



NJYS BY-LAWS

I. MEMBERSHIP

The Membership of the NJSYSA shall consist of affiliated leagues and clubs and shall be open to player, coach, trainer, manager, officials and administrators not subject to suspension under Section 4 of USSF Bylaw 241, and to any Amateur Soccer organizations in the State of New Jersey.

DEFINITIONS

Leagues shall be defined as Travel or Recreational.

A. League: A structured group of four (4) or more unrelated teams, joined for the purpose of inter-team play under a common set of administrative and competition rules. The members of a league have the right to elect officers and make changes to their administrative and competition rules.

B. Tournaments: A group of teams joined for the purpose of inter-play by a common set of administrative and competition rules that are determined by the Tournament Organizing Committee.

C. Team: A recognized entity created for the purpose of playing the sport of soccer.

D. Club: An organization, which has an identifiable membership of youth soccer players, on whose behalf the organization conducts or engages in youth soccer activities. Clubs may have teams in travel leagues, recreational leagues and in house programs.

E. Travel League - An Inter-Club League that uses USYSA member passes for purposes of player identification in its competitions.

F. Recreational League - An Inter-Club League that does not qualify as a travel league.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

All members shall abide by the Constitution and By-Laws and the Rules and Regulations of the NJSYSA, the USYSA, and USSF.

All members shall abide by the NJSYSA KidSafe program, as approved by the Board of Directors. This program shall meet the Federation's minimum criteria regarding policies prohibiting sexual and physical abuse.

Ignorance is not a sufficient defense and violators may expect appropriate action by the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.

All players, coaches, teams and administrators will be registered annually with US Soccer Federation. NJSYSA will pay all dues and fees of the Federation on a timely basis.

NJSYSA and its members shall not discriminate against the participation of players or teams on the basis of that player or team's membership in, or affiliation with, another organization. Members are encouraged to allow teams of all other US Soccer members to participate in tournaments sponsored by NJSYSA or any of its members when the teams otherwise comply with the tournament eligibility requirements. A tournament sponsor may charge each team of another US Soccer member an additional fee of not more than \$25 to participate in the tournament.

NJSYSA will allow the US Soccer Federation to review the documents and procedures of NJSYSA on request of the Federation not less than once every 4 years, to determine compliance with Federation bylaws.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of the NJSYSA officers shall take place each year at the Annual General Meeting of the NJSYSA. A simple majority of votes cast shall constitute elected office.

SECTION I. FORMATION OF A NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The President of NJSYSA shall, with the concurrence of the Board of Directors, appoint a Nominating Committee of five (5) members (one from each area and a committee chairman) during the month of March. The committee will be responsible for seeking out and nominating individuals who have expressed an interest in being placed on the ballot to stand for election for one of the statewide offices: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Games Commissioner, Registrar, State Recreation Commissioner, in the current year. The committee will place into nomination without recommendation or consideration all the candidates for each office at the Board of Directors Meeting in May. No nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Annual General Meeting. Any proposed nominations must be received by the Secretary of NJSYSA, in writing, no less than forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary shall distribute copies of said proposed nominations no less than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

SECTION II. CERTIFICATION OF DELEGATES

Delegates to the Annual General Meeting shall be certified to the Secretary of NJSYSA, in writing, on a form provided by NJSYSA, or on the letterhead of the organization they represent. The Certification shall be signed by the President of the organization and may identify a primary delegate and one or more alternate delegates. In the event of more than one alternate delegate, the order of priority shall be specified. The Certificate may be mailed or hand delivered to the Secretary but shall be in the Secretary's possession prior to the completion of the Roll Call and Certification of Delegates at the Annual General Meeting. Not having the Certificate in the Secretary's possession at the conclusion of Roll Call shall result in the delegate and alternates not being permitted to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

SECTION III. TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, State Registrar, Games Commissioner, State Recreational Commissioner and Area Recreation Commissioners shall be for two (2) years.

SECTION IV. STATEWIDE OFFICERS

The positions of President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and State Registrar, will be elected in even years and the First Vice President, Recreation Commissioner, Treasurer and Games Commissioner will be elected in odd years in the following manner:

- A. Each Travel League, through its delegate, shall vote for the above listed officers in accordance with the proportional voting system as set forth in Section VI below.
- B. Each Recreational Area Commissioner, on behalf of the affiliated Recreational Leagues and Clubs in the representative's area, shall have one (1) vote for each of the above listed officers.

SECTION V. TRAVEL AREA COMMISSIONER

The Travel Leagues whose main mailing addresses are within the geographical area which is designated by the Board of Directors as of September 1st, shall vote for their own Travel Area Commissioner in accordance with the Proportional Voting system, as set forth in Section VII below.

SECTION VI. RECREATIONAL AREA COMMISSIONER

A. Recreational Clubs whose main mailing addresses are within that geographical area which is designated by the Board of Directors as of September 1st, shall vote for their own Recreational Area Commissioner in accordance with the Proportional Voting system as set forth in Section VII below. Each recreation club shall have a minimum of one vote.

B. Proxy ballots shall be allowed for Recreational Area Commissioner selections. The State Registrar shall mail to the Recreational Clubs a form The form will be included with the mailing of the Annual General Meeting Notice. The form must be signed by a Club official and must be received prior to the start of the Annual General Meeting. Any Recreational Club may cast its vote(s) in person, if desired, and may revoke, prior to the election, any proxy previously submitted to the NJYS Office.

SECTION VII. PROPORTIONAL VOTING SYSTEM

The Proportional Voting System shall determine the number of votes to which each voting member is entitled, based on the number of players properly registered with New Jersey Youth Soccer.

Number of Players	Number of Votes
120-1050 registered players	1
1051-2250 registered players	2
2251-3525 registered players	3
3526-5025 registered players	4
5026 and above	5

Any league that does not have and maintain sufficient members in two (2) successive Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be declared an inactive league and must reapply for membership.

SECTION VIII. MULTIPLE OFFICES

Statewide Officers may not hold more than one statewide office at a time. If elected or appointed to a second office, the officer must vacate one or the other office effective immediately.

IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A. PRESIDENT

The duties of the President shall be:

1. To serve as the Chief Executive Officer, with the responsibility for overall operation of the NJSYSA
2. To conduct all meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Board of Directors, having only one (1) vote in each body, to be used only in the event of a tied vote.
3. To delegate authority, assign specific functions, create special committees, and take similar action in consultation with the Executive Committee.
4. To make permanent appointments to standing committees with the approval of the Board of Directors and interim appointments with the approval of the Executive Committee.

5. To represent the NJSYSA, in State regional and national matters.
6. To authorize expenditures not in excess of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) without action by the Executive Committee.
7. To co-sign all checks issued by the NJSYSA
8. To prepare an Annual Report for the State of the NJSYSA for presentation at the Annual General Meeting.
9. To prepare the Agenda for all Board of Directors and Executive Committee
10. To appoint the State Director(s) of Coaching and State Coaches to be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
11. To appoint the New Jersey State Youth Referee Administrator with the advice and consent of the New Jersey State Referee Administrator.
12. To provide to the Secretary General of the Federation an annual report on the activities of NJSYSA and most current annual financial statements within 90 days after the start of the Federation's seasonal year.

B. FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

The duties of the First Vice President shall be:

1. To serve as second in command to the NJSYSA in the absence of the President, performing administrative duties including, but not limited to, conducting meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.
2. To appoint with the advise and consent of the Executive Committee, an ODP Committee of no less than four (4) members and no more than seven (7) members and to serve as Chairman of the said Committee. The Director of Coaching will be vice chairman of the committee.
3. To perform such other duties as may be delegated by the President.

C. SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

The duties of the Second Vice President shall be:

1. To serve as the third in command to the NJSYSA in the absence of both the President and the First Vice President with duties set forth in Section 2(a) above.
2. To oversee approval of teams traveling outside of the State.
3. To oversee approval of tournament applications of NJSYSA clubs, teams or leagues.
4. To perform such other duties as maybe delegated by the President.

D. STATE RECREATIONAL COMMISSIONER

The duties of the State Recreational Commissioner shall be:

1. To serve as the liaison on the Executive Committee for the Recreational Area Commissioners.

2. To be responsible for coordinating the work of the Recreational Area Commissioners.
3. To perform such other duties as maybe delegated by the President.

E. SECRETARY

The duties of the Secretary shall be:

1. To maintain accurate and detailed records of all Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings, and to mail the minutes of those meetings to all members of the respective bodies within ten (10) days following the meetings.
2. To prepare and distribute to all members of the Board of Directors an up-to-date Directory of names, addresses and telephone numbers of NJSYSA officers, committee Chairmen and affiliated League officials.
3. To maintain files of all internal and external correspondence, minutes of meetings and other Association records.
4. To annually submit to the US Soccer Federation
 - a. Copies of the NJSYSA Constitution, Bylaws, and rules sent to each member club and league each year.
 - b. Submit changes to those documents to the Federation for approval not later than 90 days after adoption.
5. To forward a copy of the NJSYSA Constitution, bylaws, and rules to each member club and league each year.

F. TREASURER

The duties of the Treasurer shall be:

1. To oversee the financial receipts of the NJYS under the direction of the Board of Directors. He/She shall ensure that funds collected are deposited in the name of NJYS and shall oversee disbursements for those purposes authorized by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall oversee the investments of NJYS funds in securities and other savings accounts as approved by the Board of Directors.
2. To pay all accounts due by check which shall bear two (2) authorized signatures, one of which shall be the Treasurer's.
3. To oversee that proper books of account are kept and to ensure that they are available for review by the Board of Directors and to render to the officers and the Board of Directors a report of all activities as Treasurer.
4. To submit, as soon as practicable after the end of each fiscal year, to the Board of Directors a statement of the financial condition of the NJYS certified by an independent accountant if required by the Board of Directors consisting of a balance sheet and related statements of income and expenses, and of the status of, or changes in, all funds for the preceding year.
5. The treasurer shall be the Chairperson of the Finance/Budget Committee.
6. The Board of Directors may require the Treasurer to be bonded in such amount and with such surety or sureties as the Board of Directors shall determine and to be paid by the NJYS.

7. The Treasurer shall perform all duties generally incident to the office and as may from time to time be assigned by the Board of Directors and President.

G. STATE REGISTRAR

The duties of the State Registrar shall be:

1. To keep a complete record of all teams and players for the purpose of player registration, team, club and league affiliation and insurance records.
2. To make known to each league, forty-five(45) days prior to the annual election, the number of affiliated teams registered with the NJSYSA by that League and the corresponding number of votes in accordance with the Proportional Voting system, as set forth in Section VI above.
3. To oversee the work of the District Commissioners to ensure that forms and other paperwork is submitted in a timely manner.

H. GAMES COMMISSIONER

The duties of the Games Commissioner shall be:

1. To appoint, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, a Cup Committee of no less than four (4) members and to serve as Chairperson of said Committee, which committee shall be in charge of the New Jersey State Cup and such other competitions as directed by the Board of Directors.
2. To develop, in consultation with the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, rules governing competitions, schedules for, and communications relative to:
 - a. the National Cup competitions;
 - b. Regional Cup competitions;
 - c. Singular competitions involving NJSYSA.
3. To coordinate with the Regional and National Cup Tournament Committees. Such rules shall be in keeping with and consistent with the rules promulgated by FIFA, USSF, and Region 1 of USYSA.

I. TRAVEL AREA COMMISSIONER

There shall be one (1) Travel Area Commissioner for each area of the State.

The duties of the Travel Area Commissioner shall be:

1. To president any meetings of the Area organization.
2. To represent the NJSYSA to the Traveling Leagues and affiliated clubs in their area, and, in turn, convey the views, complaints, suggestions and other communications from their area to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

J. RECREATIONAL AREA COMMISSIONER

There shall be one (1) Recreational Area Commissioner for each area.

The duties of the Recreational Area Commissioner shall be:

1. To represent the NJSYSA to the Recreational Leagues and Clubs in their area and, in turn, convey the views, complaints, suggestions and other communications from their area to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.
2. To keep are cord of Leagues and Clubs in the Commissioner's area and encourage all recreational programs to properly affiliate.

K. STATE YOUTH REFEREE ADMINISTRATOR

The duties of the State Youth Referee Administrator shall be:

1. To represent the State Referee Administrator to the NJSYSA and, in turn, convey the views, complaints, suggestions and other communications regarding referees from the NJSYSA to the SRA.
2. To serve as an active member of the State Referee Committee.
3. To serve as a Referee Administrator of the State Referee Assignors.

V. VACANCIES

Whenever a Statewide position is left vacant, the Board of Directors shall have the power to appoint an individual to that position by a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors, providing there is a quorum present. Area officers will be appointed by the constituency of that area.

Individuals appointed to a position by the Board will serve for the unexpired portion of that position's term, not to exceed one year. If the unexpired remaining term exceeds one year, the position will be filled by appointment by the Board until the next scheduled regular election. The officer chosen by that election will serve the second year of the term, and regular elections will then continue as provided in Article III, Section IV.

VI. AREA ORGANIZATION

The Board of Directors shall create areas within the State. Travel and Recreation Area Commissioners shall serve as NJSYSA representatives within the areas. Each area shall meet at least annually, whenever the Area Commissioner deems a meeting necessary or whenever the Area Commissioner is instructed to call a meeting by one third (1/3) of the Leagues in the Area. The Board of Directors may create subdivisions within the State Areas called districts.

A. Appointment of District Commissioners

1. A District Commissioner shall be appointed by the Board of Directors with the advice of the Travel Leagues operating in that District.
2. The term of office for each District Commissioner shall expire at the first Board of Directors Meeting following the Annual General Meeting. There is no limit to the number of times a District Commissioner may be reappointed.

B. The duties of District Commissioners shall be

1. To verify player and coach registration information as specified by the State Registrar.
2. To assist in the approval of all travel and recreation related membership passes as specified by the State Registrar.

VII. TRAVEL LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE

A Travel League Representative shall be an individual who is designated by his or her own Travel League.

Each Travel League Representative shall have one (1) vote on the Board of Directors. Only the Travel League's Representative or the League's designated Alternate may cast a vote at the Board of Directors meetings. Each League shall annually provide, on its own stationery, the name of its representative and the designated alternate.

VIII. INSURANCE

A. All officers and administrators of the NJSYSA and its affiliates shall be covered against personal liability claims.

B. NJSYSA will cover all players and teams with liability and medical coverage. Coverage shall coincide with the seasonal year.

IX. SEASONAL YEAR

The seasonal year shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31st of the following year.

X. FISCAL YEAR

1. The fiscal year shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31st of the following year.

2. The Board of Directors shall adopt and the state office conform to a Fiscal Policy presented with the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

3. All checks issued by NJYSA must be signed by two (2) authorized signatures.

4. Subject to amendment by the Board of Directions, the following positions are authorized to sign checks on behalf of NJYSA: (1) the President; (2) the First Vice President; (3) the Treasurer; (4) the Executive Director, subject to any limitations in the Bylaws, Fiscal Policy or as authorized by the Board of Directors.

XI. FEES

The Board of Directors shall specify annually the procedures, rules and fees required for affiliating teams, clubs and leagues during the coming seasonal year.

XII. AUDIT

A formal audit of the books and accounts of the NJSYSA shall be conducted annually by an independent auditor. Reports shall be made to the Board of Directors ninety (90) days after the close of the fiscal year.

XIII. RULES OF PLAY

The Rules of Play of the NJSYSA shall be the "Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA and the USSF, and as modified for youth play by the USYSA.

A. All contests conducted, sanctioned, or approved by the NJSYSA shall abide by the Rules of Play.

League Sanctioned Games: Matches conducted by affiliated Travel Leagues and Recreational Leagues may be permitted to use special modifications to the Rules of Play to accommodate local needs and circumstances.

XIV. NEW AFFILIATION

New leagues are affiliated by written request to the NJSYSA and by vote of the Board of Directors. Information including the League's Directory, Constitution, By-Laws and history shall be filed at the State's office.

XV. TRAVEL LEAGUE REGISTRATION AND ROSTERING

- A. All players and coaches shall register for a period coinciding with the seasonal year.
- B. All players and coaches playing in affiliated and traveling leagues shall be rostered as a team by USYSA player passes, NJYSA coaches' passes and NJYSA roster forms.
- C. Any player rostered to a team is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless the player requests a transfer and is released as specified in Section XXI of these Bylaws.
- D. No player shall enter the field unless that player is in possession of a validated USYSA player pass.
- E. No individual may act in the capacity of a team coach or manager unless that person is in possession of a validated NJYSA coach's pass.
- F. Officials of opposing teams have the right to inspect passes or credentials.

XVI. TRAVEL LEAGUE PROCEDURES

Each player or coach is required to submit a properly completed USYSA player pass or NJSYSA coach's pass with the required number of pictures to the players' team or club.

Each player is required to provide proof of age, which shall consist of copy of their birth certificate, a Board of Health record, passport, an alien registration card issued by the United States Government, a Certificate of Naturalization issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, or, Form DD 1173.

Each club shall be required to submit to their District Commissioner, in addition to the completed passes, various forms for each of their member teams as may be required by the NJSYSA, and shall pay all dues, fees and fines (if any), that may be levied by the NJSYSA or their League.

Each District Commissioner is responsible for proper registration of the players and coaches, including verification of players' ages and is also responsible for forwarding the designated copies of the various registration material to the appropriate league and NJSYSA officials.

Each travel league shall be responsible for proper accounting of all registration fees collected from the teams on behalf of the NJSYSA, for forwarding said fees to the NJSYSA Treasurer, and for accurate reporting to the District Commissioner and the Travel Area Commissioner.

XVII. RECREATIONAL CLUB REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Each Recreational Club shall submit a list of all registered coaches and players, together with their addresses, date of birth and sex, and the required dues, fees and fines (if any), to the NJYS Office.

XVIII. PLAYER TRANSFER, RELEASE AND ROSTER LIMITS

- A. Any player rostered to a team is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless the player is released or transferred.
- B. A player may be released from a traveling team if:
 - 1. The player has violated rules of USSF, USYSA, or NJSYSA.

2. The player moves to a new address, the distance of which in the opinion of the Executive Committee would make it impractical for the player to continue with the player's original team.
3. The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the seasonal year.
4. If a player requests, in writing, to be released subject to the conditions of paragraph D below.

C. A transfer means the movement of a currently or previously rostered player onto another roster, or a player who is returning to the same roster within the current seasonal year.

D. A player who is transferring to or from a travel team must make application to NJSYSA using the appropriate form. If the player is already a travel player, the old USYSA player pass shall accompany the application. The application shall be submitted to the appropriate District Commissioner who shall process the roster change and issue a new USYSA player pass. A transferring player shall:

1. Obtain the signature of an authorized official of the player's current team or club on the specified document
2. If any player obtains a release to play for a different team during the seasonal year, that player shall not be eligible to play in the next three (3) travel league games following the rostering to a new team in a different club unless waived by the administering league Board of Directors or meets the following exceptions. Revised 6/2013

The exceptions to this subsection are:

1. A player who moves to a new team within the same club
2. A player who changes his or her official residence by a distance of 35 or more miles as computed by a NJYS approved mapping service. A player who claims an exception because of moving must provide satisfactory proof of both the old and the new address. This transfer must be processed by the NJYS office.
3. A U10 or younger player playing on a small sided team.
4. An exception granted by the Board of Directors of the League in which the player was originally rostered and:
 - desires to transfer between seasons **and**
 - between clubs within the League **and**
 - because there is no other age appropriate team within the player's current club to continue playing.

All other provisions of player movement in these bylaws must be met

5. An exception granted by the Board of Directors of the League in which the player is rostered. This exception maybe granted by the League Board of Directors only in cases where a player or player's parent submits a written complaint to the league against a coach, trainer, team or club involving the physical and/or mental well-being of the player. The League Board of Directors shall review the complaint and determine the validity of the charges or assertions. The League Board of Directors may rule accordingly on the request to transfer without penalty to another club within the league. The League Board of Directors may dismiss the complaint without action. All other provisions of player movement in these bylaws must be met.

E. Roster Limits for Travel Teams

1. No team shall have more than 22 players rostered at one time. Revised 6/2013

2. There are no transfer limitations on the number of players that may transfer during a seasonal year except as determined by the administering League.

3. No team shall have more than a total of 28 players rostered during a seasonal year including transfers.

4. A team may not disband and reform itself during a seasonal year to evade the roster limits. A new team that attempts to roster 11 or more players previously rostered with the same disbanded team shall be considered to be in violation of this article.

F. Movement of a rostered recreational level player to a travel team roster shall not be considered one of the three authorized transfers.

G. Hardship - A team may be formed for league play only from one (1) or more disbanded teams with a hardship exemption that is granted by the Travel Area Commissioner and the appropriate travel league. Hardship teams formed from players of the same club will be allowed to participate in tournaments in their own area.

XIX. MULTIPLE ROSTER

A player may roster with additional teams in accordance with the rules set by the Board of Directors.

XX. POACHING

Poaching is an action by a team or club to induce or attempt to induce a rostered player of any other team to leave the player's present team and play for the team or club during the current seasonal year. Poaching does not apply to inducing players to play for a team in the following seasonal year. All claims of poaching will be heard by the NJSYSA Appeals Committee. Penalties for poaching may include suspension up to one year and a fine up to \$500.

XXI. AGE LIMITATION DEFINITION

A. The term "youth" as it applies to the Constitution and By-Laws of the NJSYSA shall mean an amateur player who has not attained their 19th birthday before the first day of January of the spring seasonal year in which the player applies for registration. As directed by US Soccer, the U19 age group is expanded to include players who have not attained their 20th birthday before August 1st of the prior year.

Proper Age Groups

1. All Travel Teams shall develop play among teams of equal age grouping as follows:

Division I	Under 19 years of age
Division II	Under 16 years of age
Division III	Under 14 years of age
Division IV	Under 12 years of age
Division V	Under 10 years of age
Division VI	Under 8 years of age

2. Recreational Leagues may use any age groupings to accommodate local needs except when hosting tournaments.

B. Age Limit

Players attaining the limiting age for any age group on or after January 1st of the spring seasonal year shall be eligible to play in that age group for the remainder of the seasonal year. As directed by US Soccer, the U19 age group is expanded to include players who have not attained their 20th birthday before August 1 of the prior year.

C. Senior Games.

A youth player will be permitted to play in an unlimited number of senior games without losing the players youth eligibility. The player must obtain written permission from the player's youth coach or other authorized club official. The youth coach or other authorized club official must request eligibility clearance from both the NJSYSA and New Jersey State Soccer Association (NJSSA) using the approved NJSSA form. When the clearance and permission has been granted by both Associations, NJSSA has the sole discretion in permitting the youth player to play senior games and shall be responsible for establishing the necessary procedure under which this will be implemented.

Any violation of this Rule by a senior team shall be communicated to the Secretary of the NJSSA and to the USSF.

XXII. CUP GAMES, REGIONAL GAMES AND STATE SELECT TEAM GAMES

A. The authority for approval and/or operational control of these competitions, when played or sponsored by an affiliated team(s) shall be vested with the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the NJSYSA. Approved games of this type shall take precedence over all League games.

B. The entrance fee and procedure shall be established and/or approved by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. All fees and properly completed forms shall be submitted to the Games Commissioner on or before the due date in the manner specified.

C. All games covered by this section shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Play of the NJSYSA.

D. The length of games, ball size and length of overtime (in Cup and Tournament Competition only) for these games shall be as required by the Rules of the USYSA.

Age	Length of Games	Ball	Length of Overtime
Division I	2- 45 min halves	No. 5	2- 15 min halves
Division II	2- 40 min halves	No. 5	2- 15 min halves
Division III	2- 35 min halves	No. 5	2- 10 min halves
Division IV	2- 30 min halves	No. 4	2- 10 min halves
Division V	2-25 min halves	No. 4	2- 10 min halves
Division VI	2- 20 min halves	No. 3	2- 5 min halves

Authorized Team (such as the State Select Team) members must be selected from players who are residents of the State of New Jersey at the time they try out for such teams and, if not affiliated, must become affiliated when selected for such team s.

XXIII. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

A. Appeals and Discipline Committee: The President, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors shall appoint a Chair person and committee for the purpose of hearing appeals and reviewing misconduct. This committee shall be the highest level of appeal and discipline within NJSYSA. Committee meetings shall have a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of seven (7) members in attendance at each meeting and each hearing will have a minimum of three (3) voting members.

B. The purpose of this Committee shall be:

1. To guarantee the rights of individuals to participate and compete.

2. To conduct discipline hearings of State Level actions of players, coaches, administrators, teams and clubs. This includes, but is not limited to assaults/abuse of referees, matters of registration, and all intra-state matters.

3. Hearing appeals from any person, team, club or league of decisions of leagues and Area Travel Commissioners subject to the following:

a. Players, teams or clubs must first appeal all league issues to the League. League issues are those for which the league has original jurisdiction such as league discipline. They may appeal any adverse decision to the Area Travel Commissioner and thereafter to the Appeals and Discipline Committee.

b. Non-league issues, i.e. club issues, must first be appealed to the Area Travel Commissioner (Travel or Recreational as appropriate) and thereafter may appeal any adverse decision to the Appeals and Discipline Committee.

4. Time Limits. An appeal must be delivered to the next level in the line of authority within two (2) weeks of receiving a decision being appealed.

5. All grievances and appeals involving the right to participate and compete in activities sponsored by the Federation and New Jersey Youth Soccer and its members maybe appealed to the US Soccer Federation's Appeals Committee that shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify or reverse a decision.

6. Appeal beyond the NJSYSA is to US Soccer Federation Appeals Committee that shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify or reverse a decision.

7. Each appeal to the Appeals Committee shall be accompanied by a fee to be set annually by the Executive Committee.

C. All referee assaults shall be acted upon by the Appeals and Discipline Committee which shall have exclusive jurisdiction in accordance with USSF guidelines. In accordance with said guidelines, all players and coaches charged with referee assault shall be suspended until a hearing before the Appeals and Discipline Committee which shall be within thirty (30) days of the date of the alleged offense. The Appeals and Discipline Committee shall have exclusive jurisdiction in all matters concerning referee assaults alleged to have been committed by a spectator.

XXIV. LEGAL ACTION

No official, league, club, team, referee or player may invoke the aid of the courts of any State or of the United States, without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organization set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws of the NJSYSA, the USYSA and USSF.

- A. For violation of this rule, the offending parties shall be subject to the sanctions of suspension and fines, and shall be liable to the NJSYSA and/or USYSA for all expenses incurred by either organization, or their affiliates, and their officers in defending each court action including but not limited to the following:
1. court costs;
 2. attorneys' fees;
 3. reasonable compensation for time spent by NJSYSA or USYSA officers and employees in responding to and defending against the allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances;
 4. travel expenses; expenses for holding special NJSYSA Executive Board meetings or National Youth Council meetings to discuss the court action.
- B. No official, league, club, team, referee, State officer, coach, player or there presentative may be returned to good standing until litigation has ended and all costs, fines, fees and expenses are paid, unless return to good standing is decided by the NJSYSA Board of Directors.

XXV. DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY

The NJSYSA shall conduct its business with due respect for the spirit of the game and for the benefit of the players. In accordance therewith the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall have the right and authority to suspend, bar completely or otherwise discipline any player, coach, manager, team assistant, team or officer of any affiliated team, club, traveling league, or recreational league or State official, for due cause.

- A. A request for disciplinary action referred to the NJSYSA by another affiliated State, provincial or national association shall be handled by the Appeals and Conduct Committee.
- B. A request for disciplinary action involving the assault of a referee shall be handled by the Appeals and Conduct Committee.
- C. Discipline of league officers for administrative issues shall be handled by the Board of Directors.
- D. Discipline of State officers for administrative issues shall be handled by the Board of Directors.
- E. Discipline of member Clubs for administrative issues shall be handled by the Executive Board.

XXVI. SUSPENSION BECAUSE OF LITIGATION

1. Any person participating in a NJSYSA program or a program of a member organization, who becomes a defendant in litigation detrimental to the welfare of youth players or litigation based on activities detrimental to the welfare of youth players, shall be suspended from all soccer-related activities. Suspensions under this bylaw shall be determined by the President of NJSYSA. Matters detrimental to the welfare of youth players shall include crimes of moral turpitude and felonies. The person has a right to appeal the suspension only over whether the matter, which is the substance of the accusation, if true, is detrimental to the welfare of youth players.
2. On completion of the litigation, the suspended person may notify NJSYSA that the litigation has been completed and request that the suspension be terminated and the person reinstated. NJSYSA may grant their quest of the person or, if the decision of the litigation was adverse to the person, may continue the suspension for a period specified by the suspending body, fine the person, terminate all membership of that person, or any combination of those authorized penalties.

XXVII. REMOVAL OF STATE OFFICERS

Any State Officer may be removed for cause by the Board of Directors in the following manner:

- A. Travel Area Commissioners may be removed for cause by the travel leagues in their area.
- B. Recreational Area Commissioners may be removed for cause by their creation clubs in their area.
- C. Other officers may be removed for cause on their commendation of the Executive Committee.
- D. Said officer and all members of the Board of Directors are notified no less than ten (10) days before the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting that a recommendation in the form of a motion will be presented on behalf of the Executive Committee seeking to have that officer removed.
- E. That upon the motion being moved and duly seconded, the officer shall be afforded the opportunity to appear and present evidence and/or testimony before the Board of Directors.
- F. That upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting Members present at the Meeting, providing there is a quorum present, officer is so removed.

XXVIII. ALL CHANGES IN BY-LAWS

All proposed amendments to the bylaws shall be submitted to the Board of Directors at least thirty (30) days prior to the next scheduled Board meeting. All proposed bylaws must be considered and voted on at that next scheduled Board meeting. The bylaws may be amended, repealed, or added to, or new bylaws may be adopted by the vote of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the members in attendance as long as a quorum is present.

The approval of any proposed amendment to the By-Laws shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the votes cast.

Any changes in By-Laws approved at this meeting shall become effective upon the Conclusion of the meeting on that amendment.

SECTION XXIX. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors shall be conducted according to the form prescribed in Robert's Rules of Order, unless otherwise provided.

SECTION XXX. QUORUM

A quorum is present if at least a majority of members are present.

As amended on December 14, 2018