

# **Tantasqua Regional Youth Soccer, Ltd.**

P.O. Box 680, Fiskdale, MA 01518-0680

## **Bylaws**

### **Article I Affiliations**

The Organization will affiliate with the United States Youth Soccer Association (U.S.Y.S.A), the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (M.Y.S.A.), the United States Soccer Federation (U.S.S.F.), the Midland Area Youth Soccer (M.A.Y.S.) League and any other League approved by the Board of Directors.

### **Article II Playing Rules**

- A. Competitive travel teams, playing in any Board of Directors approved league, shall abide by the Federation International De Football Association (F.I.F.A.) “Laws of the Game” as modified by the league in which they are playing as well as any additional league specific rules.
- B. Fall recreational teams will abide by the Federation International De Football Association (F.I.F.A.) “Laws of the Game” as modified by the Organization’s Board of Directors.

### **Article III Team Selection, General Guidelines**

- A. For competitive travel teams, the Organization will support as many separate boys and girls competitive travel teams as coaches, players, fields and league limits or deadlines allow.
- B. Competitive travel teams will be formed according to age designations as defined by the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (M.Y.S.A.).
- C. Fall recreational teams will be formed according to their age as of January 1st of the playing year.
  - Pee Wee Division: Must be 5 years old as of January 1st of the playing year
  - Bantam Division: Must be 7 years old as of January 1st of the playing year
  - Freshmen Division: Must be 9 years old as of January 1st of the playing year
  - Sophomore Division: Must be 11 years old as of January 1st of the playing year
  - Jr/Sr Division: Must be 13 years old as of January 1st of the playing year
- D. All attempts will be made to place as many players as possible. If it is not possible to place all players who have signed up, a selection process approved by the B.O.D. will be used to select the final teams. This will be applicable for both recreational teams and travel teams.

## **Article IV Team Selection, Specific Guidelines**

### A. Competitive travel teams:

- 1) Players will be placed on teams according to the age designations specified in Article III. No exceptions will be given.
- 2) In the event that there are more players than positions allowed by league rules, a skills evaluation or tryout may be conducted with the approval of the B.O.D.
- 3) In the case of a tie for the last roster slot the oldest birth date will be the final tiebreaker.
- 4) M.A.Y.S. League rules will be used to determine the maximum number of players per competitive travel team. Each team's head coach may elect to take fewer players than the maximum allowed by the league.
- 5) For all divisions of U10 and U12 age groups where rosters are not filled and all registered players have been placed on a team, recreational players who have signed up after the registration period will be chosen subject to skill evaluation and age consideration.
- 6) For all divisions of U14 and up where rosters are not filled and all registered players have been placed on a team, school team players followed by recreational players who have signed up after the registration period will be chosen subject to skill evaluation and age consideration.
- 7) Players shall not be multiple rostered if it prevents another age appropriate, eligible player, from playing or the league in which the team is participating does not allow multiple rostering. A multiple rostered player must have the approval of the Board of Directors.
- 8) For all competitive travel teams the coaches involved shall be responsible for player selection within league guidelines. Where rosters cannot be agreed upon between coaches, the final rosters will be determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

**Article IV Team Selection, Specific Guidelines** (continued)

## A. Competitive travel teams (continued):

- 9) For competitive travel team players where there are not enough players registered for a team in a specific age group or no coach is available, these players will be offered:
  - a) Placement on another club's team
  - b) For boys' teams only, where a roster hasn't been filled, girls will be offered the remaining roster spots
  - c) If no coach is available or not enough players have registered for a given team in an age group by the league deadline, no team will be entered and all player registration fees, for that team, shall be refunded
  - d) All of the above is subject to parental or guardian approval
  
- 10) Once a team has been entered into a league and has paid their entry fees, should any player decide not to play, their registration fee will be forfeited.

## B. Fall recreational teams:

- 1) For all divisions, all teams are coed and within each town, should be as closely balanced between boys and girls, player ages and talent as possible.
  
- 2) Age groupings:
  - a) Pee Wee division 5 and 6 year olds
  - b) Bantam division 7 and 8 year olds
  - c) Freshmen division 9 and 10 year olds
  - d) Sophomore division 11 and 12 year olds
  - e) Senior division 13 through 17 year olds
  
- 3) Recommended team sizes:
  - a) Pee Wee division 12 players per team. (4v4, 2 teams plus subs)
  - b) Bantam division 14 players per team. (5v5, 2 teams plus subs)
  - c) Freshmen division 10 players per team. (6v6, plus subs)
  - d) Sophomore division 12 players per team. (8v8, plus subs)
  - e) Senior division 16 players per team. (11v11, plus subs)
  
- 4) The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, implement on a trial basis, a new or restructured division for a period of one (1) season only. Continuation of such a division or restructuring is contingent upon approval by the voting membership at the next Annual General Meeting and inclusion of the changes into the Bylaws.

**Article IV Team Selection, Specific Guidelines** (continued)

- B. Fall recreational teams (continued):
  - 5) When it is necessary due to the absence of a division within a town's program or in other exceptional circumstances, the transfer of players will be allowed subject to the review and approval by the Board of Directors.
  - 6) The Town Coordinators are responsible for team formation within league guidelines.

**Article V Players**

- A. All competitive travel players must register with T.R.Y. Soccer and with M.Y.S.A. No player may participate in any practice or game until registered with T.R.Y. Soccer and M.Y.S.A.
- B. Competitive travel players with residency in the Tantasqua Regional School District shall have preference of placement over players outside of the school district. Competitive travel players whose residency is not within the Tantasqua Regional School District may be placed on a roster only when needed to fill a vacancy and must be in accordance with M.A.Y.S. league or any other league approved by the Board or Directors in which the team is participating, rules governing the "transfer" of players.
- C. Fall recreational players must register with a town from within the Tantasqua Regional School District. They may register with any town which they would prefer to play for rather than the one in which they reside.

**Article VI Coaches**

- A. All competitive travel team coaches must be registered with T.R.Y. Soccer and M.Y.S.A. No coach may participate in any T.R.Y. Soccer event without first being registered with T.R.Y. Soccer and M.Y.S.A.
- B. All competitive travel team coaches must be approved seasonally by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will appoint a head coach for each team. As many as two (2) assistant coaches may be assigned per team or as league rules in which the team is participating allow.
- C. All Fall recreational team coaches will be selected by the Town Coordinator in which the teams are registered.
- D. For Fall recreational teams, before a team can start the season they are required to have at least one coach attend one preseason T.R.Y. Soccer League coaches meetings.

## **Article VI Coaches** (continued)

- E. All coaches, whether competitive travel or recreational, shall be subject to the direction of the Board of Directors in matters involving the policies of the Organization. In addition, all coaches and adults working with children will be required to have a “Criminal Offender Record Information” (CORI) background investigation conducted. Frequency of background checks to comply with Massachusetts General Law.
- F. Coaches are expected to promote good sportsmanship, ball control and game skills. They shall not tolerate unsportsmanlike behavior by coaches, players or spectators. Coaches are expected to be present at all practices and games.

## **Article VII Participation**

- A. Players are expected to participate in all scheduled practices and games whenever possible. If a player cannot be present for a scheduled practice or game, the coach shall be notified in advance. Players are expected to have all necessary equipment with them at every practice and game.
- B. Parents are expected to participate by insuring that their child is on time for the beginning of practices and games and picked up immediately after both practices and games. Parents are expected to support the coach, help maintain team discipline and promote good sportsmanship.
- C. If problems should arise that cannot be mutually resolved, they shall be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors for resolution.

## **Article VIII Uniforms**

- A. Competitive travel teams
  - 1) Players shall wear uniforms selected by the Board of Directors and which comply with F.I.F.A. “Laws of the Game” and any other league requirement.
  - 2) Team uniforms must consist of matching shirts with unique numbers, matching shorts, matching socks, shinguards and soccer cleats or turf shoes. Undergarments such as cycling shorts may be worn as allowed per rules published by U.S.S.F. in the “Guide for Referees” and M.Y.S.A.
- B. Fall recreational teams
  - 1) Team uniforms must consist of matching shirts with unique numbers, socks, shinguards and soccer cleats or turf shoes, as approved by the Board of Directors.

## **Article IX Game Cancellations/Rescheduling**

- A. Competitive travel teams must follow the guidelines of the league in which they are participating when forfeiting a game, postponing a game or rescheduling a game.
- B. Fall recreational game cancellation responsibilities:
  - 1) Foul weather conditions before start of games: The Commissioner will be responsible for canceling that day's games by 7:00am. The Commissioner will notify each Town Coordinator of the cancellations. The Town Coordinators are responsible for notifying their town's coaches of the cancellations.
  - 2) Foul weather conditions after start of games: The Head Referee will be responsible for canceling all remaining games, on game day, due to foul weather conditions. Should the Head Referee not be available, the Commissioner will be responsible for the cancellation of all remaining games. Once the Head Referee has notified the Commissioner of the game cancellations, the Commissioner will notify each Town Coordinator of the cancellations. The Town Coordinators are responsible for notifying each town's coaches of the cancellations.
- C. Fall recreational game rescheduling:
  - 1) The Commissioner will notify the Town Coordinators of any game rescheduling. Games will only be allowed on the assigned rescheduled date, time and field. All cancelled games may not be rescheduled.

## **Article X Conduct, Ejections and Suspensions**

- A. Coaches, players and parents are expected to conduct themselves in nothing less than an exemplary manner. Coaches are responsible for the conduct, behavior and sportsmanship of their players and spectators towards their opponents and the referee.
- B. Competitive travel soccer coaches, players and parents participating in a travel league, in addition to all T.R.Y. Soccer rules, will also be subject to the leagues' rules in which they are participating governing conduct, ejections and suspensions.
- C. Any coach, player or spectator ejected from a match shall be suspended from participation in the next scheduled league match. They shall be notified of their suspension via phone, email or letter by their town coordinator or another league official.
- D. Any coach, player or spectator ejected from a match, having been previously suspended for a similar infraction, shall be suspended from participation in league matches for the duration of the season. They shall be notified of their suspension via phone, email or letter by their town coordinator or another league official.
- E. Any coach, player or spectator who assaults any referee or league official, shall be banned from participation in any league activity for life and may be subject to prosecution. They shall be notified of their band via phone, email or letter by their town coordinator or another league official.

**Article X Conduct, Ejections and Suspensions** (continued)

- F. T.R.Y. Soccer's Board of Directors reserves the right to call a special meeting to review and to take possible further action, if warranted, of all cases referred to the Board concerning conduct, ejections and suspensions of its coaches, players or spectators.

**Article XI Fees**

- A. Each of the Organization's towns will contribute a fee, established by the Board of Directors, for every registered recreational player. This money is to be used solely toward the Organization's recreational league expenses.
- 1) Fees shall be determined by considering:
    - a) Referee fees
    - b) Equipment purchase and replacement
    - c) Field maintenance such as paint, liner, nets, etc
    - d) Other fees necessary for the continuation of the recreational program
- B. Fees for competitive travel player participation shall be established by the Board of Directors prior to the start of each season and shall be due and payable at registration.
- 1) Fees shall be determined by considering:
    - a) Team bond, team entry and referee fees required for M.A.Y.S
    - b) Player, coach and administrator fees for M.Y.S.A
    - c) Equipment purchase and replacement
    - d) Field maintenance such as paint, liner, etc
    - e) Other fees necessary for the continuation of the travel program

**Article XII Zero Tolerance Policy**

- A. All persons responsible for a team and all of the spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for players, the referee and all other participants and spectators.

Consequently, the T.R.Y. Soccer League has adopted the following rule:

**NO ONE IS TO ADDRESS THE REFEREE DURING THE MATCH!**

- B. Exceptions for persons responsible for a team (Coaches and Managers)
- 1) During the match:
    - a) Responding to a referee initiating communication
    - b) Making substitutions
    - c) Pointing out emergencies or safety issues
  - 2) At half-time or at the end of a match:
    - a) A coach/manager can ask a referee to explain a rule(s) in a polite and constructive manner
    - b) Polite and friendly feedback can be given to a referee
    - c) Absolutely NO sarcasm, harassment or intimidation

**Article XII Zero Tolerance Policy** (continued)

## 3) Penalties

1 <sup>st</sup> Minor Infraction	Referee should ignore
2 <sup>nd</sup> Minor Infraction	A verbal warning shall be given
3 <sup>rd</sup> Infraction	Caution
4 <sup>th</sup> Infraction	Ejection
1 <sup>st</sup> Serious Infraction	Ejection at Pee Wee and Bantam matches All other matches: Caution or Ejection depending upon the seriousness of the infraction

## C. Exceptions for Spectators

## 1) During the match:

- a) Responding to a referee initiating communication
- b) Pointing out emergencies or safety issues.

## 2) Penalties

1 <sup>st</sup> Infraction	Referee shall stop the game and ask the coach(es) to quiet the offending spectator.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Infraction	A verbal warning shall be given. The referee shall stop the match and ask the coach(es) to warn the spectator that the next infraction will be an ejection or the referee will abandon the match.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Infraction	The referee shall instruct the coach(es) to direct the spectator to leave the area. The referee shall abandon the match if the spectator does not comply.

D. If the referee abandons the match, directs a person to leave the area, or issues a caution; the referee shall immediately report the incident to the Head Referee for review. This review may result in a penalty up to and including suspension. Unsporting behavior from coaches, players, referees, or spectators towards others will also not be tolerated and shall be reported to the Head Referee for review. The review may result in a penalty up to and including suspension.