

# **ROSWELL YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

## *General Rules and Procedures*

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Revised November 5, 2009

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- Law IX – Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA
- Law X – Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA
- Law XI – OFF-SIDE: (There Shall be No Off-Side)

Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct: (Conform to FIFA with following exceptions)  
Law XIII – Free Kicks: (Conform to FIFA with following exceptions)  
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**MICRO SOCCER (SMALL SIDED-GAME)**

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## SECTION 1: AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### A. Governing Procedures:

The procedures contained herein shall govern members of the RYSA in all cases in which they are applicable and are not in conflict with the By-Laws of RYSA, NMYSA, USYSA or USSF.

### B. RYSA Rules More Stringent:

RYSA may develop rules and procedures that are more stringent than those included in our governing associations, however in no case may the rules be less stringent. Current copies of By-Laws and the Rules and Procedures of RYSA shall be on file with the Secretary of RYSA at all times.

### C. RYSA Mission Statement and Goals:

#### RYSA Mission Statement

To provide quality soccer for youth of Chaves County, New Mexico, the opportunity to play soccer that is fun and developmentally appropriate. To build players character, while emphasizing skills development, teamwork and sportsmanship in a safe and positive environment.

#### RYSA Goals!

To play soccer while enhancing play, training, education and sportsmanship of players, coaches and referees, families and fans for the enjoyment and betterment of all!

### D. Team Responsibilities for Conduct of Members:

Each team shall be responsible for the conduct of its players, coaches, managers, assistants and parents. It is also the responsibility of each recreational or competitive team to ensure that its actions, on and off the field, and whether within the boundaries of our association or while attending tournaments in other geographical locations, do not bring discredit to RYSA.

### E. Approval Authority Over RYSA Recreational and Sponsored Events:

The authority for approval and/or operational control over RYSA matches, competitive team matches and other sponsored events, including the dates and times of matches are to be played or sponsored by registered teams or affiliates, shall be vested with the Board of Directors pursuant to NMYSA approval of same.

## SECTION 2: AGE LIMIT DEFINITION/AGE GROUPS

### A. "Youth" Defined:

The term “Youth” as applied to the By-Laws and General Rules and Procedures shall mean an amateur player who has not attained his/her nineteenth (19<sup>th</sup>) birthday before August 1 in the seasonal year in which he/she applies for registration.

**B. Attaining Limiting Age after August 1 of the seasonal year:**

Players attaining the limiting age for any age group on or after August 1 of the seasonal year will be eligible to play for the remainder of the seasonal year. (*Seasonal year is defined as the period from September 1 through August 31 the RYSA fiscal year.*) Any child wishing to play with RYSA must have reached the age of five (5) prior to August 1 of the year of registration.

**C. Age Classifications:**

RYSA shall divide play among teams of equal age grouping as follows:

Under 19 – players have not reached their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday before August 1 of the seasonal year.

Under 16 – players have not reached their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday before August 1 of the seasonal year.

Under 12 – players have not reached their 12<sup>th</sup> birthday before August 1 of the seasonal year.

Under 10 – players have not reached their 10<sup>th</sup> birthday before August 1 of the seasonal year.

Under 8 – players have not reached their 8<sup>th</sup> birthday before August 1 of the seasonal year.

Under 6 – players have not reached their 6<sup>th</sup> birthday before August 1 of the seasonal year.

Under 5 – players have not reached their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday before August 1 of the seasonal year.

**D. Playing Up in Age Group:**

Players who wish to play outside their age grouping are allowed to play up only one (1) age group. Players may never play down in age group. In each instance of a request by a player/parent for a child to play up the RYSA Registrar will present the Board of Directors with the paperwork signed by the player, parents/guardians and coach, acknowledging safety considerations involved in younger players playing up and that parents/guardians accept responsibility for any injury to their son/daughter as a result of his/her playing up and all the team, coach, RYSA and the RYSA Board as well as NMYSA, our state association, will not be held liable in the event of an injury. In the event that the coach the player is assigned to is uncomfortable having an underage child play on their team the Registrar may coordinate with the Coach Director to help locate a team with a coach willing to accept the under age child.

**SECTION 3: PROOF OF AGE**

Proof of age shall consist of a State issued Birth Certificate or Birth Registration issued by an appropriate Government Agency, Board of Health Records, Passport, Alien Registration Card issued by the United States Government, a Certificate issued by the Immigration and

Naturalization Service (*under the Department of Homeland Security*) attesting to age, or a Certification of an American Citizen Abroad issued by the appropriate Government Agency. Hospital, Baptismal, or Religious certificates will not be accepted. Copies will be accepted only when notarized.

#### **SECTION 4: REGISTRATION AND INSURANCE**

##### **A. Player Registration Forms:**

All players shall submit a properly completed Registration Form provided by NMYSA for each seasonal year.

##### **B. Players Registration Within RYSA:**

All players shall register with RYSA to play on recreational teams and all players who are members or desire to be members with a competitive team shall register at the start of each new seasonal year in order to be covered under the insurance policy (which is secondary in any case.)

##### **C. Player Registration Fees:**

The proper and published registration fee shall be submitted at the time of registration of all players. The Board of Directors shall set the fee annually. In the event no new fee is set, the fee from the previous year shall be used.

##### **D. Responsibility for Player Registration:**

Each parent/guardian and the coaches of the team they are assigned to shall be responsible for ensuring proper registration of all players who participate with RYSA in either a recreational or competitive team capacity, or both.

##### **E. Team Roster Limits:**

U14 teams and above shall have no less than 14 and no more than 18 players.  
U12 & U13 shall have no less than 11 players and no more than 14 players.  
U10 shall have no less than 8 players and no more than 11 players.  
U8 shall have no less than 6 players and no more than 9 players.  
U6 & U5 shall have no less than 5 players and no more than 7 players.

##### **F. Deadline for Submission of Competitive Team Rosters for RYSA Registrar:**

All competitive teams shall adhere to setting a time for rosters to be completed and submitted to the RYSA Registrar by the start of practice at the beginning of a seasonal year. RYSA Registrar's availability to perform this task will be posted on the RYSA Website.

In order for players/teams to be registered and thus insured without any lapse of insurance coverage, rosters containing a minimum of seven (7) players shall first go to the RYSA Registrar and then be on file with the State Registrar on or before the beginning of the seasonal year which is September 1. Teams formed after the beginning of the seasonal year shall submit a roster prior to any practices or play in order to be

registered and insured. Competitive Teams in violation of conducting practice or forming teams without an approved roster being registered may face penalties, up to and including being disbanded by NMYSA at the recommendation of the Board of Directors of RYSA, with no refund allowed.

**G. Submission of Start Dates for Practice:**

RYSA shall provide written notification to the State Registrar as to the date of start of practice at the time of their initial team registrations. The RYSA Registrar is responsible for this task.

**H. Effective Date of Payer Insurance:**

Each properly registered player on a roster is covered by insurance as soon as a team roster with his/her name upon it is submitted from the RYSA Registrar to the NMYSA Registrar.

**I. Insurance is Secondary Policy:**

Insurance coverage is a secondary policy. Each claim is to be submitted to the RYSA Registrar for processing and verification of the player. All claims shall be filed with the primary carrier first, unless no primary carrier is available to the player.

**J. Requirements of Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Adults Over 18 to complete Risk Management:**

All coaches, assistant coaches, RYSA Board members, referees over 18 years old and other volunteers who have contact with children shall complete the Risk Management assessment on the NMYSA website. The NMYSA shall cause a background check on any adult who completes the Risk Management form. In the event of questions about the history, NMYSA will make contact with you to resolve the information. In the event of a criminal record, you will be prevented from participating as a member of RYSA. The Risk Management shall be completed prior to the start of the season. RYSA Registrar will bring problems with risk management to the attention of Board of Directors.

There shall be no cost to the individual being background checked. Background checks shall be once every two (2) years to complete the Risk Assessment.

**K. Team Classification Definitions:**

All team rosters submitted by RYSA to the State Registrar shall be either competitive or recreational.

1. Teams utilizing tryouts, recruiting or any like process to roster players (or not to roster players, including limiting their roster size below the maximum allowed) selectively based on talent or ability shall be classified as competitive.
2. Teams inviting players without tryouts, but that is created by the coach for the purpose of tournament play outside the geographical area of RYSA, is considered competitive.
3. All other teams outside the definition of 4.K.1 and 4.K.2 shall be classified as recreational.

4. Recreational teams are established primarily based on a player's residence in a school district with the start of the new seasonal year in a random manner. The spring season the Registrar shall attempt to place players on the same team as assigned in the Fall to encourage continuity; however this remains fluid based on the number of players to register in the Spring. Requests for a particular coach will be accommodated as practical based on all the other rules in place.

## **SECTION 5: PLAYER PASS CARDS**

### **A. Requirements for Player Pass Cards:**

All registered players shall be issued a Player Pass Card to be utilized for purposes of play. Each card shall have current picture attached, unless two (2) RYSA Board of Director's have signed the back of the card due to extenuating circumstances. *(All competitive players' cards shall have a current picture.)*

Each card shall contain the following information:

RYSA Name,

Team Name,

Age Group,

Players name, Date of Birth, *and, if possible, their signature,*

Seasonal year date,

Signature of RYSA Registrar or facsimile and

NMYSA Registrar signature or facsimile

### **B. Laminated Card Required to Participate:**

All players shall have a Player Pass Card in order to participate in any scheduled RYSA or tournament match.

## **SECTION 6: TOURNAMENTS**

### **A. NMYSA Travel and Tournament Manual**

All RYSA Tournaments will be conducted in accordance with the New Mexico Youth Soccer Association Travel and Tournament Manual.

### **B. Travel and Tournament Manual**

Travel and Tournament Manuals are available at the NMYSA Website.

### **C. RYSA Tournaments**

As RYSA develops and grows the opportunity to hold a tournament during a seasonal year is encouraged. The President, with Board approval and approval of NMYSA shall commence the formation and hosting of a tournament with majority board approval.

### **D. Tournament Rules**

Tournaments sanctioned by RYSA shall utilize the following tournament rules unless changed or adjusted by the Board for a specific tournament.

1. Scoring.
  - 6 points for each WIN
  - 3 points for each TIE
  - 0 points for each LOSS
  - 1 point for each GOAL scored up to a maximum of three (3) goals per game
  - 1 point for each shut-out
  - 1 point for each red card issued

Teams shall be awarded points for goals scored without regard to the outcome of the match. That is the losing team will receive points for goals scored, and zero (0) for the loss.

2. Forfeit – In the event of a forfeit during bracket play, the forfeit shall be scored as follows:

- a) For the purpose of determining a score, the team, which “wins by forfeit”, shall be deemed to have scored the average number of goals actually scored in matches played against other teams within the bracket.
- b) Example: Team B has played three matches with the bracket. Goals scored for those three matches are 4, 5, and 1 for a total of 10 goals. The goals “deemed scored” in the forfeited match would be 3 ( $10 \text{ goals} / 3 \text{ matches} = 3.33 \text{ goals, rounded to } 3$ ).
- c) For the purpose of awarding points, the team which “wins by forfeit” shall receive six (6) points for the win, and points for the goals “deemed scored” as calculated above. No point will be awarded for a shutout for a match not played. In the example above, Team B would be awarded nine (9) points for the forfeit.

3. Bracket Ties – In the event that two or more teams are tied in points at the end of the bracket matches, the following tiebreakers shall be applied in the order given until a winner is determined.

- a) Results of Head-to-Head competition.
- b) Least number of goals scored against the team.
- c) The difference between goals scored for and goals scored against (maximum of three (3) goals per match).
- d) Kicks from the penalty mark.

In the event of a tie in a semi-final or final match, there shall be an overtime period as described in Section 9, A. of this document: If after the overtime period, a tie still exists, penalty kicks will determine the winner.

4. Disputes – the Tournament Director and the Tournament Committee will settle all disputes.
5. Misconduct – If, in the opinion of match officials, a match must be terminated for misconduct of players, bench or spectators, the offending team, could, at the discretion of the Tournament Committee, be suspended from further play and forfeiture of all points and position previously earned.

6. Red Cards – A player given a red card shall be sent off from the match and shall not be replaced.

Any player receiving a red card will present himself/herself along with his/her coach promptly upon completion of the match to the Tournament Director and/or his designated Field Marshall at the Tournament Headquarters.

The result of a hearing will determine a player's eligibility for further tournament play; however, under no circumstances shall the suspension be less than one (1) match.

A player shall not play after receiving a red card until a hearing has taken place.

A coach receiving a red card shall be restricted from being within 100 meters of the playing field during the next match of his/her team. The Tournament Committee at their discretion may apply more severe discipline.

The accumulation of red and/or yellow cards by players and/or coaches on one team may be the basis of disciplinary action by the Tournament Committee.

Yellow-carded players may be substituted for at the time of the card being issued.

## **SECTION 7: GUEST PLAYERS (COMPETITIVE TEAMS ONLY)**

### **A. Proper Procedure:**

The procedure to obtain guest players is first asking the player's coach and then the player and/or his parents if they are interested. In instances where the coach declines the invitation the requesting coach shall respect the decision.

### **B. Guest Player May be Approved:**

RYSA players may be approved for Guest Player status on an RYSA Competitive team by filing the RYSA Guest Player Authorization Form with the NMYSA.

### **C. Authorization Procedures:**

Guest Player authorization procedures are contained in the NMYSA Travel and Tournament Manuel.

### **D. Guest Player Fees:**

The RYSA Board of Directors shall set Guest player fees annually. This fee is in addition to any state fee.

## **SECTION 8: RECREATIONAL AND COMPETITIVE TEAM PROCEDURES**

### **A. Definition**

RYSA may form teams both recreational and competitive in nature.

## **B. Classification**

Teams are classified as “recreational” or “competitive” based on these criteria:

1. Recreational team.
  - a. A team is ‘recreational’ if comprised of players based on factors other than athletic ability. RYSA shall establish teams at the beginning of the Fall seasonal year based primarily on the school district players reside. The Spring season players are usually on the same team as in the Fall, however placement may be based on availability of coaches, and other factors that may cause the original team to be disbanded or reorganized.
  - b. RYSA recommends one head and no more than two (2) assistant coaches for a recreational team. Up to three (3) coaches may be assigned to a recreational team roster; however, RYSA limits the number of coaches on the sideline with the players during actual games to two (2) coaches.
2. Competitive teams are formed of players assigned to them in a manner other than that described above.

## **C. Formation of Competitive Teams**

RYSA supports the formation of teams based on Competitive Team Coaches who are in good standing with RYSA as well as NMYSA. Any person wishing to form a competitive team shall submit a verbal or written petition. The proposed coach shall appear before the RYSA Board of Directors prior to the Registrar being allowed roster their team. The RYSA Board of Directors will review the Rules and Procedures manual that shall be adhered to prior to approval. RYSA reserves the right to deny any petition to form a competitive team at their discretion. Competitive coaches shall follow procedures and rules outlined in this document as well as higher authorities with regard to good conduct, fair game play, sportsmanship and proper registration and roster of teams with the RYSA Registrar.

### **SECTION 9: MATCH TIMES AND BALL SPECIFICATIONS**

#### **A. Game Length, Overtime Periods and Ball Size:**

The length of matches, overtime periods, and ball size for each age group shall be as follows:

<u>AGE</u>	<u>MATCH LENGTH</u>	<u>HALF TIME</u>	<u>BALL SIZE</u>
U19	2 – 45 minute halves	10 min	# 5
U16	2 – 40 minute halves	10 min	# 5
U14	2 – 35 minute halves	5 min	# 5
U12	2 – 35 minute halves	5 min	# 4
U10	2 – 30 minute halves	5 min	# 4

U8 4 – 12 minute quarters 5 min # 3

U5/U6 4 – 8 minute quarters 5 min # 3

**B. U5/U6/U8 Substitution Break:**

The U5/U6 quarters shall have 2 minutes between first and third break and 5 minutes at halve. Substitutions shall be at break in play.

The U8 halves shall have substitution breaks at a break in play approximately half way through the half.

**C. Alter for Tournament Play:**

The above-enumerated time specifications may be altered to accommodate tournament play.

**SECTION 10: RULES OF PLAY**

**A. FIFA Rules Govern Play:**

The rules of play shall be the “Laws of the Game” as published by FIFA with those modifications stated herein. All matches sanctioned by the League shall abide by the “Laws of the Game” and the modifications as published by RYSA. The term “Player” also includes substitutes.

**B. Wear of Dangerous Apparel/Shin Guards:**

A player shall not wear anything dangerous to another player and all players shall wear shin-guards; all players shall participate in a sanctioned RYSA matches with shin-guards. They are required for practices, scrimmages, or tryouts. Shin-guards shall be properly sized and worn under socks.

**C. Coaching from Sideline and Sideline Conduct:**

Coaching from the sidelines (giving direction to one’s own team on points of strategy and position) is not allowed in youth soccer in New Mexico. General sideline conduct will adhere to the below:

1. No coach, player, substitute, or spectator is to be outside of the area designated by the RYSA Board of Directors. If no control plan exists, then the referee will determine the best course of action for player, coach and spectator control.
2. No coach, player or spectator is to make derogatory of dissenting remarks or gestures to the referee, other players, other coaches, other teams or spectators.
3. No coach, player or spectator is to use profanity.
4. No coach, player or spectator is to incite, in any manner, disruptive behavior of any kind.
5. No coach, player or spectator shall possess or consume any controlled substance (including alcohol and cigarettes) at any sanctioned RYSA match or practice.

Coach's tactical instruction shall be in a positive manner from the technical area only. No other coaching is allowed. The technical area is an area one meter outside the touchline, between the penalty areas.

**D. Uniform and Goalkeeper Colors/Arrangement on Fields:**

RYSA uses red and blue reversible jerseys for recreational play. The second team listed on the schedule will be the home team and wear the red jersey. The color of the jersey of the goalkeeper shall be unique and not similar to the other goalkeeper, the other team or the referee. Competitive team uniforms are the responsibility of the competitive coach and team parents and not the responsibility of RYSA.

At the start of the game, the referee shall toss a coin to be called by the visiting team. The winner of the coin toss shall decide to either kick-off or receive. The loser of the coin toss shall choose the side of the field to defend. If no coin toss is available, the coin toss may be substituted with a match of "Rock, Paper, and Scissors".

**E. RYSA Game Balls:**

RYSA referees shall provide a properly inflated game ball to each match available at the referee table prior to the start of the game. In the absence of a RYSA furnished game ball then the home team shall provide a ball approved for play by the head referee before use in the game.

**F. Substitutions:**

Players may only be substituted at the following times with the referee's permission:

1. Prior to a throw in, in your favor.
2. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
3. After a goal, by either team.
4. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops the play.
5. At half time.

The number of substitutions shall be unlimited. In any case, a substitute shall not enter the field of play until given the signal to do so by the referee. The player to be substituted shall stand midfield near the cones with the field number to await the signal to substitute by the referee.

**G. Minimum Playing Times:**

For recreational games all players shall play a minimum of one-half (1/2) of the match if the player is in good standing with the team. Coaches may limit playing time for disciplinary reasons or for unexcused absences from practice.

**H. Referee Responsibilities:**

The Referee shall:

1. Prior to the start of the game, verify the identity of all players with the Player Pass Cards and shall collect the Player Pass Cards of players participating in the

- match. The Referee shall allow no player into the match who is not in possession of a current RYSA Player Pass Card unless approved by a RYSA Board member.
2. Inspect all players' equipment and the playing field prior to the start of the game. This inspection shall be performed to ensure participants can play the game safely.
  3. Allow a yellow-carded player to be substituted for at the time the card is issued.
  4. Any person issued a red card shall be suspended for minimum of a one (1) match. Red and yellow cards may be issued for the following:
    - a. Loud and boisterous sideline conduct by players, parents, and/or coaches.
    - b. Negative or profane remarks directed at any player or players.
    - c. Direction from players, parents, or coaches to violate the "Laws of the Game" or act in a violent manner.
    - d. Persistent criticism of the Referee or a Linesman.
    - e. Possession of controlled substances (including alcohol and tobacco products) by players, coaches, or parents.
    - f. Any conduct, deemed by the Referee, to create a negative atmosphere for youth soccer.
  5. Referees shall submit to the Referee Director a game card for each team for the game just refereed with any red or yellow cards issued being indicated by the player's name. This assures payment for the match. If the game is forfeit, the cards shall still be submitted so payment can be made.
  6. Referee Abuse: The registered teams coach(s) are responsible for the behavior/actions of their team's spectators. Coaches shall take reasonable precautions to prevent any person from threatening, harassing, or abusing Referees, game officials, players or other spectators before, during or after matches. Coaches are responsible for identifying spectators who threaten, harass, or abuse Referees, game officials, players or other spectators. Any player, coach, parent or other adult guilty of referee abuse may be suspended from all RYSA activities for up to three (3) scheduled matches. RYSA shall address any allegation of Referee abuse within fourteen (14) days from the date of the incident. The RYSA Board of Directors reserves the right to eject any person from the field of play or from the sidelines on the same day; an incident is reported to or witnessed by an RYSA Board member. If the ejected person is not willing to leave the premises as requested, the police department will be summoned for assistance.
  7. Referees shall not officiate in any scheduled RYSA game if relatives of the referee are participating in that game unless otherwise authorized by an RYSA official. The Referee Director or other RYSA official may exchange a referee from a game already in progress and reassign to the other game. RYSA officials reserve the right to transfer Referees for any reason deemed necessary.
  8. Referee Misconduct: Any allegation of misconduct or conflict of interest by a game official at a match or away from a match shall be made in writing to the Referee Director.
  9. Referee Compensation: Referees who have completed and renew their **Recreational Level 9 Certification** each year will be paid \$2 above the rate established by the Board, i.e. if the rate of officiating a U10 game is \$10 they will be compensated \$12 as a certified referee. The board shall set the rate every year, but in the event this is not done than the rate of pay from the previous year shall be used.

**I. Delaying the Start of a Match (Forfeiting):**

A team delaying the start of a scheduled match more than fifteen (15) minutes without sanction of the proper authority, shall forfeit the match to the opponent. The referee may start the match at any time after the minimum number of players has arrived and prior to the passage of the fifteen (15) minutes. In the case where one team has more than enough players to start – if both coaches are willing to allow the loan of players to the other team so the game can be played this may be allowed during the recreational games. This grace period will not be allowed during a sanctioned tournament game.

If coaches for both sides confer with a member of the RYSA Board prior to the start of the match rather than forfeit or cancel the game another game may be rescheduled at the convenience of the RYSA Board. The RYSA Referee Director may assign a referee to the game with first opportunity preference for the referee whose match was canceled on game day.

**J. On Field Team Size:**

The on field team size of the respective age groups shall be as follows:

- U14 and above – eleven (11) players,
- U12/13 – eight (8) to eleven (11) players,
- U10 – six (6) to eight (8) players,
- U8 – four (4) to six (6) players, (no goalkeeper),
- U6 & U5 three (3) to four (4) players (no goalkeeper).

Larger team rosters will play with higher numbers of players on the field, while smaller team rosters will play with lower numbers of players on the field. Team sizes will be built as equitably as possible during the registration process; however, the RYSA Board of Directors reserves the right to roster players based on circumstances outside one team's consideration and for the good of the league.

**K. Minimum Number of Players:**

A team will not be allowed to start or continue a game with fewer than seven (7) players on the field with the exception of U10, U8, and U6 and U5 competition in which case the respective players required to start or continue a match will be:

- U10 – five (5) players,
- U8, U6 & U5 – three (3) players.

Players from the opposing team may be utilized during recreational competition so matches may continue. Coaches will coordinate this exchange.

**L. No-Show by Both Teams:**

In the event both teams do not show up for the scheduled game and the Referee rules the field as playable the game shall not be rescheduled.

**M. Referee Judgment on Physical Conditions:**

The Referee’s judgment with regard to the physical condition of the field and its acceptance for play, to the actual happenings and occurrences related to the match, and those prerogatives granted by the “Laws of the Game” as published by FIFA, shall not be challenged.

**N. Practice Times:**

RYSA policy allows practice to commence two (2) weeks before the first scheduled game. **Coaches shall contact players listed on their roster within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving their coach's book.** Problems with contacting players shall be reported timely to RYSA Registrar at registrar@roswellsoccer.org or by calling (575) 622-0690. Practice time limits per week will be as follows:

- U14 and above.....4 hours,
- U12 & U13.....3 hours,
- U10 & U8.....2 hours,
- U5 & U6.....2 hours.

**O. Bad Weather Policy/Rescheduling Games:**

*GAME-DAY CANCELLATIONS*

If games are cancelled due to weather conditions, as time permits, a message will be provided on the answering machine at 575-622-0690. If the message has not been changed to state games are cancelled, then you should go to the fields or make contact with your coach. Coaches are responsible for contacting their teams to inform of play.

Information regarding the rescheduling of canceled matches shall be timely posted on the RYSA website: www.roswellsoccer.org. and on the Bulletin Board located at Cielo Grande Soccer Complex.

**SECTION 11: PLAYER “SENT OFF” PROCEDURE**

If a player is sent off for misconduct, the referee shall provide the player’s Pass Card along with the coach’s card to the Referee Director. The incident shall be placed on the agenda for the next board meeting, or a special board meeting if the incident was serious in nature. Actions past game day will be conducted in accordance with established procedure elsewhere in this document.

**SECTION 12: PLAYER TRANSFERS, RELEASES, and ROSTER LIMITS**

**A. Bound to Team/Exception**

Once a player is registered and listed on a NMYSA Official Roster, that player is bound to that team. For recreational teams for the entire season (Fall or Spring) and for competitive teams for an entire seasonal year.

**B. Transfers Discouraged/Reasons for Approval**

Transfers are discouraged but may be approved for the following reasons only.

1. The player has moved from RYSA’s geographical area.

2. The releasing and receiving coach agree the transfer is in the best interest of the player and has nothing to do with a player's abilities or skills.
3. RYSA board makes a determination the player is incompatible with the releasing team or coach. (This does not include parent's preferences for a specific coach after assignments have been made and registered.)
4. The team has been disbanded (ceases to exist).

#### **C. Processing/Request for Transfer**

The following shall apply to the processing of requests for transfer

1. The releasing and receiving coach shall sign a transfer request except in the case of B. 3. Above.
2. Any player who has been given a release who later desires to return as a registered player will be treated as a transfer player and shall reapply.
3. Request for transfer from RYSA to another league in New Mexico shall be considered an "uncontested transfer" and does not require board approval.
4. RYSA does not have a waiting period for players transferring in, but in no case shall a player register with our association while being on a roster to another active league, except competitively.
5. RYSA shall establish transfers fees with the league, the board will set the amount to be charged. The board shall set the transfer fee annually but in the event this is not done then the fee from the previous year shall be utilized.

#### **D. Release Reasons**

A player may be released from a team if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons.

1. The player has violated RYSA/NMYSA rules, League or State disciplinary rules.
2. The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance.
3. The player is injured and not able to participate for the remainder of the season.
4. The player is deceased.
5. The team on which the player is registered is disbanded (ceases to exist).

#### **E. Release**

The following shall apply to the granting of releases.

1. With regard to D.1. above, it is a violation of state disciplinary rules for any player to violate the rules of a League in which the player is registered or if the player or player's parents conduct, would have a negative or detrimental impact on the team.
2. Player provided release who wish later to return as a registered player shall be considered a transfer player and shall reapply.

3. Players granted release under D.2 or D.5 shall be allowed to move without undue delay.
4. Any player being granted a transfer under D.2 shall have a ten (10) day delay before being allowed to transfer to another team. A player becomes eligible on the eleventh day from the day of approval of the transfer by the RYSA board if local and by the District Commissioner if the transfer involves another district.
5. The player shall be charge a fee for the processing of the Release. The board shall establish the fee annually and in the event no fee is set, the fee from the previous year shall be utilized.
6. RYSA shall charge a fee for processing transfers. The board shall establish the fee annually, but in the event this is not done the fee from, the previous year shall be used.

#### **F. Player Ability/No Release, Drop or Cut**

No player may be released, dropped or cut by any team due to his or her lack of playing ability.

#### **G. Multiple Roster Players**

1. Multiple Rostered players are defined as those players that are registered to more than one team in a given seasonal year.
2. No player shall be multiple rostered to more than two teams at any given time during the seasonal year.
3. A player may be multiple rostered to a competitive team and a recreational team.
4. A player may not be multiple rostered on two recreational teams within RYSA and they are not be multiple rostered on two competitive teams under RYSA auspices in a seasonal year.
5. Declaration of intent to multiple roster
  - a. A player who will be multiple rostered to a competitive team and a recreational team shall declare so at the time of initial registration before the fall season or during the three weeks prior to the scheduled first game of the spring season. At no other time may a player wishing to multiple roster on a competitive team be allowed to do so.
  - b. A player may be rostered on only one RYSA recreational team at any time.
6. Procedure

- a. A player intending to multiple roster shall submit a properly completed multiple roster request form through the RYSA Registrar.
- b. The first team a player is registered on SHALL be the player's primary team – regardless of competitive or recreational. If a player has not yet been registered to a team, then the player shall declare the primary and secondary teams at the time of registering.
- c. If the player is to register on two teams not within RYSA auspices must submit a properly completed registration form to RYSA for both teams the player will be rostered.
- d. The board shall set a fee annually. In the event no fee is set, the fee from the previous year shall be utilized. The fee shall not be less than the current guest player fee (state and RYSA combined) or less than the current transfer fee charged by RYSA.
- e. Any fees may be waived at the discretion of the RYSA Board of Directors or President; with the required scholarship forms, available at registration or from the RYSA Registrar.

7. Rules concerning playing multiple rostered players.

- a. A player shall always practice and play for their primary team first. If the games and practices of the secondary team do not conflict with the primary team's schedule, then the player may participate in practices and games for the secondary team.
- b. A player shall only play in two games on any given day.
- c. A player shall have a rest time between the two games equal to a game length for that age group. For example, if the player were U12, the player may play in two games on a given day if and only if there is a time delay between the first and second game equal to a U12 game time, including half time.
- d. If both teams elect to participate in the same tournament, the player may play ONLY for the previously declared primary team.

**SECTION 13: APPEALS PROCEDURE**

**A. Proper Subject of Appeal**

An appeal may be filed with regard to any of the following,

- 1. A decision of the RYSA Board
- 2. A decision of an RYSA official
- 3. A decision of a Special Committee of RYSA
- 4. A decision of the Judiciary/Disciplinary Committee associated with RYSA

5. A decision made by any organizational entity falling under the jurisdiction of RYSA

**B. Procedure**

An appeal shall be submitted in writing in duplicate to the RYSA President within five (5) days of being notified of the decision, which is the subject of the appeal.

**C. Properly Structured**

A properly structured appeal should reference the appropriate sections of the By-Laws, General Rules and Procedures, or other policy document up which the appeal is based.

**D. Shall Be Heard**

The Board at the next regular Board Meeting shall hear an appeal unless the President calls for a special meeting or email/phone poll.

**E. Copy to Subject**

A copy of the appeal shall be sent to the person, team or board member whose action is the subject of the appeal.

**F. Judiciary/Disciplinary Committee Appeals**

Appeals of decisions of the Judiciary/Disciplinary Committee shall follow the procedures set forth in the Disciplinary Action Procedures.

**SECTION 14: CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PROHIBITION**

**A. Prohibition of Use or Consumption of Controlled Substances**

The use and/or consumption of any controlled substance at the field area by anyone before, during, or directly after the match of a youth soccer game are expressly prohibited.

**B. Violation Subject to Discipline**

Anyone who violates this prohibition shall be subject to disciplinary actions and/or suspension by the RYSA Board.

**SECTION 15: COMPETITIVE TEAM TRAVEL PROCEDURES**

Teams desiring to travel inside or outside New Mexico shall submit a properly completed USYSA Application for Travel Form through the RYSA Registrar or NMYSA Registrar. No travel shall be allowed or authorized until approved by NMYSA.

1. Teams requesting travel shall be in good standing with RYSA at the time of the request as well as during the time of travel. The RYSA President or Registrar will verify this.

Should there be a discrepancy found with the travel documents the RYSA Board will review the circumstances and make a recommendation to be expressed in writing to the team requesting the travel.

2. Team travel requests shall be submitted in writing to the RYSA Board not less than twenty (20) calendar days prior to the desired date of travel and not less than thirty (30) calendar days for out-of-state travel.

3. A properly completed USYSA Application for Travel Form shall be submitted to NMYSA at the time team travel request is presented.

4. If there is not a quorum available at the time of the board meeting, a phone or e-mail vote shall be called and conducted by the RYSA President. If a team travel request is received late, a phone or e-mail vote may be called at the discretion of the President. Before any vote is undertaken, a properly completed USYSA Application for Travel Form shall be submitted. If approved the document will be forwarded to the RYSA Registrar for further processing.

5. Requests for team rosters shall be submitted twenty (20) days before an in-state tournament and thirty (30) calendar days before an out-of-state tournament. Roster requests submitted within these time constraints are at a fee set by RYSA annually, if not fee is set, then the fee from the previous year will apply.

#### **SECTION 16: INDOOR SOCCER PLAY (NOT USED AT THIS TIME)**

#### **SECTION 17: TOPS SOCCER**

RYSA TOP Soccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities. The TOPS program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to youth with a mental or physical disability. The program is geared towards player development rather than to competition.

TOP Soccer mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

The TOP Soccer program shall be structured to accommodate the specific needs of the participants. Modifications shall be made to the game and training environment as required allowing full participation and enjoyment to each child that participates.

#### **SECTION 18: CHAVES COUNTY CHARACTER COUNTS PROGRAM**

*"Pursuing Victory with Honor"*

##### **A. Pillars of Character**

The six pillars of character are Caring, Citizenship, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility and Trustworthiness.

##### **B. Program Participation Requirements**

RYSA advocates and supports Character Counts! of Chaves County. Character Counts affords soccer players, coaches, referees, family and fans the opportunity to participate in the *Pursuing Victory with Honor* program. The program provides education and training to enhance a higher level of play and sportsmanship. Coaches are encouraged to complete the *Pursuing Victory with Honor* training program prior to the start of the season. Those coaches or assistants successfully completing the training class are eligible to nominate one (1) player from their team to receive the "*Pursuing Victory with Honor*" award at the end of the season. Player nomination forms are available online or in the Coaches Team Book. Completed forms may be dropped off at the Referee table by the third to last Saturday of the Fall seasons schedule.

## **SECTION 19: POACHING AND RECRUITMENT**

### **A. Definition and Disciplinary Action**

Poaching is defined as inducing a registered player from any other team, under the jurisdiction of RYSA, to leave their team prior to the end of the current seasonal year (competitive teams) or season (recreational teams),

Any team which, through its responsible coaches, assistant coaches, players, parents, or other RYSA officials, attempts to illegally poach or attempts to recruit registered players of any other NMYSA team for the next seasonal or for play in indoor soccer or other formats, shall be deemed to have committed a poaching or illegal recruiting offense and will be subject to an investigation by the Board of Directors. This may result in disciplinary actions including but not limited to censure, probation, or suspension.

### **B. End of Spring Playing Season Defined**

The end of the spring playing season shall be defined as the point when the last game has been played including make-up games. If RYSA teams participate in the State Cup then that shall be defined as the end of the spring season.

### **C. Beginning Seasonal Year Defined**

The seasonal year for a player begins when a player's registration form and fee have been submitted to the Registrar. No competitive team shall register players for the following seasonal year prior to fourteen (14) calendar days after the state cup has been completed. The RYSA Registrar will maintain a seasonal calendar on the web site so these dates are readily available for planning purposes.

### **D. Recruiting Period Defined**

The only time a player may be approached (by mail, by phone or in person) by a coach or other representative (to include other players and parents) is between the end of the spring playing season and the beginning of the next seasonal year as defined above.

**E. Coach Contact**

One coach may contact another coach regarding a player registered on that coach's team.

**F. Board of Directors Action on Complaint of Poaching**

At the time as a poaching complaint is registered with the RYSA, the President shall appoint a disinterested person or persons to review the facts of the incident. A report of the findings shall be made at the next regularly scheduled meeting and if the complaint is determined to be valid, the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis will establish a resolution.

**SECTION 20: U5, U6, U8 and U10 MODIFIED PLAYING RULES**

**A. USYSA Modified Playing Rules Adopted and Exceptions**

RYSA has adopted the Modified Playing Rules for U8, and U10 based on USYSA recommendations and mandates. These rules are attached as exhibits to this document. The Modified Playing Rules are adopted in total except those that conflict with other provisions of the By-Laws or the General Rules and Procedures.

**B. Reasonable Effort by RYSA**

RYSA shall make reasonable effort to bring playing fields in compliance with the standards set forth in the USYSA Modified Playing Rules.

**SECTION 21: FIELD REGULATIONS**

**A. Teams on One Side of Field**

Both teams of players, coaches and assistant coaches will occupy the one (1) side of the field separated by the cones with field numbers to ensure safety of the children, to facilitate the ease of referee's substituting players, and allow coaches the ability to focus on the game. The field shall be divided at the halfway line and marked by cones with the field number. Teams are to remain on opposite sides of halfway line. Only coaches, assistant coaches and players issued an RYSA approved player card are permitted on the same side of the field as the players. *A maximum of two (2) coaches per team will be allowed on the team side of the field during games.*

**B. Coaches in Assigned Area**

During game Coaches shall remain in their assigned area of their half of the field.

**C. Coaching Box**

RYSA defines the coaching box as 5 meters on either side of the halfway line and one meter outside the field. A coach may not leave this area during the play except as permitted by the Referee.

#### **D. Parents and Spectators/Requirements and Limits**

RYSA is dedicated to providing a safe environment for all concerned. As such RYSA has defined specific areas/locations around the field where parents/spectators are welcome and encouraged to watch the match. **Watching the match on the same side of the field assigned to the teams is prohibited.** Parents and spectators shall remain on the other side of the field. Coaches shall comply with this rule. Referees are instructed to stop match play if parents or spectators do not comply. At the discretion of the Field Marshall or a Board member, parents and spectators may be asked to leave the park for the remainder of the day.

- 1) NMYSA Risk Management requires coaches, assistant coaches, players and referees eighteen (18) years old and over to have completed and passed the NMYSA background check and shall be issued a RYSA Player Card before being allowed to be near children. (Referees 17 years old and under are not required to have an RYSA Player card.)
- 2) Parents/Spectators shall be one (1) meter or more from the touchlines.
- 3) Parents/Spectators shall be 20 meters or more from the goal lines.
- 4) RYSA discourages the practice of “running the length of the field” during games by parents/spectators.
- 5) Alcoholic beverages are prohibited at a City of Roswell Park and cigarette/cigar smoking shall be twenty (20) meters away from any spectator. Cigarette waste shall be disposed of properly.

#### **E. Removal of Person from Sideline**

A team has the right to have boisterous persons for or associated with the other team removed from their sideline.

#### **F. Goal Post Color**

All goal posts shall be white and not have welded or otherwise attached hooks. For goalposts for teams U10 and over there may be a safety bumper attached to the side posts during official matches.

### **SECTION 22: FIELD MARSHALLS/RYSA Board Members**

#### **A. Appointed Field Marshalls**

RYSA Board of Directors may appoint Field Marshalls and the Field Marshall shall work cooperatively with the Referees. In the absence of making an appointment or assigning this duty for game days, the Referee Director shall act as the Field Marshall.

#### **B. Powers**

The Field Marshall shall have powers designated by the Board for a specific game day or tournament.

**C. Minor Referee**

RYSA utilizes minors to referee recreational games. The Referee Director or an appointed Field Marshall shall be present on all game days to control adult behavior. The Referee Director or appointed Field Marshall may stop a game if any player, coach, parent or referee is in danger or being abused.

**SECTION 23: REGISTRAR'S COMPENSATION**

**A. Registrar Compensated/Registration**

1. The Registrar shall be compensated per player registered by RYSA with NMYSA. That amount shall be due and payable to the Registrar at the point that the Risk Management fee has been submitted to NMYSA. The board shall set the Registrars Compensation annually but in the event this is not done the compensation from, the previous year shall be utilized.

**B. RYSA Compensated/Transfer Fee/Off Season Competitive Teams**

1. RYSA shall be compensated for transfers, releases and competitive travel rosters completed by the Registrar. The amount shall be due and payable to RYSA at the point a transfer, release or competitive team is created and their registration forms and fees forwarded to NMYSA. The fees shall be set annually by the board but in the event this is not done then the fee from the previous year shall be utilized.

**C. Invoice for Payment**

The Registrar shall submit a signed invoice for payment to the Treasurer itemized by type of compensation, registration, transfer, or release in order to be paid. The number of hours worked should also be indicated on the invoice so the board may evaluate the rate of pay and at their discretion make recommendations for adjustments in compensation throughout the year.

**SECTION 24: DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS PROCEDURES**

**A. Description**

RYSA disciplinary action hearings will occur as the result of allegations of misconduct brought forth by multiple, unrelated persons and/or backed by additional witness testimony, physical evidence, or at the discretion of the disciplinary committee. Action will be taken on conduct in violation of the Laws of the Game or other governing authority for RYSA.

**B. Initiation**

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any player, coach, team assistant, Board member, referee or spectator. Parties against whom such

proceedings have been brought, may, with a proper hearing, be suspended, barred completely or otherwise disciplined. Disciplinary hearings may be brought forth from a variety of sources. Proceedings can be initiated because of violation of the RYSA Mission Statement, Principles or other club or affiliated organization policies (NMYSA, USYSA).

**C. Committee Composition**

Hearing committees shall be comprised of at least three (3), but no more than five (5) members, headed by a committee administrator. The hearing committee members will be chosen by, and may include, the RYSA Vice President. The committee shall be comprised of persons having no conflict of interest in the matters being heard and having no association with the principal parties in the matters. In the case of a conflict, RYSA President will form the committee. The majority of the committee shall be RYSA Board members (two (2) for a three (3) person committee, three (3) for a five (5) person committee).

**D. Procedures to Setting up a Disciplinary Hearing**

- a. Schedule the hearing.
- b. Notify, in writing, all parties of the hearing time and location.
- c. The committee administrator may also seek additional written documentation from either party prior to the hearing, as circumstances warrant.

**E. Holding a Disciplinary Hearing**

At the hearing, each side should be accorded the opportunity to present their case and ask questions if they desire. If a party is still making valid points, and is not being repetitive, the administrator may allow additional time.

Opening Statement - Protesting Party	15 minutes
Opening Statement - Protested Party	15 minutes
Rebuttal/Closing Statement - Protesting Party	5 minutes
Rebuttal/Closing Statement - Protested Party	5 minutes
Questions from the Hearing Panel	Unlimited time

These times are to be taken as guidelines and can be adapted to each individual hearing. Both parties have the right to have witnesses speak on their behalf. The panel will discuss the issue after the hearing. Both parties should be informed, prior to their leaving, that they will be notified by mail within seven days of the outcome of the hearing.

**F. After a Disciplinary Hearing**

Within seven days, the committee shall mail to each party the findings and decision of the panel. That letter should contain:

- a. The original reason for the hearing
- b. The committee's decision
- c. The committee's reasoning

## **SECTION 25: PRACTICE AND GAME FIELDS AND FACILITIES**

### **A. Location of Play**

Generally, recreational games scheduled by the Team Director shall be played on fields at the Cielo Grande Soccer Complex located on West College Boulevard in Roswell, New Mexico. Practices may be scheduled at Cielo Grand and other parks at the discretion of the Coach provided they fall within the previously stated boundaries of RYSA. Make up matches may be scheduled in another city within Chaves County, approved by the Board.

### **B. Use Agreement with City of Roswell**

Each year RYSA will review, negotiate, and execute a use agreement governing maintenance and use of the facilities with the City of Roswell Parks and Recreation Department or other governing agencies as applicable.

### **C. Liaison Director with Parks and Recreation Department with City of Roswell**

The RYSA President, with approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint a primary and secondary contact person from the board with the City Parks and Recreation Department management team. This person will be responsible for contact to facilitate and coordinate issues concerning the Cielo Grande Soccer Complex facilities, fields and the use of same and report progress and ongoing concerns regularly to the RYSA Board of Directors.

### **D. Scheduled Maintenance of Fields and Building by Parks Department/City of Roswell**

In coordination with the Parks Maintenance Supervisor RYSA will attempt to ensure the field at Cielo Grande is in the best possible condition for safe play of soccer during both seasons of the year. RYSA shall be aware of the Parks Departments maintenance schedule including, but not limited to, watering, fertilizing, mowing, aerating, weeding, and coordinate efforts to accommodate and promote a safe and healthy soccer playing area.

### **E. Field Set Up, Prior to, During and After Seasons**

Field set up is on Saturdays and is generally accomplished by a voluntary staff. This includes hauling the goal nets, safety bumpers (*for U10 and up*), flags (*for U10 and up fields*), trashcans and cones to each field. The home teams are responsible for nets and tie downs prior to the first game. (Only adults authorized by the RYSA Board of Director shall be allowed to drive utility vehicles). In the event not all fields need to be set up, the Team Director or the Referee Director will provide a list on the storage shed Bulletin Board stating fields to be utilized.

Referees will walk the field of play to verify nets have been properly installed and the general safe condition of the field prior to each match. Unsafe conditions shall be rectified prior to play.

After the last game of the day, the home team is responsible for taking down the equipment and leaving it all neatly stacked in one location for pick up by the volunteer staff. Teams are responsible for cleaning the field prior to departing.

The RYSA Board of Directors reserves the right to have the set up and tear down of the fields as paid position(s). If RYSA is unable to maintain sufficient volunteers to help with this task then the cost will be incurred by all members and registration fees will be increased. The board shall establish the rate of compensation annually, but in the event this is not done the fee from the previous year shall be used.

#### **F. Practice Fields Conditions**

Practices may be held at city parks a coach feels will meet their requirements for a safe and healthy practice. Coaches shall walk the field prior to all practices to prevent any injury. Practices at Cielo Grande Soccer Complex are on a first come first serve basis.

### **SECTION 26: ADDITIONAL RULES AND FEES THAT CHANGE YEAR TO YEAR**

Additional Procedures, Rules and Fees that change from year to year, or are temporary from year to year, recently adopted by the Board of Directors shall be attached separately and made part of this document as Attachment A.

### **SECTION 27: ADDITIONAL USYSA RECOMMENDATIONS**

All referees, coaches and players shall shake hands for each game played.

Do not record RYSA standings

Do not record the final score

Participation awards for all – no trophies or awards given for the best team.

Parent/Coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators should be located not less than one (1) meter outside the touchline not should they be closer than 20 meters to the goals lines. No individual should be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game.

Parents shall not coach or instruct the players during game time.

No alcoholic beverages or cigarette smoking should be allowed.

### **SECTIONS 28: EXHIBITS**

A. Modified Playing Rules U8 & U10

#### **MODIFIED RULES OF PLAY – U8**

Law I – The Field

- A. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 70 meters nor less than 50 meters, and its width not more than 50 meters nor less than 30 meters. The length in all cases shall exceed its width.  
USYSA Recommendation: L: 60 meters x W: 40 meters.
- B. Markings:
  - a. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.
  - b. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
  - c. A center circle with a six (6) meters radius.
  - d. Four corner arcs with a two (2) meter radius.
  - e. Goal area – six (6) meters from each goal post and six (6) meters into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
- C. Goals:  
Six (6) feet high and twelve (12) feet wide.

Law II – The Ball: Size three (3)

Law III – Number of Players:

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time: Seven (7) one of whom shall be a goalkeeper.  
USYSA recommends the goalkeeper position not be the responsibility of just one player, but all team members take turns playing this position.
- B. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed twelve (12).
- C. Substitution:
  - a. Injuries
  - b. “Free substitution” in accordance with RYSA rules i.e. throw in by substituting team, after a goal by either team, on a goal kick by either team, at half time.
- D. Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- E. Teams and games may be co-ed.

Law IV – Player Equipment:

Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.
- B. Shin-guards: Mandatory.

Law V – Referee:

- A. Registered Referee (if available)
- B. Associate Referee (if available)
- C. Parent/Coach or Assistant
- D. Referees decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
- E. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

Law VI – Linesman: (Use Club Linesman during Tournament Play)

Law VII – Duration of the Game:

- A. The game shall be divided into four (4) twelve (12) minute quarters.
- B. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes and two (2) minute breaks at the quarters.

Law VIII – The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA w/ the following exception:

Opponents shall be six (6) meters from the center mark while the kick-off is in progress.

Law IX – Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA

Law X – Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA

Law XI – OFF-SIDE: **There Shall be No Off-Side.**

*Clarification: in general, offside is not called by the referee, however, if it appears to the referee that players are being coached to be in an offside position, or have figured out the advantage on their own, the referee shall issue a verbal warning to the player and coach, and continuous offside may result in a caution and send-off.*

Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA w/ the following exceptions

- A. All fouls will result in an INDIRECT FREE KICK with the opponents six (6) meters away.
- B. The Referee shall explain ALL infractions to the offending player.
- C. No caution or ejections shall be issued to players except by an independent neutral Referee.

Law XIII – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA w/ the following exceptions

- A. Shall be classified under one heading – INDIRECT
- B. A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.
- C. No kicks shall be taken by the attacking team within the defending team's goal-box.

Law XIV – Penalty Kicks: No penalty kicks during these games.

Law XV – Throw-In: Conform to FIFA w/ the following exceptions

A second throw-in shall be allowed if the player commits a foul on initial attempt. The Referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.

Law XVI – Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA w/ the following exceptions

- A. Goal kicks may be taken from any point inside the goal area.
- B. Opponents shall be six (6) meters away from the ball.

Law XVII – Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA w/ the following exceptions.

Opponents shall be six (6) meters away from the ball.

## **MODIFIED RULES OF PLAY – U10**

Law I – The Field

- A. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 80 meters nor less than 70 meters, and its width not more than 50 meters not less than 40 meters. The length in all cases shall exceed its width.  
USYSA Recommendation: L: 80 meters x W: 50 meters.
- B. Markings:
  - a. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.

- b. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
  - c. A center circle with an eight (8) meter radius.
  - d. Four corner arcs with a one (1) meter radius.
  - e. Goal area – six (6) meters from each goal post and six (6) meters into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
- C. Goals:  
Eight (8) feet high and sixteen (16) feet wide.
- D. Penalty Area and Markings:  
The penalty area is 14 meters from goal post and 14 meters into the field.  
The penalty mark is 10 meters from the goal line.

Law II – The Ball: Size four (4)

Law III – Number of Players:

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time: Eight (8) one of whom shall be a goalkeeper. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed fourteen (14).
- B. Substitution:
  - i. Prior to throw-in, in your favor.
  - ii. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
  - iii. After a goal, by either team.
  - iv. After an injury, by either team, when the Referee stops the play.
  - v. At half time.
- C. Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- D. Teams and games may be co-ed.

Law IV – Player Equipment:

- Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:
- A. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.
  - B. Shin-guards: Mandatory.

Law V – Referee:

- A. Registered Referee (if available)
- B. Associate Referee (if available)
- C. Parent/Coach or Assistant
- D. Referees decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
- E. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

Law VI – Linesman: (Use Club Linesman during Tournament Play)

Law VII – Duration of the Game:

- A. The game shall be divided into two (2) equal thirty (30) minute halves.
- B. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.

Law VIII – The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA w/ the following exception:

Opponents shall be eight (8) meters from the center mark while the kick-off is in progress.

Law IX – Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA

Law X – Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA

Law XI – OFF-SIDE: Conform to FIFA

Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA w/ the following exceptions  
Cautions or ejections may be issued to players by a Referee.

Law XIII – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA w/ the following exceptions  
Opponents shall be eight (8) meters away before kick is allowed.

Law XIV – Penalty Kicks: Conform to FIFA w/ the following exceptions  
Opponents shall be eight (8) meters away before kick is allowed.

Law XV – Throw-In: Conform to FIFA.

Law XVI – Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA

Law XVII – Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA w/ the following exceptions.  
Opponents shall be eight (8) meters away from the ball.

### **Micro Soccer Rules (The Small Sided Game)**

*NOTE: RYSA Micro Soccer is designed to offer a higher level of participation among youth soccer players within RYSA. Development of soccer skills are expected to be greater due to the smaller fields and less players on the field during a match. Another contributing factor to develop higher skills of soccer among the youth is the player/coach ratio. Individual attention can now be given to players who need that extra help. It is expected that Micro Soccer will bring back the enthusiasm to all levels of youth soccer and therefore retain a higher number of players who want to continue with soccer well into their teenage years.*

### **MICRO SOCCER (THE SMALL SIDED-GAME)**

**Age Groups:** All teams playing in the U5 and U6 will use the Micro Soccer format.

**Team Size:** For U5 or U6 teams, the maximum number of players in a match shall be four (4). The roster size shall be limited to eight (8) players per team.

**Field Size:** The minimum field size shall be 20 meters by 40 meters. The maximum size shall be 30 years by 50 meters. Halfway lines and corner arcs will remain the same. The center circle shall be six (6) meters in diameter.

The goal box shall be replaced by a goal arc that shall extend from one goal post to the other and the center part of the arc line shall be five (5) meters from the goal line.

**Equipment:** Goal size shall be five (5) feet high by ten (10) feet wide and minimum size equal to hockey goals. Ball size and uniforms shall be the same as U8 play.

**Game Rules:** The official match shall be played with four (4) a side (4 x 4). No less than three players may start or continue a match. No goalkeeper shall be permitted. No player may be positions with the goal arc; however, a player, offensive or defensive may play through the goal arc. All goal kicks shall be kicked from the goal-arc area. No opponent can be within six (6) meters of the ball's position before a free kick or a goal kick is taken. The official time shall be four (4) eight (8) minute quarters with a five (5) minute half-time break and two (2) minute breaks between quarters.

Substitutions shall be allowed by both teams during any goal kick, before kickoff, at an injury, and by the team with the thrown-in. Injury substitution will only be allowed if the injured player is substituted. Substitution cannot be permitted at any other time. Offside is not called at this age level of play.

The following aspects of the game shall be the same as for U8 play:

- Player's equipment
- Referees
- Lines people
- Start of play
- Ball in and out of play
- Method of scoring
- Fouls and Misconduct
- Free kick
- Penalty kick
- Throw-in
- Corner kick