



OHIO SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.
POLICY ON PLAYERS AND PLAYING RULES

(Final)

Policy on Players and Playing Rules

PART I - GENERAL

Rule 101: ESTABLISHMENT

Section 1. The following policies are standing rules and requirements of OSA. OSA is a member of the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc. ("USYSA") which is a member of the United States Soccer Federation ("Federation"). The Federation is the national association member of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee ("USOPC") and FIFA, the international governing body for soccer.

Section 2. In the event of a conflict between the policies of OSA and the bylaws, policies, and requirements of the Federation or USYSA, the bylaws, policies, and requirements of the Federation govern with priority and followed by the bylaws, policies, and requirements of USYSA.

Rule 102: AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Section 1. The policies and rules of OSA as established and as amended may be altered, repealed or new policies and rules may be adopted by a majority of the Board of Directors ("Board").

Section 2. The authority to establish policies, rules, and procedures by OSA, for its members, to ensure compliance with all requirements for membership shall be herein established.

Section 3. The policies, rules, and procedures of OSA shall take precedence over the rules and procedures of members when there is conflict or in the absence of such rules.

Section 4. Compliance with the Zero Tolerance Policy Against Abuse incorporated herein by reference, is the responsibility of all members.

Rule 103: DEFINITIONS

Section 1. The following definitions apply to this policy:

- A. **"add"** means the addition of a player to a team's roster.
- B. **"Board"** means the Board of Directors of OSA.
- C. **"eligibility to play"** means registered, not under suspension, and considered in "good standing".
- D. **"Full Member"** means a member as defined in the Code of Regulations of OSA. A member may coordinate activities that are recreational, competitive, or both.
- E. **"game roster"** means the list of players who will participate in a particular competition.
- F. **"involuntary release"** means the removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of team authorities
- G. **"registration"** means the execution of an intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of fees to become a member of OSA.
- H. **"rostering"** means assignment of a registered player to a team.

- 49 I. **“suspension”** means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privilege, such as the
50 right to play, coach, or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in
51 soccer, and the suspension is for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and
52 privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending
53 authority.
54 J. **“team roster”** means a list of registered players eligible to play for a team.
55 K. **“voluntary release”** means the removal of a player from a team’s roster at the
56 request of the player.
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58 **Section 2.** The following definitions also apply to this policy:

- 59 A. **“club”** means is defined to mean a collection of two or more teams that have two or
60 more of the following attributes:
61 1. are known by a similar set of team names.
62 2. usually play within a geographic region.
63 3. use a common set of similar uniforms.
64 4. are organized under a common board of directors; and
65 5. have a common set of coaches and trainers.
66 B. **“competitive”** means a member that selects players through a tryout or registration
67 process. Players may be evaluated by coaches and extended or not extended an
68 offer to participate on a team.
69 C. **“district”** means a geographical subdivision of OSA, as defined by the OSA Code of
70 Regulations.
71 D. **“guest player”** means a registered player participating in a competition for a team to
72 which the player is not rostered for purposes of league play.
73 E. **“interclub transfer”** means the removal of a player from a team’s roster at the
74 request of the player and the contemporaneous addition of the player to the roster of
75 another team
76 F. **“intraclub transfer”** means the removal of a player from a team’s roster at the
77 request of the player and the contemporaneous addition of the player to the roster of
78 another team from the same club.
79 G. **“league”** means:
80 1. a structured group of 4 or more teams joined for the purpose of
81 competition under a common set of administrative and competition rules;
82 and
83 2. is differentiated from another league by the rules that govern the rostering
84 of players to each league’s teams, and the different terms used to describe
85 each league do not necessarily reflect the level of ability or talent of teams
86 participating in the league.
87 H. **“league team”** means a team that participates in regularly scheduled league play.
88 I. **“player”** means a youth player registered in accordance with USYSA and OSA rules.
89 J. **“recreational”** means a member that assigns players to teams.
90 K. **“tournament team”** means a team that includes guest players and is put together
91 for the sole purpose of playing in a tournament or other approved non-league
92 competition.
93 L. **“transfer”** means the removal of a player from a team’s roster on the request of the
94 player, and the contemporaneous addition of the player to the roster of another
95 team.
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97 **Rule 104: FULL MEMBER'S ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICIES, RULES, AND PROCEDURES**

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99 **Section 1.** Full Members may enact policies, rules, and procedures more stringent than those
100 included herein, but in no case may those policies, rules, and regulations be less stringent.
101 However, no member organization may limit those privileges granted to players by the
102 Federation, USYSA, or OSA.

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104 **Section 2.** A Full Member may permit variances of this policy in the best interest of
105 developing the sport within its jurisdiction. Those variances do not apply to any OSA
106 activities, interstate requirements, or the state level of USYSA National Championship,
107 National Presidents Cup, or Regional or National League competitions.

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109 **Section 3.** Full Members are encouraged to solve matters of development and operational
110 issues in the best interest of its participants.

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112 **Rule 105: GAME PLAY WITH NON-MEMBERS AND EXTRA TERRITORIAL AFFILIATIONS**

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114 **Section 1.** Any member team or member, which plays games or otherwise does business
115 with an organization not affiliated with the Federation or USYSA shall face disciplinary
116 action up to and including suspension as determined by the Board.

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118 **Section 2.** Teams near the territorial limits of OSA may, if the OSA consents, become a
119 member of the other recognized State Associations. A team may not change member
120 organizations without the written agreement of both member organizations and the
121 approval of OSA.

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123 **Rule 106: MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

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125 Any matters not provided for in these policies and rules shall be determined, in its sole
126 discretion, by the OSA staff.

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128 **PART II – PLAYER, COACH, AND TEAM REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION**

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130 **Rule 201: RECOGNITION AND AUTHORITY**

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132 By reference, all definitions included in the USYSA Policies on Players and Playing Rules, Rule 101.
133 Sections (1) and (2) apply.

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135 **Rule 202. PLAYER REGISTRATION**

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137 **Section 1.** A competitive or recreational player is obligated to their team for the seasonal year
138 and are rostered to a team until the end of the current seasonal year unless otherwise
139 provided.

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141 **Section 2.** Registration Procedure.

- 142 A. Registration of players and coaches is required for any OSA sanctioned or sponsored
143 events. All registered players and coaches must comply with applicable rules, policies,
144 and procedures to be eligible to compete.

- 145 B. Members shall register all players, coaches, and team and club officials prior to any
146 participation in the game of soccer, including but not limited to, practice, scrimmages,
147 and all competitions in which the player or coach participates except for properly
148 announced tryouts. The registration requirement shall in no way be construed as an
149 extension to or a waiver of the submission deadlines as required by the rules of specific
150 competitions.
151 C. Registration fees must be submitted in a timely fashion according to OSA rules.
152 Payments must be submitted within fifteen (15) days from receiving the invoice from
153 OSA.
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155 **Section 3.** Proof of registration in the form of a player pass recognized by OSA or an official
156 OSA generated roster shall be required for any OSA sanctioned out of region play, tournament,
157 or Cup play including all non-league games.
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159 **Section 4.** Players or teams who participate with unregistered players or engage in
160 unsanctioned play shall have no benefits of membership with OSA including, but not limited to,
161 risk management, disciplinary or insurance protection while playing with unregistered players
162 or in unsanctioned play.
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164 **Section 5.** OSA applies Federation Policy 601-6 and the USYSA Policies on Players and Playing
165 Rules, Rule 207 regarding foreign and out-of- state players.
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167 **Section 6.** Specific procedures may be revised, published as necessary, and shall be
168 communicated to members as appropriate.
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170 **Section 7.** OSA may permit variances to these requirements as provided by USYSA Policy on
171 Players and Playing Rules, Rule 105 specifically as it applies to players with special needs.
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173 **Rule 203: FEES AND FINES**

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175 **Section 1.** The Board shall establish the Annual Member Fee and the due date for this fee.
176 The Board may assess or approve fines in specific disciplinary actions.
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178 **Section 2.** Fees, other than the Annual Member Fee, shall be established, scheduled, and
179 disseminated by OSA to provide sufficient income to support its programs and services to
180 players, coaches, and to support the administration of OSA. Fines and penalties may also be
181 levied.
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183 **Section 3.** The Annual Member Fee is required for every player and coach that registers to
184 participate in any OSA sanctioned event or competition.
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186 **Section 4.** Members will complete and submit the online OSA invoice forms for all monies
187 submitted to OSA. All financial instruments shall be made payable to OSA and submitted as
188 directed by OSA.

- 189 A. All fees, including those for registration, must be submitted via the OSA online
190 system within fifteen (15) days of the start of organization competition.
191 B. Cities and municipalities must present payment within 30 days after presentation to
192 the required city officials (any delay must be noted to OSA). These mailings will

193 include an itemized accounting of player registrations by playing level using the
194 Invoice form within the OSA Online Registration System.
195 C. Members, by or through a registrar or other designated official, shall generate an
196 invoice for any fees accumulated and submit appropriate fees to OSA.
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198 **Rule 204: ROSTERING**

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200 **Section 1.** All players must be rostered to a team in order to compete in OSA sanctioned
201 activities. Any player participating in any competition shall be considered immediately
202 rostered to that team.
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204 **Section 2.** A player is rostered to a team when the rostering process is completed or as defined
205 by OSA. All matters of dispute shall be governed by the team roster. A copy of the team roster
206 is valid for all events requiring a roster.
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208 **Section 3.** OSA sanctioned competitions (league play and tournaments) may adopt rules to
209 allow the use of guest players consistent with OSA guidelines.
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211 **Section 4.** Leagues and tournaments may create event rosters, or game day rosters, for
212 internal use allowing properly registered players to participate within their rules of
213 competition without changing the team roster.
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215 **Section 5.** Event rosters and or game-day rosters must list the player's full name, UUID No.
216 number, rostered team, date of birth. Prior to the use of these rosters for interclub games,
217 leagues, and tournaments, the member must have on file the team's official roster with
218 appropriate guest player forms, as verification of players' credentials and that guest players
219 have proper permission to participate.
220

221 **Section 6.** Multiple rostering is not permitted; however, a player may be rostered as a guest
222 player to other teams during a seasonal year with the applicable conditions:

- 223 A. A player is subject to eligibility rules and requirements for all USYSA competitions.
- 224 B. The team roster on which the player is officially rostered takes precedence in all issues
225 or conflicts.

226
227 **Section 7.** Event rosters for all competitions shall be the official roster for that event unless
228 otherwise specified.
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230 **Section 8.** Simultaneous rostering for OSA sanctioned competitions is not permitted.
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232 **Rule 205: ELIGIBILITY, TRANSFERS, AND RELEASES**

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234 **Section 1.** Player eligibility to compete shall be determined as follows:

- 235 A. Registration with OSA has been completed, is accurate, and compliant.
- 236 B. Proper birth documentation has been verified.
- 237 C. Player is properly rostered (as per the rules of OSA or the competition) to the team with
238 which they intend to compete.
- 239 D. Remains on team, or with the member, to which they are registered and rostered for
240 the seasonal year unless properly released or transferred.
- 241 E. Complies with all requirements of Ohio law and any other stipulation that may apply

242 including those of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

243
244 **Section 2.** Team eligibility to compete is determined as follows:

- 245 A. All players properly registered with OSA.
246 B. All players are properly rostered to the team as may be defined by the rules of
247 competition.
248 C. Coaches are properly registered with OSA and rostered to the team as may be defined
249 by the rules of competition.
250 D. Associated with a member club and must continue with OSA for the seasonal year,
251 including that no team in its entirety or majority may move to another member club
252 during the seasonal year.
253 E. Participating in a qualified age group.
254 F. Improper registration of any team member may result in the team forfeiting all games
255 the improperly registered player or players participated. An improperly registered
256 player includes a player who is over age, not registered to OSA, improperly entered on
257 the team roster, any other definitions as established by the league member of OSA, or
258 all of these.

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260 **Section 3. Releases and Transfers.**

- 261 A. A player under the age of 18 may request, in writing, to be removed from a team
262 roster or from a member with approval of a parent or guardian. The member may
263 grant the request through the use of a form provided by OSA.
264 B. A player transferring in any OSA playing level must receive member approval and be
265 consistent with that member's transfer period or any requirements of OSA or USYSA
266 event rules.
267 C. Recreational players may transfer to teams of the member without limit or additional
268 requirements.
269 D. A team shall be limited to a total of five (5) transferred players per seasonal year
270 unless otherwise approved by OSA or the Member.
271 E. Player transfers are permanent for the seasonal year.
272 F. A player may quit a team at any time without condition and shall not transfer to
273 another team unless so permitted through transfer process in the current seasonal
274 year.

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276 **Rule 206: AGE AND PLAYER CLASSES**

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278 **Section 1.** Age groups and all requirements shall be established by OSA as per Federation
279 and USYSA requirements for all levels of play.

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281 **Section 2.** Proof of age, per USYSA requirements, shall consist of a birth certificate, passport,
282 driver's license, board of health records, certificate of naturalization, or alien registration
283 card shall be sufficient for proof of age, except in those competitions which specifically state
284 otherwise.

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286 **Section 3.** A player may play in an older age group, subject to USYSA competition rules, if
287 that player is capable both physically and developmentally and subject to any other
288 requirements.

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Section 4. Player Classes

- A. A competitive player shall be defined as a player who has been selected, registered, and rostered to a competitive team and will receive a USYSA pass when verified. All players will be considered competitive unless otherwise provided.
- B. A recreational player shall be defined as a player who is registered and rostered to a recreation team as defined by USYSA and OSA and participating in an OSA recreational member league as defined.
- C. TOPSoccer: OSA will sanction and register those players in TOPSoccer or other programs of this nature as provided by the Regulations.

Section 5. Age Group Modifications and Small-sided Games

- A. The Federation and USYSA have established a set of recommendations for field sizes based on age groups.
- B. Each member shall make best efforts to comply with these recommendations and to provide the full benefit to the development of the player as communicated by OSA recognizing that circumstances may limit full application of the recommendations.
- C. Regardless of the capability to deploy the field and goal dimensions recommended, all age groups shall play with modified player numbers in the best interest of development.

PART III: PERMISSION TO TRAVEL AND HOST

Rule 301: PERMISSION TO TRAVEL

Teams that wish to travel out of Ohio to play games must receive permission or notify OSA in accordance with procedures as defined. The Board may establish additional requirements.

Rule 302: PERMISSION TO HOST FOREIGN AND INTERSTATE TEAMS

Teams that wish to host teams from another state or another country must request permission from OSA in accordance with procedures detailed by the Federation and in the USYSA Travel and Tournament Manual. The Board may establish additional requirements and fees.

Rule 303: PERMISSION TO HOST A TOURNAMENT

Section 1. Member organizations that wish to host an OSA sanctioned tournaments must request permission from the OSA in accordance with the policies and procedures established by OSA, USYSA, and the Federation. The Board may establish additional requirements. Member organizations that wish to host a sanctioned tournament shall be insured against general liability claims by OSA’s insurance carrier for OSA sanctioned activities.

Section 2. OSA members may host a tournament in accordance with the policies and procedures established by USYSA and the Federation.

336 **Rule 304. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL**

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338 Travel internationally outside the United States is the responsibility of the Federation and all
339 requirements have been established by the Federation for all members as required by FIFA.

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