



State Association



NJ YOUTH SOCCER MEMBER POLICIES AND PLAYING RULES

Effective 2021-22 Seasonal Year

Member Policies and Playing Rules



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Member Policies and Playing Rules



INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide clear communication to the New Jersey Youth Soccer Association (NJYSA) Membership on playing policies.

This Document shall be posted and accessible online at www.njyouthsoccer.com along with referenced appendices. NJYSA Board of Directors may review Member and Playing Policies Annually in preparation for each Seasonal Year. Throughout a seasonal year and as needed NJYSA may make recommendations to policies that improve the safety, equality, and enjoyment of the game for adoption for consideration of the NJYSA Board of Directors.

Beginning with the 2020-21 Seasonal Year policy revisions will reference the change date and implementation date (if different than the change date) for quick reference.

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1 DEFINITIONS (See separate document)

2 GENERAL MEMBER POLICIES

2.1 Seasonal Year

The Seasonal Year is defined as the period from September 1st of the current year through August 31st of the following year.

2.2 Membership and Membership Types

The Membership of the NJYSA shall consist of affiliated leagues, clubs, players, directors and officers not subject to suspension under Section 4 of US Soccer Bylaw 241, or to any Amateur Soccer organizations in the State of New Jersey. Membership with NJYSA provides membership with USYS and US Soccer.

2.1.1. League Member(s)

A member league is a competition authority that maintains at least a structured group of four (4) or more unrelated teams, joined for the purpose of inter-team play organized under a common set of administrative and competition rules and has been approved for affiliation with NJYSA. Leagues are subject to initial approval by and acceptance into NJYSA by the Board of Directors. See the league membership application on the NJYSA website for details that may include but are not limited to a name of the organization, address, listing of officers, tax identity, geography covered, and any information requested by the NJYSA Board of Directors. See APPENDIX TABLE for more information on New League Affiliation.

An affiliated member league may be a travel league or a recreation league.

2.1.1.1. Recreation League and Recreation Program(s)

A recreation league or recreation program is a Competition Authority for Recreation Players.

- a) **Recreation League** (Interclub): A league of Member Clubs for Member Recreation Players and Coaches from multiple communities. Interclub programs can apply to be recognized as an affiliated Member League in accordance with Section 2.1.1.
- b) **Recreation Program** (Intraclub): An in-house competition within a Member Club for Member Recreation Players and Coaches within the Club. Intraclub competitions are **not recognized** as an affiliated Member League of NJYSA.

2.1.1.2. Member Travel League

A Travel League is a member league which does not meet the criteria of a recreation league and is a competition authority for Travel Players.

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2.1.2. Member Club

An organization that is a member of a State Association such as NJYSA that has an identifiable membership of youth soccer players on whose behalf the organization conducts or engages in youth soccer activities; and sometimes referred to as a “league” or “local association” when running intraclub or recreation programs on the players behalf. A Club interested in providing travel memberships to players and coaches must be affiliated with a Member Travel League prior to Travel Teams, Coaches, and Players participating in any NJYSA sanctioned event. Each club is responsible for the fees, fines, and discipline of all coaches, players, and teams for which they provide access to NJYSA membership.

2.1.3. Member Coach

An individual who has completed the membership requirements of NJYSA* for each seasonal year. Membership fees for Coaches are the responsibility of the club for each seasonal year.

2.1.3.1. Recreation Coach

All adults applying for recreation coach membership (i.e. recreation coach pass) must submit NJYSA approved compliance documents for concussion education and SafeSport training. It is recommended but not required to provide evidence of coaching education. In addition, all adults in contact with youth players must also submit and clear a background check with NJYSA or an accepted alternative compliance pathway for recreational youth coaches.

2.1.3.2. Travel Coach

All adults applying for travel coach membership (i.e. travel coach pass) must submit NJYSA approved compliance documents for coaching education, concussion education, and SafeSport training. In addition, all adults in contact with youth players must submit and clear a background check with NJYSA. A Travel Coach may hold multiple Coaching Passes for which he/she is rostered in a seasonal year.

2.1.3.3. Youth Trainer

A non-adult applying for youth trainer approval must submit NJYSA approved compliance documents for coaching education, concussion education, Parental (guardian) permission, and be registered with NJYSA. A youth Trainer may not participate in match or game events without an NJYSA member coach present.

**Coach Passes from non-NJYSA Associations or organizations cannot be used to Coach NJYSA Youth Player Members. NJYSA registered players competing out of state are an exception and may be coached by a coach registered with another USYSA State Association.*

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2.1.4. Youth Player Membership(s)

The term "youth player" shall mean an amateur player who has not reached 20 years of age prior to December 31 for the current seasonal year.

Senior/Adult Games. A youth player will be permitted to play in an unlimited number of senior games without losing the player's youth player eligibility.

See APPENDIX TABLE for the US Soccer Birth Year and Season Matrix.

A youth player is considered registered with NJYSA once an application for a player membership type (i.e. Travel, Recreation, TOPSoccer, or Futsal) is made through a Member Club via the identified NJYSA registration portal and the youth player's application meets the criteria for the membership type for which such application regards. A youth player can apply and be considered registered for multiple membership types in a seasonal year.

2.1.4.1. Recreation Member Player

A youth player who meets the criteria for a Recreation Member Player:

- a) has a Recreation Member Player application in the identified NJYSA portal through a member organization,
- b) meets the criteria for the applicable Recreation League and/or Recreation Program,
- c) and is in good standing with NJYSA.

See APPENDIX TABLE for additional Recreation Program Policies and Guidelines. The player's Member Club is responsible for membership fees of NJYSA.

2.1.4.2. Travel Member Player

A youth player who meets the criteria for membership to play for a NJYSA Travel Member player:

- a) Has a Travel Member Player application in the identified NJYSA portal through a member Club,
- b) has been gender and age verified,
- c) has a current Medical Release on hand within the club,
- d) assigned to a NJYSA Travel Team within the identified NJYSA portal,
- e) and is in good standing.

Players can have only one Travel Membership Pass (aka primary card or pass) that assigns the player to an NJYSA Club and Team for the seasonal year. A club may provide a "duplicate" pass to a player at their discretion to reduce administrative burden. There shall be no "dual" or "double" carding where a player has a current NJYSA travel membership pass with two teams or two clubs. The player's club is responsible for NJYSA membership fees, to be paid before the

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close of each seasonal year. See APPENDIX TABLE for additional Travel Player Policies and Guidelines.

2.1.4.3. ODP Member Player

A youth player who has registered to participate in the NJYSA Olympic Development Program (ODP). A player may only try out for ODP in one USYSA State Association each seasonal year. Individual players are responsible for all ODP fees of the State Association in which the player tries out. See APPENDIX TABLE for additional ODP Program information, Policies, and Guidelines.

2.1.4.4. TOPSoccer Member Player

A youth player who participates in a member based TOPSoccer training and team placement program for athletes with special needs. The program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to any player who has a mental or physical disability. TOPSoccer Member Players must have a TOPSoccer application with NJYSA. See APPENDIX TABLE for additional TOPSoccer program information, Policies and Guidelines.

2.1.4.5. Futsal Member Player

A Member Travel Player who participates in a NJYSA Sanctioned Futsal Competition. The player's club is responsible for membership fees prior to the conclusion of the competition.

A youth player who meets the criteria for a Futsal Member Player:

- a) has a Futsal Member Player application in the identified NJYSA portal through a Member Club,
- b) has been age and identity verified
- c) has a current NJYSA Medical Release on hand within the Member Club
- d) participates in futsal activities,
- e) and is in good standing.

The player's club is responsible for membership fees prior to the conclusion of the competition.

2.1.5. Teams

Teams are formed by Member Clubs rostering youth players and coaches into organized groups with NJYSA for participation in a NJYSA Member League or Recreation Program. A team roster may only have youth players and coaches of the same membership type (i.e. no mixing of membership types on the same team) and a team's age group may not be younger than the age group of the oldest rostered player. Teams must be formed in accordance with Recreational Member Club Policies or NJYSA Travel Team Policies.

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2.1.6. Gender of Teams

USYSA and NJYSA recognize 2 types of team genders:

- a) Teams with females only are girls' teams
- b) All other teams are boys' teams

For the purposes of forming a gender-based teams, a club may roster a player with the gender team with which the player identifies.

2.1.7. Inclusion Policy

Membership is open to all youth soccer players and coaches, who register with NJYSA or an NJYSA Member and will have access to NJYSA sanctioned activities and events without discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or national origin.

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2.3 Insurance

- a) NJYSA Members (i.e. individuals, clubs and leagues) are provided coverage for personal liability claims, pursuant to the policy limits and exclusions. See NJYSA website for current details of coverage.
- b) NJYSA Members (i.e. players, coaches and volunteers) are provided coverage for excess medical claims, pursuant to the policy limits and exclusions (e.g. applies only to injuries incurred during a NJYSA sanctioned event). See NJYSA website for current details of coverage.
- c) NJYSA Members (i.e. Leagues and Clubs are provided Directors & Officers insurance pursuant to the policy limits and exclusions. See NJYSA website for current details of coverage.
- d) Individual Members are provided insurance coverage at the time of completing the criteria set by NJYSA for membership which may begin prior to the start of the Season Year on September 1st.
- e) In order to obtain a Certificate of Liability insurance for a facility member clubs and leagues are to complete an insurance certificate request form. See APPENDIX TABLE Insurance Certificate Request Form.

2.4 NJYSA Online Portal

All Club, Coach, and Player Membership registration transactions shall be administered through a single online registration portal identified by NJYSA for the seasonal year. Also known as the registration services solution.

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3 COMPETITION AND TRAVEL POLICIES

3.1 Rule Making

Each Competition Authority (e.g. Recreation League, Travel League, Sanctioned Tournament, etc.) shall be associated with an NJYSA Member and has the right to elect its own officers and determine its own administrative policies and competition rules to the extent that the rules are not in conflict with:

- a) US Soccer By-laws, Policies and the Player Development Initiatives (PDIs),
- b) USYSA By-laws and Policies,
- c) NJYSA By-laws and Policies, and
- d) Modifications of the Laws of the Game (LOTG) as adopted by NJYSA.

For new leagues, any exceptions to the items above shall be identified by the Competition Authority to NJYSA during the event or competition sanctioning process. For returning leagues, any exceptions to the items above shall be identified by the Competition Authority to NJYSA prior to a change being implemented.

3.2 Travel Team Policies

3.2.1. Team Roster

3.2.1.1. Travel Team Roster

A Travel Team Roster is a listing of Travel Member Coaches and Primary Travel Member Players assigned by a Member Club to a unique team name within the Member Club. This roster is considered the NJYSA Official "State" Roster when it meets the team activation criteria set by NJYSA. Travel Team Roster is initiated, resides in, and is administered within the NJYSA identified registration portal. This includes all additions and subtractions throughout the seasonal year. The Travel Team Roster shall serve as a central listing for Travel Member Passes issued for a team. Each Travel Member Coach and Travel Member Player shall have a Travel Member Pass that corresponds to the Travel Team Roster.

3.2.1.2. Travel Team Competition Roster

A Travel Team Roster that meets the criteria set by the Competition Authority and is often referred to as a "Game Day" Roster or Game Card. The Travel Team Competition Roster is administered by the Competition Authority.

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3.3 Travel Team Roster Sizes

A Travel Team Roster is limited in size. The table below indicates applicable Travel Team Roster and Travel Team Competition Roster Sizes by Age of Play.

Age of Play	Maximum Travel Team Competition Roster Size	Minimum Travel Team Roster Size	Maximum Travel Team Roster Size	Maximum # of Travel Team Roster Assignments in Seasonal Year
13U – 19U (11v11)	18	7	22	28
11U – 12U (9v9)	16	6	18	24
8U – 10U (7v7)	14	5	14	20
6U – 7U (4v4)	10	4	14	20

3.4 Disbanding Teams

A disbanded Team is a Travel Team that elects to disband during the seasonal year. As a result, the team shall:

- a) destroy all player passes, coach passes, and any rosters to NJYSA,
- b) submit the disbanded team application.

Note: Registration fees paid to NJYSA will NOT be refunded to Clubs that elect to disband a team.

After a team is formally disbanded by NJYSA, the players on that team are released and declared eligible to move to another team in accordance with the NJYSA and relevant Travel League policies. Players impacted by a disbanded team are not subject to the transfer maximums of players from another club. Disbanded teams, because of alleged poaching, may be subject to review by NJYSA prior to approval of transfer.

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4 Travel Player Policies

4.1 Travel Membership Passes

Each player must hold and present to the referee a valid approved NJYSA or USYS Travel Player Pass prior to participating in any NJYSA or USYSA sanctioned competition. Players without passes or who present invalid passes (i.e. missing photo, tampered, etc.) are ineligible to participate in NJYSA Sanctioned Competitions.

4.2 Club Passing

NJYSA permits club passing. Club Passing is when a Travel Member Player uses their existing primary Membership Card to play for another team within the same club and with their Member Club's approval* to the extent that all other NJYSA policies are met. Club Passing does not impact the number of travel team roster spots referenced in section 3.3.

*Be advised that a Competition Authority or a Member Club may be more restrictive with local policies for Club Passing or Guest Carding.

4.3 Travel Players Playing Up

Players are permitted to "play up". Travel Players may not play up on a higher age team other than as specified below* (effective with the 2021-2022 seasonal year). Travel Players playing up does not impact the number of travel team roster spots referenced in section 3.3.

- 6U Team – 5U not permitted on a 6U team
- 7U Team – 6U Player(s) permitted on a 7U team
- 8U Team – 7U Player(s) permitted on an 8U team
- 9U Team – 8U Player(s) permitted on a 9U team
- 10U Team – 9U Player(s) permitted on a 10U team
- 11U Team – 9U & 10U Player(s) permitted on a 11U team
- 12U Team – 10U & 11U Player(s) permitted on a 12U team
- 13U Team – 11U & 12U Player(s) permitted on a 13U team
- 14U Team – 12U and up Player(s) are permitted on a 14U team
- 15U Team – 12U and up Player(s) are permitted on a 15U team
- 16U Team – 12U and up Player(s) are permitted on a 16U team
- 17U Team – 12U and up Player(s) are permitted on a 17U team
- 18U Team – 12U and up Player(s) are permitted on a 18U team
- 19U Team – 12U and up Player(s) are permitted on a 19U team

*Be advised that a Competition Authority or Member Club may be more restrictive with local policies for "playing up" that are not covered by NJYSA.

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4.4 Travel Player Transfer or Release

Once a Travel Player is rostered to a Travel Team, the player is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless they are transferred or released through one of the processes below.

4.4.1 Competition Authority on Transfers or Releases

Players shall review and understand their Member Club and Competition Authority policies regarding sit-out and/or return to play policies with the seasonal year or the competition, prior to requesting a transfer or a release once the seasonal year has begun.

4.4.2 Release and Transfer Process Overview

Players requesting to transfer or be released must follow and complete the NJYSA online instructions.

4.4.2.1 Release Process Overview

There are two types of releases.

- a) “Voluntary release” means the removal of a player from an activated team’s roster at the request of the player.
- b) “Involuntary release” means the removal of a player from an activated team’s roster at the request of a Club.

4.4.2.1.1 Voluntary Travel Release

4.4.2.1.1.1 Timing

A travel player may choose to be released from a travel team at any time and for any reason. Upon leaving a travel team, the player (18 years or older) or the player’s parent/guardian (17 years or younger) must honor their agreement with the club regarding the payment of fees owed, and the return of club owned property (e.g. uniforms and/or equipment, etc.).

4.4.2.1.1.2 Initiating a Request for a Voluntary Travel Release

A player (18 years or older) or a player’s parent/guardian (17 years or younger) may request the “voluntary release” of the player to a club official.

- Club officials may not refuse to release a player upon receiving a request, unless the player has not honored the agreement reached with club officials regarding the payment of fees owed, and the return of club owned property (e.g. uniforms and/or equipment, etc.).
- Once a release request is received, club officials must approve the release with the NJYSA State Office within thirty (30) business days or contest the release due to the payment of fees owed or the return of club owned property (e.g. uniforms and/or equipment etc.).

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4.4.2.1.1.3 Void of Voluntary Travel Release

A “voluntary travel release” is voided if the player (18 years or older) or the player’s parent/guardian (17 years or younger) wishes to roster to a travel team within the same seasonal year in which the “voluntary release” is granted. “Voided” means that the player shall be rostered to the original travel team from which the “voluntary travel release” was granted.

4.4.2.1.2 Involuntary Travel Release

4.4.2.1.2.1 Justification for an Involuntary Travel Release

A player may be “involuntarily released” only for the following reasons:

- The player has violated rules of the Federation, US Youth Soccer, NJ Youth Soccer, or the member of the State Association through whom the player is registered;
- The player is injured in such a manner he/she will not be able to participate for the remainder of the seasonal year;
- The player fails to meet his/her financial obligations to the club;
- The player, the player's parents/guardians, or anyone associated with the player are disruptive influences.

4.4.2.1.2.2 Initiating a Request for an Involuntary Travel Release

Requests for the “involuntary release” of a travel player must be submitted by a club official in writing to the NJYSA Executive Director or his/her designee with a copy to the player (18 years or older) or the player’s parent/guardian (17 years or younger) for a determination if the request will be approved by the NJYSA Executive Director or his/her designee.

4.4.2.1.2.3 Joining a New Travel Team Following an Involuntary Release

Once a player is “involuntarily released” from a travel team, the player is free to join another travel team subject to the same restrictions as if the released player were transferring to the new team from the team from which they were released.

4.4.2.2 Transfer Process Overview

There are two types of transfers.

- a) “Interclub transfer” means the removal of a player from a team’s roster on the request of the player, and the simultaneous addition of the player to the roster of another team in a different member Club.
- b) “Intraclub transfer” means the removal of a player from a team’s roster at the request of the player and the simultaneous addition of the player to the roster of another team from the same member club. This differs from a “club pass” player which does not require a change of primary teams within the same Club.

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- c) All transfers (both interclub transfers and intraclub) count towards the number of travel team roster spots referenced in section 3.3 and transfer maximums referenced in section 4.5.3.

4.4.2.2.1 Interclub Travel Transfer

4.4.2.2.1.1 Conditions for Interclub Travel Transfer

- An “interclub travel transfer” may only be initiated by the travel player (18 years or older) or the travel player’s parent/guardian (17 years or younger).
- “Interclub travel transfers” may only occur between activated teams.
 - Players requesting to transfer from an activated team to an un-activated team must wait to transfer until after the destination team is activated.
 - Players requesting to transfer from an un-activated team are not considered a player transfer and should request the club they are leaving to cancel their application and then apply directly to the club they wish to join.
 - Requests to cancel an application for players that are not assigned to a team at all, or assigned to an un-active team may occur at any-time subject to the following conditions:
 - The parent/guardian of the player (17 years or younger) or player (18 years or older) did not agree to an offer to play with the team they are leaving and/or did not register with the club they are leaving for the seasonal year, or
 - The player has met all obligations, including financial and property, for the seasonal year to the club from which the player is requesting cancellation from, or
 - The player moves to a new residence which is 30+ miles from their current residence, or
 - When club officials from the leaving club agree to the player application cancellation.
 - If a player application is not cancelled or assigned to an active team within 30 days of the cancellation request, then the club is assumed to agree with the request and is representing that all obligations, including financial and property, have been met by the requesting player.

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- A travel player may only initiate an “interclub travel transfer” during the following times:
 - Open transfer window for a seasonal year (September 1st, 20XX – August 31st, 20YY):
 - between December 15th, 20XX and February 15th, 20YY of the seasonal year, and
 - after June 1st, 20YY and until the seasonal year end on August 31st, 20YY.
 - Any time subject to the following conditions:
 - The player moves to a new residence which is 30+ miles from their current residence.
 - The parent/guardian of the player (17 years or younger) or player (18 years or older) did not agree to an offer to play with the team they are leaving and/or did not register with the club they are leaving for the seasonal year.
 - The team the player is leaving does not register with an NJYSA member travel league for a period of fall or spring league play.
 - When club officials from both the leaving club and the destination club agree to the player transfer.
- A player must meet all obligations, including financial and property, for the seasonal year to the club from which the player is transferring.
- An “interclub transfer” must be approved by: (1) a club official from the travel team the player is transferring to (“destination travel team”); and (2) a club official from the travel team the player is transferring from (“original travel team”).
 - An “uncontested transfer” is an “interclub transfer” that is accepted (approved) by both the “destination travel team” club official and the “original travel team” club official.
 - A “contested transfer” is an “interclub transfer” which is not accepted (not approved) by either the “destination travel team” or the “original travel team.”
 - A club official who does not reject or accept a request for player transfer within 30 days of the initial application is assumed to agree with the transfer request and is representing that all obligations, including financial and property, have been met by the transferring player.
- A player with permission to secondary card to another travel team must notify their secondary team of the transfer of their primary membership and may not play with the secondary team following their transfer being accepted (see section 4.4.2 Voiding a Secondary Permission).

4.4.2.2.1.2 Uncontested Travel Transfer

“Uncontested travel transfers” become effective following approval of the transfer application by the “destination travel team” and the “original travel team.”

4.4.2.2.1.3 Contested Travel Transfer

“Original travel team” contested player transfers become effective, provided the conditions for the “interclub transfer” have been met, upon the:

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- Applications made within a transfer window:
 - approval of the NJYS State Office
- Applications made outside of a transfer window:
 - approval of the NJYS State Office following the first day of the next transfer window.

“Destination travel team” contested player transfers (e.g. the destination team does not accept the transfer) are voided at the time they are rejected by the “destination travel team.”

4.4.2.2.2 Intraclub Travel Transfer

4.4.2.2.2.1 Conditions for an Intraclub Travel Transfer

- An “intraclub transfer” may only be initiated by the player (18 years or older) or the player’s parent/guardian (17 years or younger).
- “Intraclub transfers” may only occur between activated teams with-in the same club.
- “Intraclub transfers” may occur at any time.
- A player with a secondary card to another travel team must notify his/her secondary team of the transfer of their primary membership and may not play with the secondary team following their transfer being accepted (see section 4.4.2 Voiding a Secondary Permission).
- All player cards from the original team must be destroyed.

4.4.3 Transfer Maximums

4.4.3.1 Interclub Transfer Maximums

The maximum number of players permitted to complete an interclub transfer into a team roster during a seasonal year is as follows:

Age of Play	Interclub Transfer Maximums
13U – 19U (11v11)	5
11U – 12U (9v9)	4
8U – 10U (7v7)	4
6U – 7U (4v4)	No Limit

4.4.3.2 Intraclub Transfer Maximums

There is no limit to the number of intraclub transfers permitted into a team roster during a seasonal year, except in cases where the completion of an intraclub transfer would otherwise cause a roster to violate the Minimum or Maximum Travel Team Roster Size and/or exceed the Maximum Number of Team Roster Assignments in a Seasonal Year as defined in Section 3.3. Travel Team Roster Sizes.

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4.4.4 Policy for Clubs Expanding the Number of Travel Teams During the Seasonal Year

4.4.4.1 Definition of “Expansion Teams”

Additional teams (“Expansion Teams”) may be added by a club during a seasonal year when enough travel players register with the club but cannot otherwise be added to an existing active team at that gender and age due to roster limits. When this occurs, it may be necessary for the club to transfer players from an existing active team to the “expansion team” to balance the number of players between teams.

4.4.4.2 Conditions to Add Existing Players to “Expansion Teams”

- Requests to add an expansion team need to be submitted in writing to NJYSA and include all requested information.
- Expansion teams which include “intraclub transfer” players may only be added:
 - between December 15th and February 15th of the seasonal year
 - after June 1st of the seasonal year
- The current active team(s) from which players may be moved and the new “expansion team” are required to have a minimum number of rostered players which is one (1) player above the maximum number of field players for the age group of the team (e.g. 12 players for 13U+, 10 players for 11U&12U, 8 players for 9U&10U, and 5 players for 7U&8U).
- The “interclub transfer” limit is not to be exceeded for any teams.
- The “intraclub transfer” limit may be exceeded for the “expansion team.”

4.5 NJ Residents Playing Out of State

- A youth player with an NJYSA membership in good standing may be carded to another USYSA State Association Travel Team.
- A youth player with an NJYSA membership may not be simultaneously carded with an NJYSA Travel team and another USYSA State Association Travel team.
- A youth player with an NJYSA membership may not be simultaneously carded with more than one USYSA State Association Travel team.

4.6 Out of State Players Playing in NJ

Players from State Associations other than New Jersey who want to play in New Jersey must register and become a member with the State Association in which they reside. Once a membership registration is obtained by their home State Association, the player will register with the NJYSA Member Club in which they intend to play. As a result of the out of state player registration process, the player will be activated to a roster. Registration fees may apply to this registration. See APPENDIX TABLE for the NJYS Out of State Playing Guide.

The Out of State Player shall use his/her NJYSA member pass for all competitions.

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5 Travel Coach Policies

5.1 Travel Coach Passes

Each Travel coach must present to the referee a valid NJYSA Coach pass prior to participating in any NJYSA sanctioned event or competition. Coaches without a pass or who do not present a valid pass (e.g. missing photograph) are ineligible to participate in a game and may be subject to sanctions.

5.2 Coach Add, Transfer or Release

NJYSA registered coaches may be added to other team(s) without being released from their original team. Coaches may be carded to more than one team, boys or girls. Coaches may not have multiple memberships with NJYSA.

5.3 Poaching

5.3.1 Player's Right to Choose

- 5.3.1.1 All players have the right and opportunity to choose which team, club, or tryouts they wish to attend. No team, club, or NJYS member league may violate, infringe, or restrict this basic right for players in any manner. Players, parents, and coaches must also recognize that players are bound to the team for the entire seasonal year (September 1 – August 31) once they sign a player registration form, subject to the Bylaws of NJYS and their member leagues regarding player transfers and when a player voluntarily quits. Poaching is considered a significant offense by NJYS and any individual, team, club or found to have committed a poaching violation shall be subject to sanctions as determined by the NJYS Appeals and Discipline Committee, in its sole and absolute discretion. Such sanctions may include financial penalties, loss of coaching privileges, and ineligibility to participate in NJYS authorized events.
- 5.3.1.2 All coaches, players, team representatives, club and team administrators and parents are prohibited from poaching players from another team. Poaching is generally defined as directly or indirectly, through your own actions or the actions of anyone else associated with your team, encouraging a player to leave his/her current team to join another team outside of that player's current team, club, or other organization.

Member Policies and Playing Rules



5.3.1.3 The following represents a non-exclusive list of inappropriate poaching that restricts, violates and/or infringes upon the “player’s right to choose” and are prohibited under this section. They are presented here to not only give examples, but to help express the spirit of the policy.

- i. Informing a player that he/she will lose their spot or will not be offered one if he/she elects to attend tryouts of other teams, clubs, or academies.
- ii. If a team, club, or holds tryouts on more than one occasion and deliberately requires a player to attend all of them in order to prevent the player from attending the tryout of any other team or club.
- iii. Requiring that a player commit to the team, club, or as a condition to attend tryouts.
- iv. Requiring that a player immediately commit to join that team, club, or academy before leaving the field at the end of the tryouts.
- v. Making any offer to join a team or club prior to the tryout date(s) (inapplicable to a player’s current team or club).
- vi. Failing to cease and desist from any and all poaching activity directed toward a player upon request from the player or the player's legal guardian.
- vii. Allowing any surrogate, agent, and/or representative to engage in poaching activities prohibited herein, or elsewhere in the NJYS Bylaws and Policies.
- viii. Making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams, and organizations when discussing the advantages of their own organization.
- ix. Promising any kind of compensation to a player.
- x. Attempting at any time prior to the approved date of any seasonal year, as determined by NJYS, to entice a registered player (or their parent/guardian) to leave their current affiliation before the end of the current seasonal year.
- xi. Attempting at any time prior to the approved date of any seasonal year, as determined by NJYS, to entice a registered player (or their parent/guardian) to leave their current affiliation for the following seasonal year.
- xii. Utilizing confidential contact information acquired as a direct result of being affiliated with a particular team, club, or league to communicate with parents or players for the purpose of enticing the player to change teams.

5.3.1.4 Teams or clubs may not initiate contact with a player concerning a transfer. A player may elect to contact another team. Once contact has been made by a player the team may contact that player but may not formally register that player for the upcoming seasonal year. This also includes ID Clinics.

5.3.1.5 Any player, parent, guardian, teams, club, or league may bring complaints against any individual, team, club or for infringement, violation, or restriction of the “Player’s Right to Choose.”

Member Policies and Playing Rules



5.3.1.6 Allegations of poaching are very serious and should be based on concrete facts rather than hearsay and innuendo. Documentation of poaching violations must be submitted in writing to the league and NJYS (see NJYS Discipline & Appeals Manual for details).

5.3.1.7 For purposes of this rule, contact is not limited to personal contact, but will include contact by phone, text, emails, and social media. Responsible representatives include but are not limited to parents of team members, trainers, team managers, club or league board members, and club or league directors of coaching. The appropriate response by the responsible representative to player-initiated contact is to notify the player's current club of the contact, and to provide requested information without attempting to induce the player to change affiliation. Any recommendation for the player to attend training, tryouts or any other team, club or league soccer event by the representative would be inappropriate and considered an attempt to induce a player to leave their present soccer organization. A club or league advertising on their own website is not considered poaching.

5.3.2 Poaching Complaints

5.3.2.1 Complaints regarding allegations of poaching should be reported to NJYS (see Discipline & Appeals Manual for procedures).

5.3.2.2 All complaints regarding allegations of poaching must be accompanied by conclusive documentation establishing what the complaining party reasonably believes to be inappropriate poaching, in accordance with the terms of this policy as well as the established appeals fee. NJYS and the NJYS Appeals and Discipline Committee preserves the right to summarily deny any complaint, without hearing, if the complaint is inadequately supported by documentation, in the sole and absolute discretion of NJYS.

Member Policies and Playing Rules



6 GAME AND COMPETITION RULES

6.1 FIFA Laws of the Game

NJYSA follows the FIFA Laws of the Game (LOTG). The Official Fédération Internationale de Football Associations (FIFA) Laws of the Game, the soccer rulebook authorized annually by the IFAB - International Football Association Board who maintains and annually updates soccer's rules and regulations, contains the seventeen (17) "Laws" in soccer.

6.2 Modifications of the Laws of the Game

Modifications of the Laws of the Game (LOTG) adopted by NJYSA is a set of the FIFA LOTG adjusted for the Youth Game with guidance from the US Soccer Federation (USSF), the NJYSA, and with input of the Member Travel Leagues. Travel Competition Authorities shall implement the Modifications as directed by NJYSA with the NJYSA Modifications of the LOTG, as Recreation Programs are advised to use the Modifications as guidance and best practice.

See APPENDIX TABLE for the Modifications of the Laws of the Game (LOTG) adopted by NJYSA

6.3 Game Scheduling

The day and time of games will be as specified by the Competition Authority. NJYSA State Cups games have priority over all other games. State Cups games should be scheduled for dates/times that minimize their impact on league schedules.

6.4 Game Day: Home Club Responsibilities

The Home Team is responsible for:

- a) Coordinating Referee(s) with the Competition Authority and USSF Policies
- b) Providing a safe secure field of play with adequate markings in accordance with FIFA and the NJYSA Modifications of the Laws of the Game (LOTG) Proper type, size, and inflated ball for the competition/age
- c) A uniform or kit of an alternative color as the away team and prepared to change on-site in the event of a conflict of colors with the opponent. Home team should wear light colors and the away team should wear a dark and non-contrasting colors.

6.5 No Carded Coach Present

If a team does not have a coach with a valid Pass that is on the State Roster, the game will not start. However, if there is another NJYSA carded coach present, the game can be played with a note made on the Game Roster and/or Game Card for the Competition Authority to determine the result of the match and if any actions will be taken. Further, if a coach is dismissed or sent-off in a game, without another rostered and carded coach in attendance to take over responsibility for the team, the game will be abandoned.

Member Policies and Playing Rules



6.6 Coach Responsibilities at NJYS Sanctioned Events

Coaches are responsible for players, parents, siblings, and those with an affiliation to their club and team and are subject to misconduct, sanctions, and fines for all actions connected to the game.

6.7 Use of Video

Competition Authorities are permitted to use digital images or recordings in the process of determining game misconduct, discipline, and/or sanctioning.

6.8 Drones

The use of unmanned aircrafts systems (UAS) aka drones is not permitted at NJYSA activities or sanctioned events without pre-approval of NJYSA. See APPENDIX TABLE for Policy on Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

Member Policies and Playing Rules



7 PLAYER SAFETY

See APPENDIX TABLE for NJYSA Player Safety Policies.

7.1 Heading

See the NJYS Modifications to the Laws of the Game.

8 TOURNAMENTS

A group of teams joined for the purpose of inter-play by a common set of administrative and competition rules that are determined by the tournament provider and affiliated with USYSA, a NJYSA Member League or Club.

NJYSA and its members shall not discriminate against the participation of players or teams based on the player or team's membership in, or affiliation with, another organization. Members are encouraged to allow teams of all other US Soccer members to participate in tournaments sponsored by NJYSA or any of its members when the teams otherwise comply with the tournament eligibility requirements.

Tournaments are subject to the NJYSA Tournament or Game Hosting. See APPENDIX TABLE for details on the NJYSA Tournament or Game Hosting Agreement.

US Soccer has established two (2) types of tournaments:

8.1 Restricted

Restricted tournaments are open only to teams that are members of USYSA and whose players have a valid USYSA player pass issued by one of the member state associations of USYSA.

8.2 Unrestricted

Unrestricted tournaments are open to all members of the US Soccer community and foreign teams with permission from their National Association. If you invite a non-US Soccer team to your tournament the tournament shall file permissions with NJYSA.

Member Policies and Playing Rules



9 MEMBER DISCIPLINE AND STANDING

9.1 Member Discipline

The NJYSA Discipline and Appeals Committee follows NJYSA procedures and policies for the adjudication of disciplinary matters. These procedures and policies are stipulated in the “NJYSA Discipline and Appeals Manual.”

9.2 Member Standing

9.2.1 Member in Good Standing

Member in good standing is the status assigned to a NJYSA member who has remained current with and has no sanctions, services and/or payables (money) owed to NJYSA from a prior or current seasonal year.

9.2.2 Member Not in Good Standing

Member not in good standing is the status assigned to a NJYSA member that may currently have sanctions, fines, services, and/or payables (money) owed to NJYSA from a prior or current seasonal year. A Member not in Good Standing may not participate in events or activities affiliated with or sanctioned by NJYSA.

9.3 General Provisions

All fines shall be paid within thirty (30) days of notification, including fines in the amount of \$200 or less that are the subject of an appeal. Fines greater than \$200 may be stayed if requested by the sanctioned party and approved by the entity hearing the appeal. Clubs with fines outstanding after that time period shall be declared not in “good standing,” and may be subject to sanctions.

9.4 Club Fines

All fines assessed by NJYSA against any players, coaches, trainers, officials, or spectators associated with a specific club are the responsibility of that Club to remit. All payments must be tendered to the NJYSA State Office. All fines must be paid within thirty (30) days of being notified unless otherwise provided in these Rules. A Club may not be allowed to register for an upcoming season until all unpaid fines are satisfied.

10 APPEALS

For detailed information regarding appeals, please reference the NJYSA Bylaws.

Member Policies and Playing Rules



11 APPENDIX TABLE

Summary of Appendix References in the NJYSA Member Policies and Playing Rules

Page	Appendix #	Document Name & Link
NA		Historical NJYSA Playing Policies and Procedures (August 2019)
NA		NJYS Definitions of Common Terms
5	II	New League Affiliation
6	I	New Club Affiliation
7		Birth Year and Season Matrix
7		Recreation Program Information
7		Travel Program Information
7		ODP Program Information
8		TOPSoccer Program Information
9		Insurance Certificate Request Form
15		Travel Player Transfer and Release Process
15		Out of State Playing Guide
17		Modifications to the Laws of the Game (LOTG) adopted by NJYSA
18		Policy on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)
19		NJYSA Player Safety Policies
19		NJYSA Tournament and Game Hosting Agreement
19		Discipline & Appeals Manual

Member Policies and Playing Rules



12 TECHNICAL GUIDELINES AND BRIEFS

Throughout a seasonal year and as needed, NJYSA may make recommendations to policies that improve the safety, equality, and enjoyment of the game for adoption for consideration of the NJYSA Board of Directors.

- Technical Guidelines developed may be piloted as best practices for long term policy adoption.
- Technical Briefs may be developed for immediate implementation of policies to address unique situations and advances in the youth game.

Member Policies and Playing Rules



APPENDIX I – CLUB MEMBERSHIP POLICY

1 Purpose of this Policy

The purpose of this document is to define the policies, standards and requirements for an unaffiliated youth soccer organization (“Club”) to become a member and maintain membership with NJYSA.

2 Becoming a Member Club with NJYSA

2.1 Application for Membership

All Clubs desiring membership with NJYSA are required to make a written application for membership to the NJYSA State Office.

The application for membership shall include the following information about the Club:

- Club Name
- Club mailing address
- Club website
- Hometown for the club
- Mission Statement of the club
- Date Club initially formed
- Legal entity structure and tax status of the Club
 - Copies of Articles of Incorporation and/or Charter for the Club
 - Copies of the Bylaws of the Club
 - Copies of Rules of the Club
 - EIN number for the Club
 - Any other documents appropriate to understanding the structure and activities of the Club
- List of officers and administrators for the Club with contact information including emails, phone numbers, and mailing addresses
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Treasurer
 - Registrar
 - Secretary
 - Director of Coaching
- List of current US Soccer affiliations to which the Club is a member
- Anticipated number and member types (Recreation, Travel, Futsal, TOPSoccer) of players and teams by age and gender the club expects to field.
- List of fields the club has access to use for competitions and training.
- Season in which the club desires to start play.
- Statement of why membership is being sought with NJYSA.
- Attestation that the Club agrees to comply with the bylaws and policies of NJYSA, USYSA and US Soccer.

Member Policies and Playing Rules



Clubs with Recreation Teams

- Indication if the club will join a NJYSA member recreation league (Y/N)
 - Name of the NJYSA member league(s) to which the Club has or will make a membership application.
- Indication if the club will run an internal recreation league for its own members (Y/N)

Clubs with Travel Teams

- Name(s) of the NJYSA member travel league(s) to which the Club has or will make a membership application.

2.2 Application Review and Acceptance

Following submission of an application for Club membership with NJYSA, the membership application will be reviewed by the State Office and a recommendation will be made to the NJYSA Executive Committee to either accept or deny the application. At the next scheduled meeting following the recommendation being made, the NJYSA Executive Committee will vote to:

- (1) accept the Club as a member with no conditions;
- (2) accept the Club as a member subject to conditions;
- (3) deny the Club as a member, or
- (4) defer a decision with a request for more information from the Club

Acceptance of a Club's membership application is based upon:

- Completeness and accuracy of the information provided in the member application
- Confidence in the ability of the Club to maintain itself as a going concern
- Confidence that the Club has a structure with-in which its recreation and/or travel players will be able to play
- Confidence that the Club has demonstrated it has a governance structure in place to ensure adherence to NJYSA, USYSA and US Soccer Bylaws and Policies

3 Maintaining Club Membership with NJYSA

3.1 Assignment of Club Membership

Club Membership with NJYSA is not transferable or assignable.

3.2 Term of Club Membership

Club membership with NJYSA is for the period of one year which coincides with the seasonal year.

3.3 Renewal of Club Membership

Club membership with NJYSA is renewed each seasonal year by completing the "NJYSA Yearly Club Questionnaire" and maintaining good standing with NJYSA.

Member Policies and Playing Rules



3.4 Resignation of Club Membership

Any Member Club may resign from NJYSA by submitting a written resignation to the NJYSA State Office. The resignation does not need to be accepted by NJYSA to be effective. A Member Club's resignation does not relieve the Member club of any obligation to pay any fees that had been accrued and were unpaid before the effective date of the resignation.

3.5 Impact of Club Changes on Membership

3.5.1 Material Changes to Club's Legal Structure or Bylaws

Material changes to how a Member Club operates including changes to the Club's legal structure or Bylaws must be disclosed to NJYSA as soon as reasonably possible following the change being made.

Following receipt of the changes, NJYSA will determine if the changes are material and if they warrant a review the Club's membership status.

3.5.2 Merger of Two or More Member Clubs

In the event two or more Member Clubs merge and operate as a single entity, the resulting entity is required to make notice to NJYSA of the merger and provide such documentation as is necessary to define how the merged organization will operate.

Following receipt of the information on the merged entity, NJYSA will make a determination of how the merger impacts the entity's status as a Member Club.

3.5.3 Club Dissolution

Membership with NJYSA terminates when the Club dissolves.

Member Policies and Playing Rules



APPENDIX II – LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP POLICY

1 Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to define the policies, standards and requirements for an unaffiliated youth soccer league (“League”) to become a member and maintain membership with NJYSA.

2 Becoming a Member league with NJYSA

2.1 Application for Membership

All Leagues desiring membership with NJYSA are required to make a written application for membership to the NJYSA State Office.

The application for membership shall include the following information about the League:

- League name
- League mailing address
- League website
- Mission statement of the League
- Date League initially formed
- Legal entity structure and tax status of the League
 - Copies of Articles of Incorporation and/or Charter for the League
 - Copies of the bylaws of the League
 - Copies of the rules of the League
 - EIN number for the League
 - Any other documents appropriate to understanding the structure and activities of the League
- List of officers and administrators for the League with contact information including emails, phone numbers, and mailing addresses
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Treasurer
 - Registrar
 - Secretary
 - Referee Assignors
- List of current US Soccer affiliations to which the League is a member.
- The level competition the League expects to support (e.g. Travel, Recreation, Futsal)
- List of clubs and their contacts that are anticipated to supply teams to play with-in the League
- The number, expected age range and gender of teams expecting to participate with the League
- The season(s) in which the league will run.
- The season(s) in which the league desires to start play as a NJYSA member.
- Statement of why membership is being sought with NJYSA
- Attestation that the League agrees to comply with the bylaws and policies of NJYSA, USYSA and US Soccer.
- Letters of recommendation from exiting NJYSA members supporting the League’s application for membership.

Member Policies and Playing Rules



2.2 Application Review and Acceptance

Following submission of an application for League membership with NJYSA, the membership application will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and a recommendation will be made to the NJYSA Board of Directors to either accept or deny the application. At the next scheduled Board of Directors meeting following the recommendation being made, the NJYSA Board of Directors will vote to:

- (5) accept the League as a member with no conditions;
- (6) accept the League as a member subject to conditions;
- (7) deny the League as a member, or
- (8) defer a decision with a request for more information from the League

Acceptance of a League's membership application is based upon:

- Completeness and accuracy of the information provided in the member application
- Confidence in the ability of the League to maintain itself as a going concern
- Confidence that the League has enough participating teams to sustain the league
- Confidence that the League has demonstrated that it has a governance structure in place to ensure adherence to NJYSA Bylaws and Policies

3 Maintaining league Membership with NJYSA

3.1 Assignment of League Membership

League membership with NJYSA is not transferable or assignable.

3.2 Term of League Membership

League membership with NJYSA is for the period of one year which coincides with the seasonal year.

3.3 Renewal of League Membership

League membership with NJYSA is renewed each seasonal year by completing the "NJYSA Yearly League Questionnaire" and maintaining good standing with NJYSA.

3.4 Resignation of League Membership

Any Member League may resign from NJYSA by submitting a written resignation to the NJYSA Board of Directors. The resignation does not need to be accepted by the Board to be effective. A Member League's resignation does not relieve the Member League of any obligation to pay any fees that had been accrued and were unpaid before the effective date of the resignation.

3.5 Impact of League Changes on Membership

3.5.1 Material Changes to League's Legal Structure or Bylaws

Material changes to how a Member League operates including changes to the League's legal structure or Bylaws must be disclosed to NJYSA as soon as reasonably possible following the changes being made.

Following receipt of the changes, NJYSA will determine if the changes are material and if they warrant a review the League's membership status.

Member Policies and Playing Rules



3.5.2 Merger of Two or More Member Leagues

In the event two or more Member League merge and operate as a single entity, the resulting entity is required to make notice to NJYSA of the merger and provide such documentation as is necessary to define how the merged organization will operate.

Following receipt of the information on the merged entity, NJYSA will make a determination of how the merger impacts the entity's status as a Member League.

3.5.3 League Dissolution

Membership with NJYSA terminates when the League dissolves.