

**GREEN COUNTRY SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**BYLAWS**

**STANDING RULES**

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**Affiliated with:**

**Oklahoma Soccer Association  
United States Youth Soccer Association  
United States Soccer Federation  
Federation Internationale de Football Association**

# GREEN COUNTRY SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## BYLAWS

## STANDING RULES

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**BYLAWS OF  
GREEN COUNTRY SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this Corporation shall be Green Country Soccer Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as GCSA).

**ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

The purpose for which this Corporation is formed is to further and promote the progressive development of the sport of youth amateur soccer through organization, training and education; to organize a soccer team or teams to compete and participate in youth soccer; to promote the progressive development of the sport of soccer through the establishment and development of programs for minors; to secure sponsors; to receive gifts, legacies, and donations from any source whatsoever to be used solely to promote the health, welfare and recreation of the general public through the organization of this Corporation for the development of the sport of soccer.

**ARTICLE III. MEMBERS**

Section 1. A soccer team or a club of soccer teams shall be admitted to membership in GCSA upon written application to and acceptance by the Board of Directors.

- a. A soccer team shall submit the school boundary(ies) of their team's formation and the name of a coach or team representative.
- b. A club of soccer teams shall submit the school boundary(ies) of their teams' formation and a list of Officers, Bylaws and Team Formation Guidelines.

Section 2. The organization admitted to membership may be clubs which are formed by GCSA, or they may be independently formed clubs.

Section 3. In order to maintain good standing, Members shall:

- a. Pay dues, fees and all legal debts on time.
- b. Assure that Member Bylaws, Standing Rules and Team Formation Guidelines are in conformance with those of GCSA.
- c. Assure that a current copy of Member Bylaws, Standing Rules, Team Formation Guidelines and a list of officers are on file with GCSA. These copies shall be submitted on a yearly basis (due July 1 and January 1 depending on season).
- d. Comply with and uphold the Bylaws and Standing Rules set forth herein.

Section 4. Members in bad standing shall be subject to any or all of the following sanctions as deemed appropriate by the GCSA Board of Directors:

- a. Loss of voting privileges.
- b. Prohibition of Member's teams from participation in any GCSA sanctioned tournament(s).
- c. Withholding of GCSA provided awards, patches, trophies, medallions, etc.
- d. Prohibition from all Inter-Club play.
- e. Recommendation for termination of membership.

Section 5. The membership of any Member may be terminated at a special meeting called for that purpose by the concurrence of two-thirds of the eligible votes of GCSA.

**ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS**

Section 1. The officers of GCSA shall be as follows:

- a. President
- b. First Vice President
- c. Second Vice President

- d. Third Vice President
- e. Secretary - Treasurer

- Section 2. All officers shall be elected by ballot unless unchallenged. (01/22/04) All officers shall serve until their successors are elected. All terms of office shall be one year and shall begin at the close of the membership meeting at which they are elected.
- Section 3. No officer shall hold more than one GCSA office at a time and no officer shall be eligible to serve concurrently as Member President and/or OSA officer.
- Section 4. No more than two officers shall be members of the same Member. To be eligible for the position of President, the nominee must have served at least one full term as an officer of GCSA or served as a Member President.
- Section 5. The President shall preside at all meetings of GCSA and shall be the general manager of GCSA. He shall appoint the Chairmen of all committees except the Nominating Committee, Games and Disciplinary Committee, Finance Committee, Registration Committee, and Competitive League Commission; subject to the advice and consent of the Board of Directors.
- Section 6. The First Vice President shall serve as Chairman of the Games and Disciplinary Committee and shall act in the absence of the President with the same power and authority and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.
- Section 7. The Second Vice President shall serve as Chairman of the Competitive League Commission and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.
- Section 8. The Third Vice President shall serve as Chairman of the Tournament Committee and have administrative oversight of all GCSA sponsored tournaments. In addition, this officer shall coordinate all GCSA promotional and advertising activities and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.
- Section 9. The Secretary - Treasurer shall keep the records and minutes of all meetings of GCSA, give notice of meetings, and have general custody of the records of GCSA. In addition, the Secretary - Treasurer shall have oversight for the receipt and disbursement of, and accounting for, all funds of GCSA, which shall be kept in a bank (or banks) designated by the Board of Directors. The Secretary - Treasurer shall prepare for presentation at each Annual Meeting a financial statement of GCSA for the preceding year. The Secretary - Treasurer shall also be responsible for filing all GCSA tax forms pertaining to his term of office and shall serve as Chairman of the Finance Committee and shall be bonded.
- Section 10. At the regular meeting held in April and October, a Nominating Committee of three members shall be elected by the membership. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the offices of GCSA and the respective office each director shall hold for the next term. The Nominating Committee shall notify the Membership of its recommendations not less than seven (7) days prior to the January Meeting and the August Membership Meeting. The offices of President, Registrar and Secretary - Treasurer shall be elected at the January Meeting. The offices of First Vice President, Second Vice President and Third Vice President shall be elected at the August Membership Meeting. Before an election, additional nominations from the floor shall be permitted.
- Section 11. An officer of GCSA may be suspended from office and membership on the Board by a unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors at a regular or specially called Board meeting. Grounds for suspension include failure or inability to perform the duties of one's office - including regular attendance at Board meetings, violation of the GCSA Bylaws and Standing Rules, criminal misconduct or other conduct harmful to GCSA. The suspended officer shall be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of all eligible votes present at a special meeting of the General Membership called for that purpose or at the next General Membership meeting. Provisions of Article V of the Bylaws shall govern as to the conduct of the meeting,

including notice of the meeting and quorum requirements. Any officer of GCSA may resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to any other officer. The acceptance of any such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

- Section 12. In the event of the suspension of an officer, the other officers shall select an interim or acting officer to fulfill the duties of the suspended officer until the General Membership meeting at which time a vote is taken to remove the suspended officer. In the event of a vacancy occurring in any office of GCSA, the officers shall elect a successor to the office by majority vote at a special meeting called for that purpose, within 30 days, or at the next scheduled Board of Directors' meeting.

#### **ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

- Section 1. There shall be a meeting of Members at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the months of January, April, August and October.
- Section 2. The meeting in August shall be known as the Annual Meeting and shall be for the purpose of receiving reports of officers and committees and for any other business that shall arise.
- Section 3. Special meetings may be called by the President or shall be called upon request of the members of the Board of Directors or upon request of two Members of GCSA. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. At least seven days notice shall be given.
- Section 4. Each Member shall be entitled to one vote for every ten (10) players registered by the Member with Green Country Soccer Association. All fractional votes shall be dropped.
- Section 5. Each Member shall designate a spokesman who shall speak and cast all votes for the Member at the meetings. A spokesman shall be an officer of the Member or have, in his possession, written authorization from an officer of the Member to act as spokesman for that specific meeting. No absentee ballots shall be accepted. Each member may also name up to four additional persons as part of the delegation. These additional persons may speak, but shall not vote except when acting for the delegation spokesman.
- Section 6. The presence of delegations holding fifty-one (51) percent of the total eligible votes shall constitute a quorum and a majority vote shall govern.
- Section 7. The agenda for meetings shall be provided to the Members at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.
- Section 8. An item of new business shall be brought for a vote before any meeting by having been placed on the agenda in advance of the meeting by the Board of Directors on its own initiative or by a written request to the Board of Directors made at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
- Section 9. If an item of new business is brought for a vote before any meeting without having been placed on the agenda in advance of the meeting, a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting shall be required for consideration, with a simple majority required for passage.
- Section 10. Any appeal shall be placed on the agenda only in accordance with Article V., Section 8. Article V., Section 9. is not applicable.

#### **ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of:
- a. The Officers of GCSA as voting members.
  - b. All standing committee chairmen as non-voting members.
  - c. The Advisor who shall be the most immediate past President and shall serve in a non-voting advisory position.

- Section 2. The Board of Directors shall have general supervision of the affairs of GCSA between its business meeting, make recommendations to the membership, discipline Members and perform such other duties as are specified in these Bylaws and Standing Rules and otherwise perform the duties of directors of Oklahoma corporations. The Board of Directors shall be subject to the orders of the membership and none of its acts shall conflict the action taken by the membership.
- Section 3. The Board of Directors shall appoint an Attorney, and an Auditor to advise GCSA.
- Section 4. Unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors, regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on the first Thursday of each month.
- Section 5. Special meetings of the Board of Directors can be called by the President or two members of the Board of Directors. Seven (7) days notice of a special meeting shall be given, unless waived by three voting members of the Board of Directors.
- Section 6. Three (3) voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. No vote shall be cast by proxy. Majority vote of the members present shall govern.

#### **ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES**

- Section 1. Appeals Committee
- a. Shall consist of a Chairman and members as appointed by the Chairman, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
  - b. Shall hear appeals of decisions rendered by a lower body.
- Section 2. Games and Disciplinary Committee
- a. Shall consist of the Chairman and not less than three (3) and not more than seven (7) members. (01/22/04) Members shall be appointed by the Chairman, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
  - b. Shall discipline coaches, players and spectators for misconduct and/or violations of GCSA Bylaws and Standing Rules.
  - c. Shall assure that all games are played in accordance with the GCSA Standing Rules.
  - d. Shall review misconduct reports, game terminations, forfeit requests and game protests involving Inter-Club leagues and shall take disciplinary action when necessary. (01/22/04)
  - e. Shall review misconduct reports, game terminations, forfeit requests and game protests involving an Intra-Club league only if that Member refuses to render a decision or waives its rights in the matter, and shall take disciplinary action when necessary. (01/22/04)
- Section 3. Registration Committee
- a. Shall consist of the GCSA Office Registrar, Competitive Commission Registrar and three members appointed by the Chairman, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
  - b. Shall be responsible for approving Team Formation guidelines and monitoring compliance by Members.
  - c. Shall be responsible for registering all GCSA players and coaches with the Oklahoma Soccer Association.
- Section 4. Competitive Commission
- a. Shall consist of the Chairman and members of the Competitive Commission.
  - b. Shall administrate all teams participating in the Competitive League.
- Section 5. Scheduling and Statistics Committee
- a. Shall consist of a Chairman and members as appointed by the Chairman, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

- b. Shall establish leagues and assign teams thereto.
- c. Shall monitor and approve scheduling of all games.
- d. Shall select League Commissioners.

Section 6. Rules Committee

- a. Shall consist of a Chairman and members as appointed by the Chairman, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- b. Shall interpret Bylaws and Standing Rules.
- c. Shall recommend revisions of the Bylaws and Standing Rules.
- d. Shall assure conformance with FIFA, USSF, USYSA and OSA.

Section 7. Finance Committee

- a. Shall consist of the Chairman and members as appointed by the Chairman, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- b. Shall be responsible for preparing a budget for the fiscal year to be submitted and voted upon at the August meeting.

Section 8. Scholarship Committee

- a. Shall consist of a Chairman and members as appointed by the Chairman, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- b. Shall promote the scholarship program.
- c. Shall identify and present candidates to the Board of Directors for its selection(s).

Section 9. Tournament Committee

- a. Shall consist of a Chairman and members as appointed by the Chairman, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- b. Shall be responsible for organizing and directing the GCSA Spring Recreational Tournament.
- c. Shall submit a budget to the Board of Directors for approval.

Section 10. The GCSA Board of Directors shall have the right, at any time, to remove any appointed committee chairman or committee member for just cause.

Section 11. Such other committees shall be appointed by the President as the Membership or Board of Directors so directs.

Section 12. All minutes, reports and/or decisions issued by GCSA committees shall be submitted in writing to the GCSA Secretary within ten (10) days.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. AFFILIATION**

The Green Country Soccer Association is a member of the Oklahoma Soccer Association, and is affiliated with the United States Youth Soccer Association and the United States Soccer Association and agrees to abide by the rules, policies and procedures established by these organizations as they pertain to youth soccer; unless otherwise amended by Standing Resolutions or Standing Rules passed by a majority vote of the membership of GCSA.

#### **ARTICLE IX. RIGHT OF APPEAL**

Decisions of GCSA may be appealed to the Oklahoma Soccer Association (OS), then the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) or the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), as appropriate following their procedures and policies as outlined in the USSF Official Administrative Rulebook and the USYSA Official Administrative Rulebook.

#### **ARTICLE X. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern

GCSA in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order GCSA may adopt.

**ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

These Bylaws can be amended at any regular meeting by a majority vote of all eligible votes, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting or at a special meeting called not less than two weeks prior to the regular meeting.

**ARTICLE XII. FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of GCSA shall be from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

**XIII. NONPROFIT STATUS - DISSOLUTION**

This corporation is not organized for pecuniary profit, nor shall it have any power to issue certificates of stock or declare dividends, and no part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit to any member, director, trustee or individual. The balance, if any, of all money received by the corporation from its operation, after payment in full of all debts and obligations of the corporation of whatsoever kind and nature, shall be used and distributed exclusively for carrying out the purpose or purposes of the corporation, as more particularly set forth herein above. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable or educational purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Law, as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court of the County in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes provided further that in no event shall any of the corporation's assets or property in the event of its dissolution go or be distributed to any director, member or individual, either for the reimbursement of any sums subscribed, donated or contributed by such director, member or individual or for any other purpose.

**STANDING RULES OF  
GREEN COUNTRY SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**SECTION I. CLUB BOUNDARIES**

- A. Member Clubs' boundaries are defined by school boundaries. The GCSA Board of Directors shall resolve all boundary disputes. The current list of Club boundaries shall be on file with the GCSA Registrar and available for inspection.
- B. If a school boundary is modified, then the affected Club(s) boundaries shall be modified prior to player registration for the next Fall season.
- C. Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph B above, if a player is registered with GCSA at the time a school boundary is modified, the player:
  - 1. Shall be permitted to continue playing soccer for the same Club for which the player was registered at the time of such modification.
  - 2. Shall be permitted to play for that same Club as long as the player continues to register with that same Club without missing any season for recreational players or seasonal year for Competitive players.
  - 3. Once a player fails to register for any season (or seasonal year), the player shall register with the Club in which he or she resides or attends school. (03/02/06)

**SECTION II. REGISTRATION**

It is the intent of GCSA that a player should play in his own Club area and on a team in the appropriate age division.

- A. Clubs shall register with GCSA every soccer player and every soccer team that is sponsored by, financed by, coached or administrated by such Club. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
- B. Players
  - 1. Procedure
    - a. Individual players shall be registered by their Club using a registration form prescribed by GCSA. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
    - b. A player shall not be registered on more than one youth team at any given time. Exceptions may be granted by the GCSA Board of Directors for special teams (e.g. Olympic Development). ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
    - c. Individual registration fees shall be paid at the time of registration. The player is registered from the moment the player or the player's agent signs the Registration form and pays the appropriate fees. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
    - d. Upon acceptance of the player application by a GCSA Club Registrar (or Club appointee), a player may participate in practices and any non-game activities. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
    - e. A new or transferred GCSA player shall not participate in any games sanctioned by GCSA, the Oklahoma Soccer Association or U.S. Youth Soccer, or their affiliates, until a player registration has been received and approved by the GCSA Registration Committee. Upon approval by the Registration Committee, the player must be added to the Official Team Roster/Game Form before becoming eligible to participate in sanctioned play. The Registration Committee, in order to allow for orderly processing of player registrations, may designate the office registrar to approve player registrations. ***(Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.)***

- f. A recreational player who is refused registration under Section II., B., 1., a. may register with the next nearest geographic Club, if it will accept such a player. A player may be refused registration if there is no available team in the proper age division.

2. Eligibility

- a. Definitions **[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]**
  - (1.) Youth Player - a youth player is one who has not reached the age of nineteen (19) years prior to August 1 immediately preceding the start of any seasonal year. A player who reached his nineteenth (19th) birthday between August 1 of the preceding seasonal year and December 1 of the current seasonal year, shall be allowed to complete the seasonal year.
  - (2.) Senior Team - a team registered with the United States Soccer Federation as an adult team.
- b. A youth player will be permitted to play an unlimited number of senior games without losing his/her youth eligibility. The youth player must obtain permission from his/her youth coach or other authorized team official. The youth coach or other authorized team official shall, in writing or by form, request eligibility clearance from OSA. When the above clearance and permissions have been granted, the State Senior Association shall have sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play senior games and will be responsible for establishing the procedures under which this will be implemented. In the event of a conflict between a senior trial game and a youth game, the youth game shall take precedence. A youth player, who is required to sign a senior form, shall retain youth eligibility. **[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]**
- c. Age divisions shall comprise players who are, before the first day of August of the immediately preceding seasonal year:
  - (1.) Under 19 years of age
  - (2.) Under 16 years of age
  - (3.) Under 14 years of age
  - (4.) Under 12 years of age
  - (5.) Under 10 years of age

**[(1) - (4) also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]**
- d. U8 GCSA players shall have attained the age of 6 years before August 1 of the immediately preceding seasonal year.
  - (1.) Player registration shall be in compliance with Section II., B., 1., b., c. and d.
  - (2.) Clubs offering Under 8 soccer shall comply with the Official US Youth Soccer 4v4 Program, except as follows:
    - (i.) Law VIII – The Start and Restart of Play – A goal may not be scored directly from the kick off.
    - (ii.) Law XII – Free Kicks – No kicks are to be taken by the attacking team within the defending team’s goal box.
    - (iii.) Law XVI – Goal Kick – A goal may not be scored directly from a goal kick. (01/22/04)
  - (3.) There shall be no protest or appeals. All other administration shall be the sole responsibility of the Club.
- e. U6 soccer shall be a Club option. The following rules shall apply:
  - (1.) Players shall have attained the age of 4 years before August 1 of the immediately preceding seasonal year. A child who attains the age of 4 years prior to February 1 of the current seasonal year, shall be permitted to play in the Spring season. (11/02/06)
  - (2.) Player registration shall be in compliance with Section II., B., 1., b., c. and d.
  - (3.) Clubs offering Under 6 soccer shall comply with the Official US Youth Soccer 3

v 3 Program, except as follows:

- (i.) Law VIII - The Start and Restart of Play - A goal may not be scored directly from the kick off.
- (ii.) Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct – No cautions or send-offs shall be issued except by an independent neutral referee.
- (iii.) Law XIII – Free Kicks – A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.
- (iv.) Law XVI – The Goal Kick – A goal may not be scored directly from a goal kick. (01/22/04)

(4.) There shall be no protests or appeals. All other administration shall be the sole responsibility of the Club.

f. Any player may be required to prove his legal age or legal residence to GCSA.

(1.) Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate or birth registration issued by the appropriate government agency, driver's license, (08/26/04) passport, alien registration card 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 shall not be accepted. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***

(2.) Legal residence is the true domicile of the player and his or her family/legal guardian. This is the place where the player and his or her family/legal guardian have their permanent residence to which, if absent, they have the intention of returning.

### 3. Transfers

- a. A transfer shall be defined as adding a currently USYSA registered player to a roster or a player who returns to the same roster.
- b. Any recreational player registered to a team is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless he requests a transfer. All requests for transfer shall be submitted in writing, on the appropriate form, stating the reason for the request to the GCSA Registration Committee for approval.

### 4. "Playing Up"

- a. "Playing Up" refers to playing in an older age division than the players age is assigned (Section II., B., 2., c.).
- b. "Playing up" in the U6 age division shall be managed and allowed by the individual club, using their own discretion, when they deem necessary. (05/24/07)
- c. No recreational player shall be allowed to play up unless failure to do so provides a hardship on the player, his family or his Club.
- d. A recreational player shall not play up more than one seasonal year in age and that player shall remain in that older age division for that entire seasonal year with the exception of players whose age places them in the U16 age division. A recreational player "playing up" in the Competitive League shall remain in that age division, if they return to the recreational division.
- e. "Playing up" shall not be allowed merely for the purpose of keeping a pre-existing recreational team together.
- f. At the Clubs discretion, when there is no team in a player's proper age division during the Fall season and the player must play up in order to play soccer, that player may be allowed to return to his proper age division if the Club can field a team in that age division in the Spring.
- g. Requests for playing up shall be submitted in writing, on the appropriate form, by the parent or legal guardian, for approval by the Club and the GCSA Registration Committee. A bona-fide case shall be made in the request.

### 5. "Playing Down"

"Playing Down" refers to playing in a younger division than the player's age is assigned

(Section II., B., 2., c.). No player shall be allowed to play down. "Playing Down" is not sanctioned by USYSA. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***

6. Drops

Once a team has been registered with and approved by the GCSA Registration Committee, no player shall be dropped until a written request, stating the reason for such drop, is received and recorded by the GCSA Registration Committee.

C. Teams

1. The seasonal year shall begin September 1 and end August 31 of the following year. During this seasonal year, GCSA has two playing seasons, Fall and Spring. All recreational teams shall be registered with GCSA prior to each season. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
2. All teams shall be registered during the registration periods set by the GCSA Registration Committee. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]*** No new teams shall be added after the initial registration with GCSA with the exception of Intra-Club leagues.
3. It is the responsibility of each Club to deliver player and coach registration forms; Team Roster/Game Forms; registration fees; and where required, player passes, drops and playing up forms to the GCSA Registration Committee. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
4. An "Official" roster shall be the "GCSA Roster and Game Form", approved by a member of the GCSA Registration Committee, initialed and stamped with the three official GCSA stamps. No changes shall be made on these forms without the official stamp being placed in the appropriate space by a member of the GCSA Registration Committee. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
5. For Intra-Club leagues only, new teams may be registered up to seven (7) days prior to GCSA play. "New teams" are defined as teams additional to those registered during the registration periods described in paragraph 2 above, and are composed of players not already registered to another team.

D. Coaches

1. All coaches shall be registered with the GCSA Registration Committee prior to the first scheduled date of GCSA play on the approved GCSA Coaches Registration Form. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
2. GCSA can refuse to register a coach selected by a Club for just cause. Any coach who has been suspended by GCSA, a Club or any other USSF affiliated organization shall not be registered by GCSA during his period of suspension. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
3. All Clubs shall notify the GCSA Registration Committee, in writing, of the suspension of any coach within seven (7) days. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
4. The GCSA Registration Committee shall notify the GCSA Board of Directors of any coach suspension at the next Board meeting. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***

### SECTION III. TEAMS

In order to assure fair and equal competition and the maximum opportunity for each individual to play, recreational teams shall be limited as follows:

A. Size

1. U10 (6v6) teams shall be formed with a minimum of 6 players and a maximum of 10.
2. (a) Recreational teams (U11-U12) shall be formed with a minimum of 8 players and a

maximum of 14.

- (b) Recreational teams (U13 - U14) shall be formed with a minimum of 10 players and a normal maximum of 15. The Club may elect to extend the maximum number of players to 18 per team. (08/08/09)
- (c) U16 - U19 recreational teams shall be formed with a minimum of 10 players and up to 22 as a maximum. (08/08/09)

#### B. Formation

1. All recreational teams shall start each season approximately equal in terms of ability, numbers and age.
2. The placement of players on teams shall be the responsibility of the Club.
  - a. A team's head coach shall be allowed to have his child (children) placed onto his team.
  - b. Each team shall be allowed to have one child (children) of one assistant coach placed on his team per seasonal year.
  - c. Except as set forth in subparagraphs a. and b. above, requests, schemes or devices designed to effect placement of a recreational player on a specific team or with a specific coach shall not be honored.
3. Team Formation Guidelines shall be submitted by July 1 of each year to the GCSA Registration Committee for approval prior to registration of teams.
4. Each Club shall formulate guidelines based on the needs of that Club for forming teams from one or more of the following methods:
  - a. School attendance
  - b. Geographic
  - c. Neighborhood concept
  - d. Player draft
  - e. Random draw
5. Efforts by coaches or others to recruit players onto recreational teams on the sole basis of players' ability shall be prohibited.
6. Recreational Plus teams are formed by clubs as friendship teams or if coach requests to move team up to Recreational Plus from Recreational using the same age requirements as recreational teams. (11/02/06)
7. It is the individual club's responsibility to inform GCSA at team check-in whether the team is a Recreational or a Recreational Plus team. (11/02/06)
8. Recreational teams shall be reorganized at least as often as players move from one age division to another in order to assure competitive balance. Recreational teams shall not be construed as moving from one age division to another. As players move to another age division or anytime they fail to register for one or more seasons, they shall automatically be considered unaffiliated.
9. Any team which is not formed in conformance with its own Clubs recreational Team Formation Guidelines and GCSA Standing Rules, shall be subject to reorganization by the GCSA Registration Committee.
10. Recreational teams that were formed as pure age teams or have proved to dominate play in their league shall be disbanded and reorganized between the Spring and Fall seasons only. This shall not apply if that recreational team is the only Club team available in that age group.
  - a. A pure age team is defined as a team having a predominant number of players of one birth year (August 1 through July 31).
  - b. A dominant team is defined as a team who wins every game in their league by an average margin of four or more goals per game.

#### C. Sponsorship

No recreational team shall have outside sponsorship for regular team activities. However, permission shall be obtained from the Home Club for sponsorship for the specific and stated purpose of traveling expenses for out of GCSA competitions and tournament entry fees for in or out of GCSA competitions. Caution and common sense should be exercised in the selection of such a sponsor to maintain the character, spirit and intent of GCSA and its ideals of sportsmanship, character building, participation and teamwork. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Directors is empowered to consider and, in its discretion, grant exceptions to the no sponsor rule for charitable organizations approved by USYSA.

D. Consolidation

1. Consolidation of two or more recreational teams during a playing season, because of a lack of player participation, requires approval of the GCSA Games Committee for Inter-Club leagues or the Club Games Committee for Intra-Club leagues.
2. The surviving team of a consolidation shall complete the schedule of one of the original teams, as determined by the appropriate Games Committee.
3. The consolidated teams may be reorganized on the original team basis between seasons if registration of players makes it possible.

E. Dissolution

Dissolution of a team after GCSA Scheduling shall be reported by the Club to the GCSA Scheduling and Statistics Committee within 24 hours.

**SECTION IV. COACHES**

A. Selection

1. Each Club shall be responsible for selecting coaches for all its team.
2. Methods of selecting coaches shall be determined by the individual Club.
3. All Clubs should encourage the coaches to seek instruction in The Laws of the Game and coaching techniques.

B. Responsibilities and Duties

1. Each coach shall be responsible for being familiar with the GCSA Bylaws and Standing Rules.
2. Each coach shall be responsible for ensuring that GCSA Rules of Competition are complied with by players and spectators, and for maintaining order and respect by players and spectators for referees, players, and others involved with the game.
3. Each coach shall assure that all his players are properly registered with the Home Club prior to participation in scheduled games.
4. Each coach shall be responsible for training and conditioning his players and for conducting practices.
5. All team meetings shall be considered team activities. This includes games, practices, scrimmages and instructional meetings in which seven (7) or more players from the same team participate under the supervision of a coach or adult.
6. Recreational team activities shall be limited to three (3) during any calendar week except in the U16 and U19 age divisions. The calendar week shall begin on Saturday.
7. No recreational team practice, scrimmage or instructional meeting shall exceed 90 minutes in duration.
8. All coaches shall have an Official GCSA Roster/Game Form at each game.
9. Recreational team coaches shall correctly record each players playing time (U6 - U10

only) and jersey number on the Official GCSA Roster/Game Form at each game.

10. All coaches of U16 and U19 recreational teams shall have approved<sup>1</sup> individual player passes (with current picture affixed and players signature) at each game.
11. Each coach shall sign his Official GCSA Team Roster/Game Form and that of the opposing coach following each game.
12. The winning coach (or home team coach in case of a tie) shall collect both Official GCSA Roster/Game Forms following each game, and provide the Official GCSA Roster/Game Form to the League Commissioner within 72 hours. In the case of a game termination or an ejection, see Section V., D., 3.
13. The home coach shall contact the opposing coach to reschedule any postponed game (Section VI., F.). Mutual agreement shall be reached as to the time of any rescheduled game. The home coach shall notify the League Commissioner of the rescheduled game time and place.
14. All coaches shall have copies of the players' registration forms at all team activities.
15. It is the responsibility of the home coach or Home Club to provide a suitably marked field which, in the opinion of the referee, complies with requirements stated in FIFA and GCSA rules.
16. In the event that no referee appears for a game, it is the responsibility of the home team coach to select a referee suitable to both coaches.
17. Each coach shall provide a linesman agreeable to the referee, when requested.
18. While the League Commissioner has the responsibility for maintaining records, it is the coach's responsibility to maintain a record and discipline players or themselves as required by the cautions/ejections received. Additionally, the coach shall send the Player/Coach Sit-Out Verification form to the GCSA office when appropriate. (01/22/04)
19. Failure of a coach to uphold GCSA Bylaws and Standing Rules shall result in disciplinary action by the appropriate Games Committee.

#### **SECTION V. RULES OF COMPETITION**

All GCSA Competition shall be in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, except as noted below.

##### **A. The Ball**

U10 - U12 Divisions shall use a size 4 ball, which shall be 25 inches to 26 inches in circumference and shall weigh 11 ounces to 13 ounces.

##### **B. Substitutions**

1. In the U10, U12, U14, U16 and U19 recreational divisions, substitutions shall be unlimited. (11/02/06) Substitutions shall be permitted at the following times:
  - a. Prior to a throw-in, in your favor
  - b. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
  - c. After a goal, by either team
  - d. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops the play
  - e. Also Section V., B., 1., a., b., c., d. and e.
2. A player who is bleeding or has an open wound, or has any amount of blood on his or her uniform, shall be directed by the referee to leave the game and a substitute shall be

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<sup>1</sup> Approved: Stamped and signed by a member of the GCSA Registration Committee.

permitted. In the referee's discretion, the player shall be allowed to return at the next stoppage of play, following correction of the problem.

C. Player's Equipment

1. No player shall wear **anything that** is dangerous to himself or to any other player, including but not limited to earrings, watches, heavy rings, medallions, medical casts, splints or stitches. **[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]**
2. All players shall wear shin guards. **[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]**
3. The home team shall be responsible for differentiating jersey color. **[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]**
4. All players on a team, except the goalkeeper, shall wear jerseys of the same basic color. **[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]**
5. Each player's jersey, except the goalkeeper, shall carry a unique number and correspond with player's name on the game form. **[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]**

D. Referees - Assistant Referees

1. It shall be the responsibility of the home team's Club to provide a referee for officially scheduled games.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the referee to record on the Official GCSA Roster/Game Form the game result, date and duration of the match, cautions and/or send-offs, and LEGIBLY PRINT his name in the appropriate space. The referee shall allow a coach the opportunity to note his intent to protest prior to the referee completing the game form. **[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]**
3. For any send-off or game termination, the referee shall submit the Official GCSA Roster/Game Forms and misconduct report(s) to the GCSA office within 48 hours. **[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]** (01/22/04)
4. When requested, each team shall provide one linesman who shall have the duties as outlined by the referee.

E. Duration of Game **[U12 - U19 also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]**

1. The duration of the game shall be two equal periods as shown below in minutes:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Length of Half</u>	
U19	.....	45
U16	.....	40
U14	.....	35
U12	.....	30
U10	.....	25

2. The half time interval shall be a maximum of ten (10) minutes. (For U10, see F., 1., Law VII, C. below) **[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]**

F. U10 Soccer

1. U10 soccer shall comply with the Official US Youth Soccer 6 v 6 Program exception as noted:

Law I - The Field - C. Goals - Recommended Size

Maximum - seven (7) feet high and seven (7) yards wide.

Law III - Number of players

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time shall be six (6), one of whom shall be a goalkeeper. The match may not start if either team consists

of fewer than five (5) players.

B. Number of Players on Roster - Standing Resolution III., A., 1. shall apply.

C. Substitutions: Standing Resolution V., B., 1. shall apply.

Law VII - Duration of Game – (10/28/05 – Effective Fall 2006 Season)

A. The game shall be divided into two (2) 25-minute halves.

B. There shall be a break of five (5) minutes between halves.

USYSA RECOMMENDATIONS: Delete paragraph two.

G. U8 Soccer

U8 Soccer shall comply with Official U.S. Youth Soccer 4 v 4 Program except as amended by GCSA.

**SECTION VI. GAMES**

A. Players Right to Play

GCSA believes that the sport of soccer is best promoted by maximum participation.

1. A registered player on a recreational team shall be entitled to play at least one-half of each game scheduled for his team.
2. The coach of a team may restrict for one game a player's right to play when, during the preceding week, the player failed to appear for the scheduled team practices or was guilty of unsportsmanlike or violent conduct. Such restriction may, in the coach's discretion, deny completely the player's right to play in one game, provided that the coach had an established written policy setting forth disciplinary standards, which differentiate between discipline for failure to practice and discipline for unsportsmanlike or violent conduct. Such policy to have been published to the players and approved by the Home Club prior to the commencement of the season. However, such disciplinary action shall be noted on the Official Roster/Game Form prior to the game.
3. A parent may for medical reasons place limitations on the time his child shall play in a game provided written notice is given to the coach. This restriction shall be noted on the Official Roster/Game Form.

B. Official Game ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***

1. GCSA scheduled league games
2. Rescheduled GCSA league games
3. League play-off games
4. GCSA sanctioned tournament games

C. Schedules

1. Schedules for GCSA recreational leagues will meet the following minimum requirements:
  - a. Ensure that all teams are provided with a schedule **consisting** of not less than six (6) games.
  - b. Assure that all teams are leagued in order to provide equitable playing opportunity.
  - c. Form leagues with no less than five (5) nor more than ten (10) teams, wherever possible.
  - d. Use the standard GCSA Recreational schedule format provided by the GCSA Scheduling and Statistics Committee.
2. The GCSA Scheduling and Statistics Committee shall:
  - a. Take special requests into consideration. Special requests will only be considered if

they are presented in writing to the GCSA Scheduling and Statistics Committee prior to 48 hours before the GCSA league formation meeting. All requests should be sent to the GCSA office. Requests must be legitimate with the reason for the request clearly stated.

- b. Form Inter-Club leagues (a league that has teams from more than one Club), when requirements dictate using the following procedure:
  - (1.) Whenever possible, Clubs with adjacent geographical boundaries shall be selected for combining leagues.
  - (2.) Each team shall play approximately one-half of its games on its own home field, if such a field is available.
  - (3.) The teams making up a league shall be of approximately equal ability, insofar as possible.
- c. Provide all Clubs with prescribed scheduling forms.
- d. Decide the dates for beginning and ending each soccer season.
- e. Notify Clubs in writing of those leagues which are not in compliance with GCSA Standing Rules.

3. The Club shall be responsible for:

- a. Scheduling of its Intra-Club leagues (a league which has teams from just one Club) on the forms provided by the GCSA Scheduling and Statistics Committee.
- b. Providing a copy of all Intra-Club league schedules to the GCSA Scheduling and Statistics Committee no less than seven (7) days prior to the first scheduled date of GCSA play.
- c. Ensuring that all official games are played within seven (7) days following the last scheduled date of GCSA play.
- d. Providing league trophies for those leagues not in compliance with GCSA Standing Rules.

D. U8 League Standings

In order to maintain and support an atmosphere of fun and education, GCSA shall not recognize game results or league standings in the U8 divisions. GCSA shall recognize each individual player in the U8 division with an award each season.

E. League Commissioners

A League Commissioner shall not have any relation to any team member or coach within their league. The responsibilities and duties of a League Commissioner shall be:

- 1. Record keeping **[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]**
  - a. Record all game results
  - b. Compile league standings (except in U8). [Points to be awarded as follows: win = 3 points, tie = 1 point, loss = 0 points]
  - c. Collect all game forms
  - d. Keep a record of all cautions and ejections (yellow and red cards) issued to players and coaches on the form provided by the GCSA Games and Disciplinary Committee.
  - e. Monitor compliance with Section VI., A.
- 2. Notify the appropriate Games Committee within 24 hour of **[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]**
  - a. Failure of a team:
    - (1.) To appear

- (2.) To field a team of the minimum number for their age division
  - (3.) To produce Official Roster/Game form and/or player passes, where required
  - b. Team playing an ineligible player
  - c. An accumulation of three cautions (yellow cards) issued to players and coaches
  - d. Failure of a coach to comply with Section IV., B., 12. or Competitive League Rules and Regulations E., 3., g.
3. Game Cancellation, Postponement and Rescheduling ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
- a. Grant permission for a game cancellation or postponement.
  - b. Assure that postponed games are rescheduled within seven (7) days of the postponement and played within seven (7) days following the end of the season.
  - c. Reschedule games upon failure of coaches to agree to a reschedule date. This includes locating a field and referees at home team's field. (01/22/04)
  - d. Fill out league championship trophy order form and provide by designated date to GCSA office. (01/22/04)
4. Post Season ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
- Within 14 days following the end of the season:
- a. Notify the Club President of the team that wins the league.
  - b. Notify GCSA Scheduling and Statistics Committee of final league standings.
  - c. Provide all Official Roster/Game Forms to the GCSA Games and Disciplinary Committee.
- F. Cancellation, Postponement and Rescheduling
- 1. Games may be postponed and/or rescheduled with the mutual consent of both coaches and with the notification of the League Commissioner provided a minimum of 72 hours notice is given to the Referee Unit. (01/22/04)
  - 2. Games may be postponed and/or rescheduled by a visiting coach, and the notification of the League Commissioner, if the visiting team must leave their homes before 7:00 a.m., provided that 7 days notice is given to the home team. (01/22/04) A notice of 72 hours is **permissible** during the first week of the season.
  - 3. In the event of a conflict between a league game and a GCSA sanctioned tournament game, every effort shall be made by both coaches involved to reschedule the league game. Upon failure of coaches to agree, see Section VI., E.,3., c.
  - 4. All postponed games shall be rescheduled within seven (7) days and played within seven (7) days following the end of the season.
- G. Forfeiture
- 1. If a team fails to appear or field a team of at least five (5) players U9-U10; six (6) players U11-U12 or seven (7) players U13-U19 and produce an Official Roster/Game Form and player passes (where required) within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled game time, the referee shall note this failure on the game form(s). The game form(s) shall be sent to the GCSA office by the referee within 48 hours. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]*** (01/22/04)
  - 2. The right to declare a game forfeit shall be vested in the governing Games Committee. The score of a forfeited game shall be recorded as 1 - 0. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
- H. Cautions, Send-offs and Discipline
- 1. Both coaches and players shall be subject to cautions and send-offs by the referee for misconduct. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
  - 2. An accumulation by a player or a coach of three (3) cautions (yellow cards) during one

playing season (either Fall or Spring) shall result in an automatic suspension of such player or coach from the next official game. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]*** (01/22/04)

3. A coach or player who receives a send-off shall leave the immediate area of the playing field before recommencement of the game. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
4. A coach or player who receives a send-off shall be suspended from participation in at least the next official game. Additional punishment may be imposed by the governing Games Committee. When a player or coach is serving a suspension, the coach or his appointee shall complete a "Player/Coach – Sit-Out Verification" form, obtain the signature of the referee substantiating the sit-out from the next game and send the form per the directions on the form. The sit-out shall also be noted on the Official Roster/Game Form. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
5. A coach or spectator who is serving a suspension shall be prohibited from the immediate area of his team's playing field. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
6. All assaults upon a referee (verbal or physical) and all assaults by a referee are solely within the jurisdiction of OSA. Any individual cited for assault upon a referee shall be suspended from participation in all GCSA soccer activities once notification is received from OSA. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]*** (02/24/05)
7. It is the policy of GCSA to uphold the rules, regulations, policies and procedures of entities, clubs and other organizational bodies, including city and county park and recreation departments, concerning the scheduling, use, protection and enjoyment of fields and park lands within their jurisdiction and control. Any Club, team, coach or player violating such rules or policies as to the use of soccer fields shall be subject to discipline by the Games and Disciplinary Committee. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
8. Game Forms will be delivered to the League Commissioner who will have the responsibility of recordkeeping of game results, cautions/ejections received by players/coaches/teams. While the League Commissioner has the responsibility for maintaining records, it is the coach's responsibility to maintain a record and discipline players as required by the cautions/ejections received. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***

I. Disciplinary Point System ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***

The Disciplinary Point System (DPS) shall be applicable to all U15 - U19 teams registered with GCSA. The purpose of the DPS is to identify those players and coaches responsible for receiving repeated yellow and red cards during the seasonal year (Fall and Spring season). All suspensions under DPS shall be in addition to any suspension earned under GCSA Standing Rules VI., H., or any additional suspension awarded by the GCSA Games & Disciplinary Committee

1. Players and coaches shall receive disciplinary points as follows:
  - a. Cautions: 1 point
  - b. Ejections: 4 points
  - c. Examples:
    - (1) 1 yellow = 1 point
    - (2) 1 red = 4 points
    - (3) 2 yellows = 1 red = 4 points
    - (4) 1 yellow and 1 red = 5 points
2. The referee of the match shall have the responsibility of recording infraction(s) on the GCSA Game Form under FIFA guidelines of Law XII.
3. Game Forms will be delivered to the League Commissioner who will have the responsibility of keeping a record of the DPS points earned by each player, coach and

team. While the League Commissioner has responsibility for maintaining a record of DPS points, it is the coach's responsibility to maintain a record and suspend players as required under DPS.

4. Player points:
  - a. 7 points: suspension from the next official game.
  - b. 11 points: suspension from the next two official games.
  - c. 15 points: suspension from all official games until the player has appeared before the GCSA Games & Disciplinary Committee at which time further sanctions could be imposed.
5. Coach points: In order to encourage coaches to set a positive example for their fans and players, coaches will be held to a higher standard than players.
  - a. 5 points: suspension for the next official game.
  - b. 9 points: suspension from all official games until the coach has appeared before the GCSA Games & Disciplinary Committee at which time further sanctions could be imposed.
6. Team points: Team points are the aggregate of points earned by its players and coaches during a seasonal year.
  - a. 32 points: forfeiture of the next official game.
  - b. 39 points: forfeiture of the next two official games.
  - c. 45 points: suspension from all official games until the coach has appeared before the GCSA Games & Disciplinary Committee at which time sanctions will be imposed. Sanctions could include, but are not limited to, additional forfeits, suspension of traveling **papers** or suspension of the team from all official games for the balance of the seasonal year.

#### J. Protests

1. A game protest shall be upheld if **both** of the following are proven:
  - a. FIFA Law, GCSA Standing Resolution, or Competitive League Rules and Regulations must have been violated. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
  - b. The outcome of the game (win/tie/loss) must have been affected. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
2. Protests concerning the dimensions of the field of play shall be noted on the game form before the start of the game in order to be considered. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
3. The procedure for filing a game protest is as follows:
  - a. The protesting coach shall note his intention to protest on his Official Roster/Game Form before the referee signs it. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
  - b. The protesting coach shall deliver his Official Roster/Game Form and a protest fee of \$50.00 (in cash, money order or certified check made payable to GCSA) to the GCSA office by 2 p.m. of the next business day following the date of the game. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League] (01/22/04)***
4. The governing Games Committee decision shall be made within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the written protest and fee based on ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
  - a. A hearing to which all parties shall be invited
  - b. Written reports submitted by the parties involved

5. The governing Games Committee shall have the following options ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***:
  - a. Uphold the game result
  - b. Alter a game result by declaring a forfeit
  - c. Cause the game to be replayed or declared a no game (01/22/04)
6. A verbal decision may be given after the hearing or committee meeting and shall be followed by written confirmation within seven (7) days. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***

K. Terminations

The governing Games Committee shall have the following options in deciding the disposition of a terminated game ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***:

1. Uphold the game result
2. Alter a game result by declaring a forfeit
3. Cause the game to be replayed or declared a no game (01/22/04)

L. Disciplinary Hearing Procedures

1. All parties are entitled to a hearing with proper notification.
2. Once a complaint has been properly filed, the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee shall notify all involved parties within 5 days of receipt of the complaint, the nature of the complaint, the names of all parties, a copy of the complaint and the date, time and place of the hearing.
3. The conduct of the hearing shall be as determined by the rules of GCSA, except where noted herein.
4. Any party subject to disciplinary procedures shall have the right to:
  - a. present witnesses on their behalf.
  - a-b. be accompanied by one individual of their choice to assist in their defense. However, legal counsel shall not be permitted during disciplinary hearings.
  - a-c. challenge any witness against them.
5. Exceptions to Rule 4c. may be allowed in the event the witness is a minor child and participation in the hearing is deemed harmful to the welfare of the child by the Disciplinary Committee.
6. A written record (called the official record) shall be kept of the proceedings.
7. A written notification of the decision shall be sent to all involved parties within 7 days of the hearing. This notice shall be sent by certified mail.
8. All hearings shall be scheduled to be held within 30 days.

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**SECTION VII. APPEALS**

A. The GCSA Appeals Committee shall hear ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***:

1. An appeal of a protest of an Intra-Club game ruling by a Club Games Committee.
2. An appeal of any decision by a GCSA Club.
3. An appeal of a decision by any other GCSA Committee.
4. An appeal or protest if a lower body refuses to render a decision on the matter within the time frame specified or waives its rights in the matter.

B. The procedure for filing an appeal with the GCSA Appeals Committee is as follows ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***:

1. The appellant shall submit a written appeal and a fee of \$50.00 (in cash, money order or certified check payable to GCSA) to the GCSA office. If the appeal is upheld in its

entirety, the fee will be returned. (01/22/04)

2. An appeal shall be filed within fourteen (14) days of the previous decision, unless waived by the Chairman.
  3. GCSA Appeals Committee's decision shall be made within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the written appeal and payment of fee based upon a hearing to which all parties shall be invited and/or written reports submitted by the parties involved.
  4. A verbal decision may be given after the hearing and shall be followed by written confirmation within seven (7) days.
  5. Notice of an appeal shall be given to ALL involved parties when letter is sent to appellant by the Chairman, Appeals Committee, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting. (02/24/05)
- C. All decisions of the GCSA Appeals Committee are appealable to the GCSA membership at a regularly scheduled meeting or to OSA. ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***
- D. The procedure for filing an appeal with the GCSA membership is as follows ***[Also applies to the GCSA Competitive League.]***:
1. The appellant shall submit a written appeal and a fee of \$50.00 (cash, money order or certified check payable to GCSA) to the GCSA office. If the appeal is upheld in its entirety, the fee will be returned. (01/22/04)
  2. An appeal shall be filed within fourteen (14) days of the previous decision.
  3. An appeal shall be placed on the agenda. (Article V. Section 10.)
  4. Notice of an appeal shall be given to ALL involved parties when letter is sent to appellant by the Chairman, Appeals Committee, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting. (02/24/05)

#### **SECTION VIII. COMPETITIVE LEAGUE**

The Competitive League is designed to provide competition for those players who possess the desire and demonstrate advanced capabilities to achieve their utmost in soccer skills and experience. The Competitive League shall be comprised of all "coach-select" teams from Member Clubs.

##### **A. Objectives**

The Competitive League shall provide a highly competitive style of soccer, with adequate restrictions, to assure the continued growth and enjoyment of soccer by the youth of GCSA in the U11 through U19 age divisions.

##### **B. Governing Body**

The governing body of the Competitive League shall be the Competitive Commission (the Commission).

1. The Commission shall be composed of the Chairman and not less than seven (7) members, one member from each Club with a participating team(s).
2. Each member shall have the following votes:
  - a. 50 votes, plus
  - b. 1 additional vote for each recreational team they have registered, plus
  - c. 10 additional votes for each competitive team they have registered.
3. The Chairman shall vote in case of a tie.

##### **C. Officers**

1. The Competitive Commission shall be composed of the office holders of the following

described offices:

- a. Chairman
- b. Vice Chairman
- c. Secretary
- d. Scheduler
- e. Registrar

2. All the officers of the Commission, except that of the Chairman, shall be elected from the membership of the Commission at each September meeting. In the event no member(s) run for a vacant office, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Chairman and not be required to be a current member of the Commission. The appointed officer(s) shall serve the full term of office or until:
  - a. A member of the Commission announces their intent to serve as the officer;
  - b. The Commission votes, by a majority, to replace the appointee with current Commission member. (01/22/04)
3. The Chairman shall serve as liaison between the Commission and GCSA, chair all meetings, establish committees at the direction of the Commission, appoint Chairmen of such committees and serve as general representative of the Commission in all matters. The Chairman shall set the dates for all meetings and provide a written agenda to the Secretary for distribution to all members as provided below.
4. The Vice Chairman shall assist the Chairman, as necessary, and act in the absence of the Chairman with the same power and authority, and be a member of the GCSA Games and Disciplinary Committee.
5. The Secretary shall record and publish all meeting minutes, give notice of and publish the agenda for all Commission Meetings, at least seven (7) days in advance, and carry out other administrative tasks, as required. The Secretary shall mail the minutes of all Commission meetings to all Commission members, Club Presidents and the GCSA Board of Directors within fourteen (14) days of the meeting.
6. The Scheduler shall chair the Leaguings and Scheduling Committee and shall appoint a committee of no less than two (2) and no more than four (4) additional members, with no two members being from the same member Club. The Committee members shall be approved by the Competitive Commission and the GCSA Board of Directors. This Committee shall be responsible for leaguings and scheduling all regular Competitive League games and for coordinating the schedule with the GCSA Scheduling and Statistics Committee. This Committee shall also provide written notice of all requests for "closed leagues" (see Competitive League Rules and Regulations, Section E., 2., c.) to all members of the Competitive Commission within 72 hours of receipt of such request.
7. The Registrar shall be responsible for assuring that all teams, players, and coaches are properly registered with GCSA. The Registrar shall be appointed by the Competitive Commission, with the approval of the GCSA Registration Committee. The Registrar shall be a nonvoting member of the Competitive Commission unless that person is an appointed or an elected Competitive Commissioner. The Registrar shall be a member of the GCSA Registration Committee.

D. Meetings

1. Commission meetings shall be held on a periodic basis with a minimum of six (6) meetings per year, one of which shall be in September. Fifty-one percent (51%) of the eligible votes shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote shall govern.
2. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman or shall be called upon the request of members of the GCSA Board of Directors or upon the request of two members of the Commission. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. At least seven (7) days notice shall be given.

E. Competitive League Rules and Regulations

1. All Competitive League Rules and Regulations not directly affecting the recreational program shall be formulated and voted upon by the Competitive Commission. No Competitive League Rules and Regulations passed by the Competitive Commission, nor

any action of the Competitive Commission requiring GCSA Board approval, shall be effective until they are approved by the GCSA Board of Directors. Such actions approved by the Board shall also require publication to all Club Presidents before they shall take effect and rule changes shall also be published to competitive coaches. Any rules or regulations directly affecting the recreational program shall be submitted to the General Membership of GCSA for approval.

2. The Competitive Commission may appeal any decision of the GCSA Board of Directors, concerning Competitive League Rules and Regulations, to the GCSA membership.
3. Any decision of a Competitive Commission committee may be appealed by any member to the Commission as a whole.

**COMPETITIVE LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
(As voted by the GCSA Competitive Commission)

A. Registration

1. Players

a. Procedure

- i. The provisions of GCSA Standing Rules (S.R.), Section II., B., 1., b., c., d., and e., shall also apply to the Competitive League.
- ii. All Competitive League players and teams shall be registered with the GCSA Competitive League Registrar for the seasonal year.
- iii. All players shall register with the Club for whose team they are playing.
- iv. Proof of age (GCSA S.R. Section II., B., 2., f., 1.) shall be required.

b. Eligibility

- i. The provisions of GCSA S.R. Section II., B., 2., a., b. and c. shall also apply to the Competitive League.
- ii. By submitting an approved, signed registration form for processing by the Competitive League Registrar, each player agrees and commits to the financial obligations set forth by the team/club to which the registration form was submitted.
- iii. No player may be registered, to any Competitive Team/Club, who has an outstanding commitment or obligation to another Competitive Team/Club.
- iv. It is the responsibility of the team/club to notify the GCSA Competitive League Registrar, in writing, of a player's failure to fulfill their obligation to said team/club.

This notice must be post marked no later than thirty (30) days from the close of league play. All notices received after thirty (30) days will not be acknowledged.

- v. The GCSA Competitive League Registrar will notify, in writing, each player for which a team/club has filed notice of an outstanding commitment or obligation.
- vi. Each player shall have the right to file an appeal. The appeal process will be in accordance with GCSA. S.R. Section VII, A., B., C. and D.

c. "Playing Down"

The provisions of GCSA S.R. Section II. B. 5. shall also apply to the Competitive League.

d. Player Transfers and Releases

- i. A transfer shall be defined as adding a currently USYSA registered player to a roster or a player who returns to the same roster.
- ii. Any player registered with a Competitive League team is obligated to that team for the entire seasonal year unless dropped or transferred.
- iii. Requests for player transfers, after team registration, are to be discouraged and will only be permitted in selected circumstances as provided hereafter.
- iv.
  - (a.) Players desiring to be released from their obligation before the end of the seasonal year (September 1 through August 31), and permission to transfer to another competitive team, must complete a written request on the official form provided by GCSA for such purpose. This form shall be submitted to the GCSA Registration Committee and include payment of the required \$50 transfer fee, which shall be credited to the GCSA Scholarship Fund. (Although the circumstances are expected to be rare, the transfer fee may be waived or refunded upon the unanimous approval of the GCSA Registration Committee if they deem special circumstances warrant such action.) No fee shall be required for a release which does not request approval of a transfer. Such requests shall be dated and time stamped when received by the GCSA Registration Committee.
  - (b.) Transfer Forms may be submitted at any time but must be filed by January 15 to be considered for the following Spring season. Requests for release and transfer will be determined by the GCSA Competitive Commission and advise applicants of its decision in writing, before February 1 whenever possible. The GCSA Competitive Commission may, at its discretion, request a meeting with the player and parent/guardian requesting transfer.
  - (c.) No player will be permitted to transfer if the number of players on the original team's Official Team roster is reduced to less than the minimum numbers of players required to form the team in the respective age group. (If there is more than one transfer request from a given team, such that this rule may come into effect, the requests will be considered in the order they were date and time stamped by the GCSA Registration Committee.) A transfer may be provisionally approved to permit a future transfer in the event that the original team's Official Roster, which has been reduced to less than the minimum number of players required to form the team in the respective age group, is thereafter increased to the minimum number of players required to form the team in the respective age group through the addition of players to the Official Roster. (2004)
  - (d.) If a player is released from his competitive team, but is unable to transfer to another team because the original team's Official Roster is reduced to less than the minimum number of players required to form the team in the respective age group, the player is not prohibited by these rules from returning to the original team. If such player has been released from the Official Roster and is therefore added to the same Official Roster, the addition shall constitute a transfer in accordance with Section A. d. i. (2004)
  - (e.) A player is under no time constraint to select and join another competitive team once a transfer has been approved.
  - (f.) A player may request a release from the Competitive League team on which they are registered at any time during the seasonal year for the purpose of returning to the recreational league in their Home Club. Any player released for this purpose will immediately become subject to all GCSA recreational rules regarding registration and team formation.
  - (g.) No player will be allowed to transfer to another Competitive League team on which he has participated as a guest player in any tournament requiring a Guest Player Form (or similar form) from OSA during the current seasonal year if the player was a Guest Player while rostered on his original Competitive League team. (2004)

- (h.) Nothing in this rule shall prohibit a player from participating in team tryouts during the annual tryout period established by GCSA each summer for the purpose of annual team formation. If a player has been accepted onto another team during such annual tryout period, he is automatically released to register with that new team.
  - (i.) In the event that a registered competitive team dissolved as set forth in Section B. 3., players become free agents and no longer need transfer/release forms to register with another team.
- e. Involuntary Release of Player
- i. A coach shall obtain the written approval of their Home Club prior to involuntarily releasing a player from a Competitive team. If a player is involuntarily released from a Competitive team after the team has been registered, the player may transfer to another Competitive team or the player may be placed on a recreational team in their geographical Home club.
  - ii. A player may be involuntarily released from a team only if:
    - (a.) The player has violated rules of USSF, USYSA, OSA or GCSA and is in bad standing as a result of that violation.
    - (b.) The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance from the team's practice fields. In this case reasonable shall be determined by the ability of the player to fulfill the coach's requirements for attending practices and meeting scheduled game times.
    - (c.) The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season.
  - iii. A coach may request a player be involuntarily released from a team for disciplinary cause for the following reasons:
    - (a.) A player is declared in bad standing by GCSA for the remainder of the playing year.
    - (b.) A player demonstrates consistent and/or frequent failure to attend practice sessions and/or scheduled games.
      - (i.) If a player frequently fails to attend scheduled practices or league games, the coach must notify the player, in writing, of the practice requirements and league game schedule and of his/her intention to release the player if the situation is not corrected.
      - (ii.) The player must be given an opportunity to justify the missed practice sessions and/or games and given a reasonable opportunity to show a change in behavior by meeting team schedules.
      - (iii.) Should a player fail to meet these conditions, the coach may then request the player be released from the team roster.
    - (c.) A player is found to be in violation of team, club and/or district association conduct rules involving:
      - (i.) Public behavior of an illegal or violent nature.
      - (ii.) Consistently unsupportive and disruptive behavior resulting in substantial impact on the stability and/or reputation of the team.
      - (iii.) Allegations of the behavior described above must be documented with specific details and substantiated.
  - iv. In order that an involuntary player release from a team roster be made effective, the following conditions must be met:
    - (a.) The coach must submit a request for player release to the Club organization (in accordance with Club directives).
      - (i.) The request must be accompanied by written justification of the action.
      - (ii.) A copy of the request must be likewise sent to player via registered

mail.

- (b.) Said request must be approved by the Club registration committee and/or board (as determined by Club regulations). Consideration of all requests for involuntary release will be on a case-by-case basis and each request will be evaluated on its individual merit and circumstances.
- (c.) An involuntary release from a team roster shall not be effective until the player has had reasonable opportunity to exercise his/her appeal rights as defined by GCSA, OSA, and USYSA.

Notification by a player of his/her intent to appeal must be presented to the next appeal authority within two working days of player receipt of notice of release request.

f. Recruitment

- i. Recruitment, or recruiting, is defined as any action initiated by a "Team Official" (coach, assistant coach, team manager, trainer or person representing a team or Club) who seeks to enlist the services of a player.
- ii. Illegal recruitment is defined as the employment of any prohibited practice by a Team Official. These prohibited practices include:
  - (a.) Offering any inducement of material or monetary value to a player or player's family.
  - (b.) Initiating contact with any player currently registered and rostered with another GCSA team except during the annual tryout "free agency" period (as defined in the CLR and R, Section B., 1., g.).
  - (c.) Allowing or promoting the use of a competitive Club logo or name by teams other than properly registered competitive Club teams.
  - (d.) Interference with a competitive player once the player has signed a USYSA registration form and paid the fee to register with a team or club for the next seasonal year.
- iii. Illegal recruitment does not include the following permitted practices:
  - (a.) Waiver of Club/Team fees and expenses upon proof of financial hardship.
  - (b.) Contact with a player during the annual tryout "free agency" period.
  - (c.) Contact with a player for the limited purpose of participating as a guest player for any USYSA sanctioned tournament with prior notice to the player's Club coach.
  - (d.) Contact initiated by the player, the player's parents or legal guardians.
  - (e.) Advertising or public relations of a general, indirect nature.
  - (f.) Non-sanctioned soccer activities, including indoor soccer teams or formation and coaching of special tournament teams (i.e. 3v3, etc.).
  - (g.) Club sponsored soccer training sessions, open to players without geographic restriction, provided that a copy of the clinic particulars shall be delivered to the GCSA office at least five (5) days prior to the event.
- iv. Illegal recruitment or the employment of any prohibited practice may result in a Team Official being suspended from all GCSA soccer activities for a period as determined by the GCSA Games and Disciplinary Committee. Complainant will file a complaint with the GCSA Games and Disciplinary Committee, who shall render a decision. Either party may appeal that decision as stated in GCSA S.R. Section VII.
- v. Any decision of the GCSA Games and Disciplinary Committee or Appeals Committee shall be in writing, with the exclusion of the names of parties or other identifying information in such decision. Such decisions shall be made available upon written request to any Club, coach, parent or player for guidance in complying with the rules.

2. Teams

- a. The provisions of GCSA S.R. Section II., C., 1., 2., 3., 4. and 7. shall also apply to the Competitive League.
- b. All Competitive League teams shall use the Official GCSA Competitive League Roster/Game form.
- c. Competitive teams may add players to their rosters at any time during the seasonal year, providing all GCSA and Competitive League Rules and Regulations are followed.
- d. A player on a recreational team shall obtain permission from his Home Club to transfer to a Competitive team, in any age division, subject to the provisions of CLR and R, Section B., 1., p.

3. Coaches

- a. The provisions of GCSA S.R. Section II., D., shall also apply to the Competitive League coaches.
- b. Once (a) an agreement has been reached between a Club and an individual for that individual to serve as the coach for one of the Club's competitive teams, and (b) the GCSA Competitive Tryout Circular has been published, that individual may not serve, during the seasonal year covered by the circular, as a coach, assistant coach, manager or team trainer for another competitive team in the same age and sex category without the prior consent of the Club for which he or she had originally agreed to coach.

B. Teams

1. a. U11 through U18 Competitive Team Formation

- i. Formation of U11 through U18 teams shall be done through an annual tryout, which shall be open to all eligible players in the proper age division. Such open tryouts must be included in the annual GCSA Tryout Circular described below, except as provided in c., below.
- ii. Each Club wishing to host a Competitive team in the U11 through U18 age division must do so by submitting an approved "Tryout Information Form" to GCSA by the dates approved by the Commission. The form must include the name of the coach approved by the Club for that team. No "to be announced" coaches will be accepted. It is generally understood, however, that occasionally there may be a change in the announced coach due to an unexpected circumstance. If this is the case, the Club must notify GCSA immediately regarding the change.
- iii. No U11 through U18 team will be allowed to register that was not included in the annual GCSA Tryout Circular (unless it can be clearly shown that such omission was an oversight due to a printing error of the GCSA Tryout Circular - and that such omission was not the fault of the team or Club). Registration deadline will be decided annually by the Competitive Commission and no team will be allowed to form after that date.
- iv. No team will be permitted to change Club affiliation after the publication of the GCSA Tryout Circular (i.e. a team may not be selected in one Club and then register with another), without the original sponsoring Club's approval prior to registration. No team will be permitted to change club affiliation after registration.
- v. All Clubs/teams must use the same Tryout Information Form, as approved by the Commission, and must include information as the dates, time and places for open tryouts. Any and all fees and/or expenses expected to be paid by players or their parents must be included on the form. It is generally understood that normal team operating expenses for uniforms, tournament fees, referees and supplies can be listed on the form as such without an exact dollar amount noted; however, the need to pay such costs must still be noted on the form. Extraordinary fees and expenses such as club fees, coaching fees, training fees, etc. must be separately listed with exact dollar amounts noted.

- vi. The GCSA Tryout Circular shall be published by GCSA, who shall attempt to publish such Circular approximately 30 days before the "annual tryout period". Publication of the Circular will be to all eligible players as shown in the GCSA registration records.
- vii. All players are deemed free agents for the purpose of recruiting and tryouts during the "annual tryout period", dates of which shall be set by the Commission, subject to GCSA Board approval. The Commission shall present proposed dates to the GCSA Board no later than January of each year. It is recognized that the "annual tryout period" may end before the date established by the GCSA Registration Committee for the registration of Competitive teams under CLR and R, Section A., 2., a. herein. Any attempt to "recruit" players committed to another Competitive team during the time between the end of the annual tryout period and the registration of Competitive teams by GCSA will be considered illegal recruiting.
- viii. Prior to the "annual tryout period", no players shall be directly contacted by any coach, trainer or Club/team representative regarding tryouts for initial team formation except as provided in i. below. Direct contact may include contacts in person or by telephone, fax, e-mail or mail. (This provision is not intended to prohibit a head coach from discussing tryouts with players currently registered with his own team.) (2004)
- ix. Beginning one month prior to the "annual tryout period", public notices regarding tryouts may be posted by teams, Clubs or organizations. Such notices must be in an open public forum such as a public bulletin board, newsletter, newspaper, etc. They may not take the form of personal, direct contact as described above.
- x. No player shall be selected by the coach prior to tryouts.

~~x-xi.~~ GCSA Clubs that form U11 Competitive teams may, with written permission from the clubs Director of Coaching and/or Club President, roster two (2) U10 players on a U11 competitive team. Once the players have been rostered on a GCSA Competitive Roster they will not be allowed to play back down on an Academy, Recreational, or Recreational Plus team for that year. These players will maintain the benefits of any other competitive player in GCSA. This means they would be eligible for travel, with their rostered team, both in and out of state, and be eligible to participate in any OSA Sanctioned League or State Cup.

~~x-xii.~~ Players may tryout for a team in any Club in GCSA.

~~x-xiii.~~ Competitive League (U11) teams shall be formed with a minimum of 11 players and a maximum of 14. (2004) Competitive League (U12-U19) teams shall be formed with a minimum of 14 players and a maximum of 18.

~~x-xiv.~~ Any player who is not selected to a Competitive team shall be assigned to a recreational team in their Home Club.

~~x-xv.~~ After initial team registration, tryouts for replacements or additions to a team shall be approved by the Club with which the team is registered and do not need to be advertised or posted.

~~x-xvi.~~ Recreational players selected, after recreational team registration, for a Competitive team can be transferred to a Competitive team providing it does not drop the recreational team to eleven (11) players in the U11 age division, thirteen (13) or less players in the U12 and U14 age divisions or sixteen (16) players or less in the U16 and U19 age divisions. (2004)

b. Under 19 Competitive Team Formation

i. Competitive teams may be formed by tryouts consistent with the procedures set forth in CLR and R B.1.a.(i and ii).

~~i-ii.~~ Recognizing the special needs and challenges of forming U19 teams (often primarily comprised of players attending college and not able to participate in the Fall Competitive League), Clubs also may form U19 teams for the Spring Competitive League, without conducting tryouts, during the period commencing January 1 through February 15 of each seasonal year. Clubs may form U19 teams comprised of U19 (or younger) players not registered on a GCSA

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Competitive team as of the date of such player's registration with the U19 team.

i-iii. The provisions of CLR and R B.1.a shall not apply to U19 Competitive teams. Contact with a U19 player by a coach or a Club prior to or during the Spring U19 Registration period shall not be considered illegal recruitment. The coach or Club representative of a U19 team may contact unaffiliated U18 and younger players for purposes of recruiting the player for a U19 team formed or to be formed for the Spring Competitive season. As used in the preceding sentence, a player is "unaffiliated" if that player is not registered on a GCSA Competitive team as of the date of the contact with that player. No player may transfer to a U19 team except in accordance with the terms of CLR and R A.1.d.

i-iv. U19 Competitive League teams shall be formed with a minimum of 14 players and a maximum of 18.

i-v. U19 Competitive League teams do not have to be advertised in the annual GCSA Tryout Circular to form.

## 2. Sponsorship

- a. Any Competitive team may secure a sponsor or sponsors to aid them with expenses.
- b. Caution and common sense shall be exercised in the selection of a team sponsor to maintain the character, spirit and intent of GCSA and its ideal of sportsmanship, character building, participation and teamwork. Sponsor approval by the Club with which the team is registered shall be required.
- c. Sponsor insignia may appear on player uniforms, warm-up suits, jackets, equipment bags, etc., without size restriction.
- d. Sponsors shall not be permitted any authority or control of player selection, game participation or coach selection.
- e. Any team sponsor found guilty of impropriety in regard to team sponsorship may be suspended or otherwise dealt with by the GCSA Games and Disciplinary Committee.

## 3. Dissolution

- a. Dissolution of a team by the registering Club shall be reported, in writing, to the Competitive League Scheduling Committee and Registrar within 24 hours of the Club's decision.
- b. If the matter of dissolution cannot be handled by the registering Club, then dissolution of a team by the GCSA Registration Committee shall be based upon a written recommendation by the Competitive Commission who will determine the viability of the registering Club to continue to field a team as registered.
- c. Upon dissolution of a team, players become free agents and no longer need transfer/release forms to register with another team. (2004)

## C. Coaches

### 1. Selection and Limitation

- a. A coach shall be selected or approved by the sponsoring Club and shall remain as coach at the discretion of that Club.
- b. A coach, once selected or approved by the sponsoring Club, and listed on the roster of a particular team submitted to GCSA, shall be prohibited from serving during the following seasonal year with another Club as a coach, assistant coach, trainer or team official of a team of the same gender and birth year, unless the sponsoring Club consents in writing.

### 2. Responsibilities and Duties

- a. A coach shall have the final right of selection of players subject to the rules set forth for players' tryouts and selection.
- b. Each coach shall assure that all his players are properly registered prior to participation in scheduled games.

- c. A coach shall secure approval of their Club to drop a registered player from their team roster.
- d. Each coach shall be responsible for ensuring the GCSA Rules of Competition are complied with by players and spectators and for maintaining order and respect by players and spectators for referees, players and others involved with the game. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in forfeiture, suspension, or both.
- e. Each coach shall assure that each player's jersey number is correctly recorded on the Official GCSA Competitive League Roster/Game Form prior to each game.
- f. All coaches shall have approved individual player passes (with current picture affixed and player's signature) at each game.
- g. The winning coach (or home coach in the case of a tie) shall collect both Official GCSA Competitive League Roster/Game Forms following each game and shall provide the Official GCSA Competitive League Roster/Game Forms to the League Commission within 72 hours of the completion of the game. In the case of a game termination or an ejection, see GCSA S.R. Section V., D., 3.
- h. Each coach shall be responsible for the training and conditioning of their players.
- i. Except as otherwise provided in the Competitive League Rules and Regulations, all Competitive League coaches shall be responsible for adhering to all applicable GCSA Standing Rules and Competitive League Rules and Regulations.
- j. All coaches shall have copies of the players' registration forms at all team activities.
- k. It is the responsibility of the home coach to provide a suitably marked field which, in the opinion of the referee, complies with the requirements stated in the FIFA and GCSA rules.
- l. Each coach shall sign their Official GCSA Team Roster/Game Form and that of the opposing coach following each game.
- m. Failure of a coach to uphold GCSA Bylaws and Standing Rules and GCSA Competitive League Rules and Regulations shall result in disciplinary action by the Games Committee.

#### D. Rules of Competition

1. Except as provided herein, the FIFA "Laws of the Game" shall apply to all Competitive League competition.
  - a. All players shall be required to have an approved player pass (with current picture affixed and players signature) and to produce their approved pass prior to the start of each game.
  - b. The U11-U12 age divisions shall use a size 4 ball which shall be 25 inches to 26 inches in circumference and shall weigh 11 ounces to 13 ounces.
  - c. Substitutions shall be unlimited and shall be permitted in accordance with GCSA Standing Resolution Section V., B., 2, which shall apply to all age divisions.
  - d. Players equipment
    - i. Competitive teams shall have two contrasting jerseys. Home teams will be responsible for changing jerseys in the event of a conflict.
    - ii. Each player shall carry a unique number, which corresponds with player's name on the Official GCSA Competitive League Roster/Game Form.
    - iii. The provisions of GCSA S.R. Section V., C., shall also apply to the Competitive League.
  - e. Duration of Game
 

All games shall be played in accordance with GCSA S.R. Section V., E.
2. Game Officials
  - a. It shall be the responsibility of the Home Club to assure that a registered referee and assistant referees are provided for Competitive League games. If the proper number of game officials is not provided, the game may be rescheduled at the request of either coach.
  - b. Unless both coaches agree prior to the start of the game, an official may not work a game in which a relative is participating.

- c. The provisions of GCSA S.R. Section V., D., 2., and 3. shall also apply to the Competitive League.

E. Games

1. Official game

An official game shall be determined in accordance with GCSA S.R. Section VI., B.

2. League Formation and Scheduling

- a. The Competitive League Scheduling Committee (Scheduling Committee) shall have responsibility for the formation of all leagues-of-competition, subject to the approval (within 72 hours) of the GCSA Scheduling and Statistics Committee.
- b. All teams in the Competitive League shall be placed in leagues-of-competition by the Scheduling Committee according to ability.

- i. Factors which the Scheduling Committee should consider in determining placement of teams in leagues-of-competition include, but are not limited to, the following (listed in no particular order):

- (a.) last season's record,
- (b.) last year's State Cup results,
- (c.) other tournament results,
- (d.) number of returning players,
- (e.) age mix of team between younger and older players, and
- (f.) coach requests

- ii. Requests by teams to play-up (i.e., be included in a league-of-competition with an older age division) must be submitted in writing, on the approved form, to the Scheduling Committee prior to the date established by the Scheduling Committee each season. It shall be the responsibility of the Scheduling Committee to approve or deny such requests, subject to appeal to the Competitive Commission.

c. The Scheduling Committee shall:

- i. Ensure that all teams are provided with a schedule consisting of not less than six (6) games.
- ii. Form leagues-of-competition with no less than four (4) teams of an approximately equal ability level, whenever possible.
- iii. Make all decisions regarding the approval of requests for closing of leagues-of-competition (i.e. forming a league with all teams from the same Club).
  - (a.) Leagues-of-competition shall be considered "open" unless there is a specific request to "close" a league.
  - (b.) Any request to "close" a league must be submitted in writing to the Scheduling Committee at the time of team registration with GCSA for the Fall season, and at the time of Competitive team check-in for the Spring season. (See GCSA S. R. Section VIII., C., 7 regarding notification of such requests to Competitive League members.)
  - (c.) "Closed" leagues-of-competition are permissible except when the following criteria apply:
    - (i.) There is not the minimum four (4) teams required to form a league, or
    - (ii.) There is a team of an approximately equal ability level that needs a league in which to participate.
- iv. Provide that each team shall play approximately one-half of its games on its home field.
- v. Consider out-of-town travel demands in its leaguings decisions, whenever possible.

- d. League Commissioners shall be appointed by the Commission Scheduler. (See GCSA S.R. Section VI., E.). No League Commissioner shall be either a coach or a parent on a team in that league.
  - e. The Competitive League Scheduling Committee shall use the Official League Scheduling Form.
  - f. One copy of each completed scheduling form shall be submitted to all Commission members, the GCSA Games and Disciplinary Committee, and the GCSA Scheduling and Statistics Committee.
  - g. The GCSA Scheduling and Statistics Committee shall decide the dates for the beginning and ending of each Competitive League season. All games played to determine leagues-of-competition standings shall be played within the allotted time span.
3. Game cancellation, postponement and rescheduling
- a. Games can be only postponed in accordance with the following:
    - i. Both coaches must agree with the postponement.
    - ii. The League Commissioner must be notified by both coaches no later than 72 hours prior to the scheduled game time and the Referee Unit for the Home Club must also be notified by the home coach no later than 72 hours prior to the scheduled game time.
    - iii. A mutually agreed upon reschedule date must be provided to the League Commissioner at the time the postponement is requested.
    - iv. If the coaches cannot agree on the postponement, the League Commissioner shall determine if the request is reasonable. If the League Commissioner determines the request is reasonable, or if the coaches cannot otherwise agree on the time and place of a reschedule, the League Commissioner shall set the time and place for the rescheduled game. Multiple reschedule requests by a team or club should be discouraged.
  - b. If the reason for the requested postponement is participation in a USYSA sanctioned tournament, agreement of the coaches will not be required. However, items ii., iii. in Section a. above must still be adhered to or the postponement will not be granted.
  - c. In the case of inclement weather, a game can be postponed if:
    - i. The Home Club closes its field, or
    - ii. Both coaches agree, prior to arriving at the field, that the game should be postponed. Otherwise, both teams are required to show up at the field. The decision as to whether or not to play the game will then be made by the referee assigned to the game.
    - iii. If a game is postponed due to inclement weather, an agreed upon reschedule date must be provided to the League Commissioner within 7 days. If the coaches are unable to agree upon a reschedule date, it shall be the responsibility of the League Commissioner to set the time and place for the rescheduled game.
  - d. With any postponement, it is the responsibility of the Home team to provide the appropriate notification to the Referee Unit for the Home Club.
  - e. Failure to play a game on the original schedule date or on the agreed upon reschedule date will result in a request for a forfeit being sent to the GCSA Games Committee.
  - f. All postponed games shall be rescheduled through the League Commissioner within seven (7) days and played within seven (7) days following the end of the season.
4. Forfeiture
- The provisions of GCSA S.R. Section VI. G., shall also apply to the Competitive League.
5. Cautions, ejections and discipline
- The provisions of GCSA S.R. Section VI. H. shall also apply to the Competitive League.

6. Disciplinary Point System

The provisions of GCSA S.R. Section VI. I. shall also apply to the Competitive League.

7. Protests

The provisions of GCSA S.R. Section VI. J. shall apply to the Competitive League.

8. Termination

The provisions of GCSA S.R. Section VI. K. shall also apply to the Competitive League.

F. Appeals

The provisions of GCSA S.R. Section VII. shall also apply to the Competitive League.

G. Definitions

1. U10 Player- a player that has turned 9 years old by July 31st of the tryout year and is eligible for U10 soccer.
2. U9 Player- a player that is still eligible for U9 soccer (has not turned 9 yrs old by July 31st of the tryout year)
3. U11 Competitive Team- A team that has been formed following all Country, State, and USYS team formation guidelines.
4. Director of Coaching- A person in charge of overseeing the Competitive Program for a club.
5. Club President- The active President of a club that is in good standing with their Country and State Association.