directors or its designee.

**7440.** Misconduct of parents or spectators shall be handled as determined by the Board of Directors or its designee.

**7445.** All outdoor suspensions apply to outdoor, and all indoor suspensions apply to indoor.

**7450.** Any player who plays subsequent games without serving the mandatory suspension will be deemed an illegal player, and will cause any games in which he plays to be forfeited.

**7451.** Standings will be adjusted accordingly, as if the team decided to forfeit.

**7453.** Points, if appropriate, accrue.

**7460.** Any coach who coaches subsequent games without serving the mandatory suspension will be deemed an illegal coach and will cause any games in which he coaches to be forfeited.

**7461.** Also, the coach will be indefinitely suspended until the Discipline & Protest Committee receives an application for a hearing from the suspended coach, holds such a hearing with the coach present, and approves the coach's reinstatement.

**7463.** Standings will be adjusted accordingly, as if the team decided to forfeit.

**7465.** Points, if appropriate, accrue.

**7470.** When a player receives a third red card in a season year, he is suspended until such time as he arranges for a hearing and appears before the GYSA Discipline & Protest Committee to hear cause for reinstatement.

**7471.** When a player has been reinstated after the third red card in a seasonal year, player must request reinstatement for each additional send off in that seasonal year. Player may receive additional sanctions.

**7480.** When a coach is dismissed for a second time (equivalent of a second red card) in a seasonal year, he is suspended until the Discipline & Protest Committee receives an application for a hearing from the suspended coach, holds such hearing with the coach present, and approves the coach's reinstatement.

**7481.** When a coach has been reinstated after the second dismissal, coach must request a reinstatement for each additional dismissal in that seasonal year. Coach may receive additional sanctions.

**7490. Athena, Premier and Classic**

**7491.** Any player receiving 3 cautions in a playing season will sit out the next scheduled and played game.

**7492.** In addition, the player shall sit out the next scheduled and played game when 2 more cautions are received. The player will then sit out the next scheduled and played game each time an additional caution is received.

**7493.** Two yellow cards received in the same match by a player will count as zero (0) cautions for the purpose of this rule and as a red card as per rules 7400 and 7600.

**7495.** Any coaching misconduct reported by the referee must be considered by the GYSA D & P Committee before that coach will be allowed to coach at a regularly-scheduled game.

**7496.** Any delay or suspension of this sanction must be granted by the Chairman of the D & P Committee.

**7600. Misconduct -- Penalties for Players, Coaches, Teams and Leagues [Athena, Premier, Classic, Junior**

**7610.** Points will be deducted from standing points as the result of player and/or coach misconduct during games played during the regular season in the following manner:

**7611.** Player caution (yellow card)                      0 points

**7612.** Player dismissal (red card)                      2 points

**7613.** Coach send-off    3 points

**7614.** Game termination (team responsible) 4 points

**7615.** Game forfeiture    2 points

**7616.** If at the end of the playing season, a team has 5 penalty points or less, no deductions from the standings will

be  
team.

charged to the

- 7620.** The Division Committee will be responsible for verifying all game incidents and adjusting the standing points accordingly.
- 7625.** League Presidents will be notified in writing of any team in their league with a penalty points accumulation of 8 points.

- 7630.** If a team receives 10 penalty points during a season, the league is fined \$250.00 and the coach is suspended until such time that a Discipline & Protest hearing is held and cause for re-instatement is heard.
- 7640.** If a team receives 13 penalty points during a season, the team is suspended with no appeal for reinstatement unless more than 6 points were received in any one match.
  - 7641.** The coach is suspended from coaching within GYSA for one year and
  - 7643.** The league is placed on probation for one year and fined \$500.00.
- 7650. (Note)** Players transferring or joining another team carry accrued penalty points with them to the new team for the remainder of the playing season. However, even if a player with penalty points transfers, all penalty points assessed to the team during that player's participation remain with the first team as well.
- 7800. Open Cup Competition (Athena, Classic, Junior and Premier)**
  - 7810.** Any member suspended under provisions of the GYSA or the respective committee shall be suspended from Open Cup Competition.
  - 7820.** Any team that forfeits three (3) matches during the Fall playing season shall be suspended from Open Cup Competition.
  - 7830.** The players and coach(es) of the suspended team shall also be suspended from Cup Competition.
- 7900. Discipline and Protest (D&P) and Ethics and Grievance (E&G)**
  - 7910.** All questions as to discipline, protests, appeals, or grievances will be directed in writing as appropriate to the Discipline & Protest Committee or Ethics and Grievance Committee, Georgia Youth Soccer Association, which will have jurisdiction.
  - 7920.** All protests must be postmarked, received by fax, or hand-delivered within 72 hours of the alleged incident (metered mail not accepted), and accompanied by the appropriate protest fee. The protest fee is refundable if the protest is upheld.
  - 7930.** Appeals must be submitted in writing within 5 days after the receipt of notice of adverse decision of protest.
  - 7940.** The appeal fee is refundable if the appeal is upheld. The Board of Directors or its designee will judge the appeal.
  - 7950.** The Ethics and Grievance Committee will accept grievances at any time. Grievances do not require submittal fees.
  - 7960.** The GYSA D&P Committee will meet regularly once a week during the select programs playing season.
  - 7970.** The D & P Committee will notify the appropriate League President of any matters to be considered.

**Fines and Fees approved by general membership**

Protest Fee	\$100.00
Appeal Fee	\$200.00

Fines:

1. Underage official (per occurrence after 3rd reported violation)	\$50.00
2. Unregistered official (per occurrence)	\$10.00
3. Improperly postponed game	\$10.00
4. Team forfeiting match as no-show	\$100.00

**9000. Glossary**

- 9010. Select -- Programs that do allow tryouts.**
- 9020. Playing Season -- The period of time, Spring or Fall, during which league games are played.**
- 9030. Recreational -- Programs that do not allow tryouts.**
- 9040. Registration -- GYSA authorized addition of a player to a team roster.**
- 9050. Registration form -- The form used to add a player to a team roster.**
- 9060. Release -- GYSA authorized removal of a player from a team roster, and from the league which the team is associated. The player's player pass must be returned to the state office with the release form. Once a player is released, he/she is put on inactive status with GYSA and is placed in an inactive player pool. The released player is then ineligible to participate in any practices or games, or in any tournaments until he/she requests and receives approval to transfer to another team or until he/she registers at the beginning of a new seasonal year.**
- 9070. Release form -- The form used to remove a player from a team roster. The form is normally initiated by the player's parent/guardian, but can be initiated by the coach if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons:**
- 1. Player has violated USYSA's rules or state disciplinary rules.**
  - 2. Player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance.**
  - 3. Player is injured in such a manner, he/she will be unable to participate for the remainder of the season.**
- 9080. Roster -- The GYSA official list of players registered to an individual team.**
- 9090. Seasonal Year -- September 1 to August 31**
- 9100. Transfer -- GYSA authorized movement of a current or previously rostered player onto another roster, or the GYSA authorized movement of a player who returns to the same roster within the current seasonal year.**
- 9110. Transfer form -- The form used to track player movement from one team/league to another team/league. The form is initiated by the player's parent/guardian. Transfer form must be complete when submitted to GYSA, stating the reason for the request. Approval of a transfer rests with the Program Representative and the GYSA Registrar.**
- 9120. Offer Sheet -- an approved GYSA form designating an offer of a team spot to a player for coaches and players to sign signifying the player's acceptance of the spot and the coach's acceptance of the player on the team. The offer sheet must be signed on or after the date approved and published for players to commit to their select team or primary select team in case of U-15 and above.**
- 9121. Primary Team is that designation given to a player's first team. A player must give consideration to his primary teams games and functions prior to considering the games and functions of a secondary team.**

- 9140. Secondary Team** is that designation given to a player's second team. All primary team games and functions must be given first consideration. A secondary team is a team formed for a period of time in February through May to give an opportunity to those players who do not participate in other soccer venues. A secondary team may not participate in the Snickers State Cup.
- 9150. Junior Elite Team** is that designation given to teams that are formed with the express purpose of participating in a year-long club/association setting.
- 9160. Illegal Recruiting** is defined as any contact outside the designated time approved and published by GYSA allowed for recruitment with a signed player or parents of a signed player of a member association of GYSA with the intent to lure or entice that player to play at another association or, as with U15 and above players, contact with the signed player or parents of the signed player prior to the expiration of a fourteen day waiting period subsequent to notification of the player's coach with the exception of contact in December and January to solely to explore the possibility of forming a secondary team. Please see the rules and regulations for other situations deemed to be illegal recruiting.
- 9170. Active Status** – a player is considered to be on active status if he/she is rostered to a team that is registered with GYSA for the current seasonal year.
- 9180. Inactive Status** – a player is considered to be inactive if he/she executes a release from a team, and remains inactive until he/she transfers to another team or registers for the next seasonal year.