

Ripley Youth Soccer Club

Recreational Soccer

Policies and Procedures

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

RYSC
RECREATIONAL LEAGUE PHILOSOPHY
GENERAL GUIDELINES
SPORTSMANSHIP
AGE GROUPINGS
TEAM SIZES
TEAM FORMATION GUIDELINES
DRAFT PROCEDURE
FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT
PRACTICES
GAME DURATION
PLAYING TIME
SUBSTITUTIONS
SPECIAL U-6 AND U-8 PLAYING RULES
SPECIAL U-10 PLAYING RULES
COACHES
REFEREES
PARENTS
REVISION OF RECREATIONAL GUIDELINES
TOURNAMENT PLAY

RYSC

The Ripley Youth Soccer Club (RYSC) is a non-profit, public, education soccer organization with the purpose of advancing the cause of soccer within its area of jurisdiction. RYSC is affiliated with the West Virginia Youth Soccer Association and the United States Youth Soccer Association. RYSC will sponsor under the guidelines of the WVSA all three types of teams (recreation, recreation all star, and travel teams) as defined in the WVSA Rules and Regulations under definitions. Per WVSA requirement, RYSC will deny position to be held by a Board member, coach, volunteer, etc which has been arrested and convicted for child abuse, physical abuse, domestic violence, sexual abuse, or any felony or other crime which is detrimental to soccer players, in accordance with WV Law, USYSA, USASA, and US Soccer bylaws, policies and procedures.

RECREATIONAL LEAGUE PHILOSOPHY

The primary goal of the recreational soccer program of RSYC is for the players to have fun within a learning/teaching environment. The recreational program is not about winning, it is about teaching, so that children have fun, learn to love the game of soccer, and to become as skilled a soccer player as possible. The most enjoyable aspect of soccer for the players is kicking the ball. Small-sided games are used for U-6, U-8, U-10, and U-12 to provide each player more opportunities for contact with the ball.

3. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1 Teams may only participate in games approved by the RYSC Board Members.

- 2 Only properly registered players in good standing with the RYSC (i.e. not suspended) are allowed to participate in league games. The person(s) responsible for allowing the ineligible player to participate shall be referred to the RYSC Disciplinary Board.
- 3 Regularly scheduled RYSC games are mandatory. A coach cannot withdraw the team he represents from any scheduled competition as a means of protest. Non-appearance for regularly scheduled RYSC games without prior agreement with the opposing teams' coach will result in reference of the offender to the RYSC Disciplinary Board, unless a valid reason for the non-appearance is supplied to the club vice president. The vice president is the final authority on the decision to reschedule the game.
- 4 In inclement weather, games shall be played as scheduled and only the referee in charge or the club president of the hosting site will have the authority to cancel such games.
- 5 If a player misses three sessions in a row or five sessions in any ten session period, the player may be subject to removal from the RYSC program. Removal of a player can only be done with the approval of the club president and RYSC registrar. A session is defined as a scheduled practice or a scheduled game for which the player had adequate notification.
- 6 If a player shows up for games and not for scheduled practices, then that player is played at the discretion of the coach for the following game only.
- 7 Any injury to or damage caused by a RYSC participant must be reported to the club president who is in charge of the insurance and safety program.
- 8 No one except participating players will be permitted to stand within 5 feet of the touchline or within 5 yards of the goal line during the play of a game.
- 9 Refunds before the start of the season, as defined by the first scheduled game, and requested in writing will be made minus any expenses already incurred, if approved by the board. All requests for refunds will be directed to the RYSC registrar.

4. SPORTSMANSHIP

- 10 At the conclusion of each game, the participating teams will line up along the team's sideline and exchange gestures of good sportsmanship. This activity will be observed by the game officials. Failure of the players or coaches to participate in this display of good sportsmanship will receive a "red card" resulting in their suspension from the following game.
- 11 It is the duty of each player, coach, parent, and other persons in attendance at RYSC activities to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Anyone who exhibits behavioral tendencies which are detrimental to the enjoyment of the game for others is subject to removal from the game or suspension from the RYSC. Specific problems are to be referred to the RYSC Disciplinary Board.
- 12 Any person displaying gross unsportsmanlike conduct resulting in an ejection (red card or two yellow cards in one game) must serve a suspension for the following regularly scheduled RYSC game. The ejected person may be brought before the RYSC Disciplinary Board for the consideration of extended or permanent suspension by recommendation of either the presiding referee, either coach, or the president of the club. The club president shall hold the player pass card of the offender and it is the coach's responsibility to retrieve the pass card following the suspension.
- 13 At the conclusion of said game, a team may cross the field and thank the parents for their support. If a team is going to do this, they must start it at the beginning of the season and follow through after each game till seasons end.

AGE GROUPINGS

The playing season for RYSC recreational soccer extends from August 1 of one year to July 31 of the	Player's Age on August 1
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following year. The appropriate age group for any player is determined on August 1 of the year and remains the same for the entire 12-month playing season. All players must be a minimum of 4 years of age on August 1 to register for RYSC league play anytime during the playing season. No child will be allowed to play in any age group other than their own without the written request of the parent or guardian. The club president must approve a player to play above their appropriate age group. **Age**

Group	
U-6	Under 6 years of age
U-8	Under 8 years of age
U-10	Under 10 years of age
U-12	Under 12 years of age
U-15	Under 15 years of age
U-19	Under 19 years of age

TEAM SIZES

	U-6	U-8	U-10	U-12	U-15 and Up
Minimum Roster	5	6	8	8	11
Maximum Roster	8	8	12	14	18*
Players on field	3 versus 3 (no goal keeper)	4 versus 4	6 v 6	8 v 8	11 v 11
Minimum players on each team for a game	2	3	4	6	7

* Teams of more than 18 can be formed, but must follow the WVSA Guidelines.

In case a team is short of players but is within the guidelines, the opposing team may reduce its number of players on the field to an equal number, but still needs to meet the minimum 50% playing time for each player. Or, the coaches of the opposing teams may agree to have the under-manned team “borrow” players from the other team to enable the maximum number of player to play. This can occur only if the coaches agree prior to the start of the game. In the event of an ejection during the course of the game, the opponent does not have to reduce in kind by the number of players ejected.

TEAM FORMATION GUIDELINES

14 The goal of the team formation process is to form recreational soccer teams that are equally

competitive within the club. Objective is to try to get an even spread of talent, of ages and boy/girl ratio for teams U8 through U12. U6 teams will be formed by RYSC Board.

Any child previously rostered as travel, will be pulled separately in the draft. All children previously rostered as travel, will be dispersed evenly on all the other teams.

15 Players will be placed on teams using a draft procedure of all eligible players in each age group (See Section 8, Draft Procedures).

16 To insure that the team formation guidelines and draft procedure are followed by all coaches, league officials will closely monitor the player draft. A RYSC board member shall be present with each age group during the entire draft process.

17 No additions after the draft may be made to the team rosters unless approved by the registrar and the president (Registrar and president will place player on team based on team player count, requests will not be used to place players on teams).

18 "Guest" players are not permitted. Only rostered players on the two teams scheduled to play a given game may participate in the game. However, borrowing of players from one team by the other is permitted, as described in Section 6. Exceptions for Guest players under Section 19, Tournament play.

8. DRAFT PROCEDURES

- 19** U-8 - U12 teams will be drafted with only one coach. All teams must have no more than 2 coaches.
- 20** Draft procedure for U-8 - U-12, will be conducted by placing players names by age and by boy or girl to be drawn out. Coaches and assistant coaches' children will be given to the coach before the draft.
- 21** Coach and assistant coach pairing will be determined by the board.
- 22** The only guaranteed requests are the placement of brothers, sister, relatives, or foster children living in the same household. Any other requests may be honored if board feels there is a need for that.
- 23** Coaches picking order will be determined by placing numbers from 1 to the total number of teams in a hat, then allowing each coach to pick 1 number. Any error in this process will result in all numbers being returned into the hat and redrawn.
- 24** Selection will begin with the coach holding the number 1 and continue until all coaches have chosen their 1st player. The last coach in round 1 will get the first pick in round 2. This process continues until all players are selected.
- 25** At the end of the draft, each coach can initiate the successful trade of no more than 1 player. This trade has to be approved by the board. No trades will be made after the day of draft. A trade should be for an equal player (girl/boy, age). Travel players are not to be traded. A coach does NOT have to trade any players, no one is guaranteed a trade. After the draft is completed, each team must complete a team roster for use by the RYSC registrar.
- 26** Player registering for club play after the draft process has been completed will be assigned to the teams by the registrar and president, if space is available.
- 27** During the spring draft, the same procedure will be conducted. All coaches will draw a number and choose players until they have reached the maximum players as determined by the registrar. The maximum number of players is determined by dividing the total players in that age group by the total number of teams in that age group.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

- a. Fields** – The field sizes will conform to small side games rules for U-6, U-8, U-10, and U-12 age groups. Fields for U-15 and above will conform to FIFA.

b. Balls

Age Group	Ball
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U-6, U-8	Size 3
U-10,U-12	Size 4
U-15 and Up	Size 5

c. Player Equipment

28 All players on the field of play must wear shin guards during all practice sessions and games.

29 Watches, rings, other jewelry, or anything the referee deems unacceptable or dangerous to any players will not be worn during RYSC practices or games.

30 Each player will be properly dressed while on the field of play. Properly dress includes wearing a shirt with the team colors, shin guards, socks covering the shin guards, safe shoes, shorts or pants, and any other requirements stipulated by the referee.

31 In inclement weather, players may wear additional clothing, provided it is worn under the issued uniform.

32 Players fitted with any type of cast, air cast, or splint may not participate in club games or practices.

33 Eyeglasses should have an elastic headband. (Referee has the right to require.)

10. PRACTICES

A practice is any session involving soccer drills or strategy which includes a parent or coach and more than 3 members of a single team.

No practice will last longer than 1 ½ hours for U10 and U12 and less time is recommended for U-6 and U-8 teams.

34 Practices sessions (especially for the younger players) should focus on doing, moving, and having fun. Younger players do not like to stand in lines and have short attention spans and practice time should be planned accordingly.

GAMES DURATION

Division	Game Duration	Half Time	Quarter Breaks
U-6	8 minute quarters	5 minutes	2 minutes
U-8	8 minute quarters	5 minutes	2 minutes
U-10	25 minute halves	5 minutes	N/A
U-12	30 minute halves	5 minutes	N/A
U-15	40 minute halves	5 minutes	N/A
U-19	45 minute halves	5 minutes	N/A

- 35** All teams should arrive at the playing field a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the schedule game time.
- 36** All games during the regular season resulting in a tie at the end of regulation will remain a tie.

PLAYING TIME

All players in attendance at the start of regular season games or club tournament games must play in at least half of the game (50%). A player arriving after the start of the game may be played at the discretion of the coach. Any player practicing with a travel team before their game, will be played at the discretion of the coach. Exceptions may be granted for illness, injury, and disciplinary reasons. It is the coach's responsibility to ensure all players play the required amounts in each game. Coaches failing to provide required playing time for all players on their team will be referred to the RYSC Disciplinary Board.

Players may not be guaranteed 50% playing time if they continually miss practices and games, but only after approved by RYSC Disciplinary Board..

For additional restrictions and guidelines on playing time refer to Section 3, General Guidelines.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Free substitutions will be allowed in all age groups in accordance with USYSA Rules, but only with the referee's permission, during specified breaks in the game play. Coaches must have players prepared to enter the playing field before the game break occurs.

14. SPECIAL U-6 AND U-8 PLAYING RULES

- 37** In U-6 games - Coaches, assistant coaches, or parents act as referees. One coach from each team is allowed on the playing field for the entire game.
- 38** In U-8 games – Coaches, assistant coaches, or parents can act as referees. Each team can provide a referee for half of the game.
- 38** In U-6 - No one can pick up the ball in the field of play (no goalkeeper).
 - 38** In U-8 – Players (from either team) are not allowed inside the goal area unless the ball is in the goal area. The goalie can handle the ball as in U10 and up.
 - 38** In U-6 – there are no throw-ins. Balls kicked out of play on a touchline will be returned to play with a kick-in. Balls kicked out of play on the goal line will be returned to play with a goal kick or corner kick.
- 39** In U-8 throw-ins, players will be given two attempts to properly throw the ball into play before the ball is kicked into play. The referee will explain any improprieties regarding an improperly thrown ball before allowing the re-throw to occur,
- 40** In U-6 and U-8 - Goal Kicks may be taken from a point inside the goal area.
- 41** In U-6 and U-8 - All fouls will result in an indirect free kick with all the opponents three yards away from the ball.
- 42** In U-6 and U-8 - All free kicks are indirect. A goal cannot be scored directly from a free kick, or from a kickoff. This means that the ball must touch at least one other player before it enters the goal to be counted as a score.
- 43** In U-6 and U-8 -There are no penalty kicks. No free kicks can be taken from within the opponent's goal box.
- 44** In U-6 and U-8 – no offside rules are observed.
- 45** In U-6 – **No score shall be kept.**

15. SPECIAL U-10 PLAYING RULES

- 46** If league referees are available they will call the game, otherwise a coach, assistant coach, or parent will

- act as the referee. Only the individual acting as the referee is allowed on the playing field during the game. The acting referee may be exchanged between teams during the half-time if desired by the coaches.
- 47** Opponents shall be 8 yards away from all free kicks.
- 48** Penalty kicks are used.

16. COACHES

- 49** The coach shall be responsible for their own conduct as well as that of all other coaches, players and parents associated with their team while a game is in progress. It shall be the coach's responsibility to see that the offending parents leave and report to the RYSC Disciplinary Board. If a coach is ejected (red card) from a game for either his or a spectator's behavior, they shall be required to report to the RYSC Disciplinary Board for a full review and action.
- 50** Coaches shall ensure that their team has the highest regard for good sportsmanship and respect for game officials.
- 51** Coaches or other persons shall not enter the field of play unless requested by the referee. (See special rules section for U-6 guidelines, exception)
- 52** Coaching during games shall be limited to the sideline area only. No coaching will be allowed from behind or around the goal area. (See special rules section for U-6 guidelines, exception).
- 53** It is mandatory that a representative from each team attend the coaches' pre-season meeting.
- 54** It is mandatory that the coach or representative from each team attend the draft meeting.
- 55** Coaches will ensure that field is safe prior to each practice and game. Ensuring goals are secure and field free of holes and other unsafe conditions.
- 56** The coach of the team designated as home must make sure that the field is marked and corner flags properly installed.
- 57** Coaches will allow only RYSC member registered with WWSA to play and practice with his/her team.
- 58** Each Head Coach must have an assistant coach so that practices and games will proceed as scheduled.

17. REFEREES

- 59** The RYSC referee has an awesome task and responsibility. Once they are given authority, they must be supported by all RYSC officials, coaches, players, and parents. ANY ABUSE OF REFEREES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. (Please see Zero Tolerance below)
- 60** RYSC referees will enforce the rules of competition defined by RYSC, WWSA, USYSA, and FIFA (USSF). Where RYSC and WWSA rules are not specified, the laws of FIFA (USSF) prevail.
- 61** RYSC referees will always place primary emphasis on the welfare of players. The game will be officiated in a manner conducive to clean competition and good sportsmanship.
- 62** Referees shall not be faulted for judgmental decisions and opinions rendered in good faith during the course of officiating a game. Coaches should address complaints of overall referee performance (not a specific call) to the RYSC Referee Coordinator.
- 63** Referees are encouraged to give pre-game instruction to both players and coaches concerning any special conditions that may have an impact on the game.
- 64** Referees are encouraged to verbally communicate to players and/or coaches their decisions made during the course of a game. Referees must never coach, while officiating a game.
- 65** All referees must be certified by RYSC. In the event of a shortage of certified referees, linesman may be selected from spectators or advanced players.
- 66** If an ejection (red card or second yellow card) of a player, coach, or spectator occurs, the referee shall request that the offending party leave the immediate area of the game and have no further contact or communication with the remaining players/coaches. If they refuse, the referee may terminate the game. In

the event a game is terminated, the referee shall report in full, in writing, within 48 hours, the circumstances, the score up to that time, and any relevant details to the club president and RYSC Disciplinary Board. The RYSC Disciplinary Board will decide the outcome of the game as to replay or forfeit as well as any additional action to be taken. In all cases, a report shall be sent by the referee to the RYSC within 48 hours of the occurrence.

Zero Tolerance Policy

To help prevent physical assault and verbal abuse in the leagues and clubs within the Ripley Youth Soccer Club; the Association has adopted a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY. This policy applies to all coaches, players, parents, spectators and other supporters and referees effective immediately. Abusive and obscene language, violent play/conduct, fighting and other behavior (including, but not limited to sarcasm, taunting, etc.) deemed detrimental to the game between the above mentioned groups will not be tolerated. The ultimate responsibility for the actions of coaches, players and spectators resides with the member clubs.

It is the responsibility of the coaches to provide referee support and spectator control, and it is the responsibility of the member clubs to provide instructions to their coaches on how they are expected to carry this out. This policy applies before, during and after the game at the soccer field and its immediate surrounding areas.

A. Parents & Spectators

No parent or spectator shall persistently address the referee or assistant referees at any time.

This includes, but is not limited to:

Parents and spectators shall not dispute calls during or after the game.

Parents and spectators shall not make remarks to the referee(s) or advise the referee(s) to watch certain players or attend to rough play.

Parents and spectators shall never yell at the referee(s), including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation or feedback of any kind before, during or after the game.

The only allowable exceptions to the above are:

Parents and spectators may respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation, until such time as the referee terminates the conversation.

Parents and spectators may point out an emergency or safety issues, such as a player apparently injured on the field or observed fighting.

Additionally, parents and spectators shall not make derogatory comments to players of either team.

B. Penalties (Parents & Spectators)

In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:

The referee may issue a verbal warning to the coach of offending party's team.

The referee may stop the game and instruct the coaches to direct the parent / spectator to leave the field.

c. The referee may abandon the game if the parent/spectator does not leave the field.

C. Players

The conduct of the players is governed by the Laws of the Game as stated by FIFA and USSF. The Laws themselves describe penalties associated with violating the Laws of the Game. Additional penalties for players who engage in misconduct may be established by the club and/or league but may in no case be less severe than penalties established by FIFA, USSF, or RYSC.

D. Coaches, Assistant Coaches & Bench Personnel

It is the responsibility of all coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their

players and supporters in all matches. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and the integrity of the game resulting in a hostile environment for players, the referee(s), coaches, assistant coaches, bench personnel and spectators. As role models for all of the participants and spectators, coaches participating in a RYSC sanctioned event are expected to be supportive of, and to acknowledge the effort, good play and sportsmanship on the part of ALL players from either team in a contest. By example, coaches, assistant coaches and bench personnel are expected to show that although they are competing in a game, they have respect for their opponent, referees and spectators at all times. The Ripley Youth Soccer Club will not tolerate negative behavior exhibited either by demonstrative actions and gestures, or by ill-intentioned remarks, including those addressed toward the referees or members of an opposing team. Coaches exhibiting hostile, negative, sarcastic or otherwise ill-intended behavior toward referees, opposing players or coaches will be subject to sanction by the match official. Additional sanctions may be imposed by the club that the coach or assistant coach represents, the league that the match is being played under, or as allowed by Ripley Youth Soccer Club policies after a review of the match report.

- Coaches shall not interact directly or indirectly with the coaches or players of the opposing team during the game in any manner that may be construed as negative, hostile or sarcastic either by way of demonstrative actions and gestures or by ill-intentioned remarks.
 - Coaches shall not offer dissent to any call made by the referee(s) at any time.
 - Coaches are not to address the Referee(s) during the game except to:
 - a. Respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation.
 - b. Point out emergency or safety issues.
 - c. Make substitutions.
 - d. Ask the referee, "What is the proper restart (i.e. direction and Indirect Free Kick or Direct Free Kick)?"
 - e. Ask for the time remaining in the half.
 - Coaches are allowed to ask a referee after a game or during the halftime interval, in a polite and constructive way, to explain a law or foul, but not judgment calls made in the game.
- a. Polite and friendly concern can be exchanged with the referee. If the polite tone of the conversation changes, the referee may abandon the exchange at any time.
 - b. Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment or intimidation is allowed.

NOTE: It is recommended that coaches or other team members do not engage in any conversation with the match official once the match has concluded.

E. Penalties (Coaches, Assistant Coaches & Bench Personnel)

In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:

- a. The referee may issue a verbal warning to the offending coach, assistant coach or bench personnel.
- b. The referee may eject the offending coach, assistant coach or bench personnel. Once ejected, the individual will be required to leave the field immediately.

NOTE: Referees are instructed not to display any cards to bench personnel. They are strictly reserved for players and substitutes.

- c. The referee should abandon the game, if the coach, assistant coach or bench personnel do not leave the field or any immediate adjoining area after having been instructed to do so.

Additional penalties associated with the ejection of a coach, assistant coach or bench personnel may be assessed by the club or league which sanctioned the match in accordance with their documented policy. These penalties may be no less stringent than sanctions as may be imposed by RYSC following their review, if conducted, of the incident.

All cases of alleged abuse or assault of a referee shall be reported to the RYSC Board within 48 hours of the match that engendered said behavior. RYSC will then conduct a verification of the complaint and subsequent actions as required by applicable sections of USSF/FIFA Policy in effect at the time of the incident. Although rysc is continually bound by USSF/fifa Policy and its various revisions, definition of referee abuse and referee assault found in USSF Policy 531-9 as of the creation date of this Zero Tolerance Policy is offered by way of information as follows:

F. Referee Abuse

- (a) Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.
- (b) Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee that implies or threatens physical harm; spewing any beverage on a referee's physical property; or spitting at (but not on) the referee.

G. Referee Assault

- (a) (i) Referee Assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.
- (ii) For purposes of this Policy, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.
- (b) Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.

Referee Training

67 All referees must be certified under USSF procedures.

68 Youths must be 12 years old by the date of the first game of the next season to be eligible to be trained.

69 Referees certified as level 9 can only referee RYSC games at RYSC fields.

Referee Certification

All RYSC referees must be re-certified annually in a course offered by a USSF-certified Referee instructor. Each referee must pay his or her own certification fee.

For a referee to be able to referee RYSC games the following must be met:

70. They must attend at least 2 referee meetings per year. One must be a re-certification meeting, which can be attended anywhere in the USA. The other must be a RYSC meeting.

They must fulfill all assignments by either refereeing those games, or finding qualified substitutes.

Notifying the coaches that you will be absent does not satisfy the requirement.

Referee Pay Rate – Dollars per Game per Referee

The following rates apply only to certified referees.

71. Referee pay rate is as follows:

U8 - U10 :	Center	\$15.00
	Side	12.00
U12 - U19:	Center	\$20.00
	Side	15.00

PARENTS

Parents/Guardians are expected to have players attend as many practices and games as possible. Parents/Guardians are to provide positive reinforcement for all players. (This includes both their team and the competitors). All parents/guardians must read and understand Section 4, Sportsmanship and understand that they are subject to disciplinary actions by the Disciplinary Board, not limited to expulsion from club activities.

REVISIONS OF RECREATIONAL GUIDELINES

These RYSC Recreational Soccer Guidelines are the general rules for recreational play. These guidelines may be modified at any time at the discretion of the RYSC Board Members. Approval of modification requires a majority vote of Board members present during any board meeting (regular or special) with a quorum present. Any changes to the Constitution, Bylaws, or Guidelines must be submitted to WWSA within 30 days of adoption. Revisions must conform to WWSA Constitution, bylaws, and policies and procedures and to all requirements of WWSA, USSF and or USYSA and USASA.

TOURNAMENT PLAY

72 Coaches are encouraged to participate in Tournaments.

73 It is not mandatory for a player to attend Tournaments that their team enters.

74 Costs for Tournaments will be covered by the parents/guardians of each player.

75 Coaches wishing to use “guest” players in tournaments where allow, must first ask the head coach of the team which the player is currently assign. A player obligation is to his assigned team first. After getting approval for the coach, permission to ask the player must be granted by the parent/guardian of the player. Any coach not confirming will be referred to the RYSC Disciplinary Board.

These POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ADOPTED of the RYSC shall become effective on the Fifth (5) Day of February in the Year of TWO THOUSAND AND ELEVEN (2011).