

**MUSTANG YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
**RULES OF COMPETITION,**  
**COACHES GUIDELINES, TEAM ORGANIZATION, AND**  
**CLUB POLICIES**

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## **SECTION I: GOVERNING AUTHORITY**

All MYSA league play, including tournaments, playoffs and championship matches shall be governed by the current rules, regulations, and policies of the Mustang Youth Soccer Association ("MYSA") set forth herein and/or in the MYSA Bylaws as well as the rules and regulations of the Frontier Country Soccer Association ("FCSA"), the Oklahoma Soccer Association ("OSA"), the United States Soccer Federation ("USSF") the United States Youth Soccer Association ("USYSA"), and the Federal Internationale de Football Association ("FIFA").

## **SECTION II: TYPES OF TEAMS**

All MYSA teams shall be divided into three (3) categories:

- A. All girls teams.
- B. All boys teams.
- C. Mixed Teams. (A mixed team can play in a boys' league.)

Each team shall be classified as either a recreational team, academy team, or competitive team (i.e. competitive teams are teams created by tryouts or a selection process involving recruitment of players for a team, including academy teams.) No team that is formed by tryouts or selection or by the recruitment of players for a particular team may be classified as a recreational team.

## **SECTION III: PLAYER AGE AND REGISTRATION**

The MYSA playing season shall be September 1 of any year through August 31 of the succeeding year and shall consist of a Fall Season and a Spring season set by FCSA and such interim MYSA seasons that may be set by the MYSA Board of Directors (e.g. summer micro soccer season) and allowed by FCSA. The age determination for all players shall be the child's actual age on July 31, prior to the Fall season of the playing season. With respect to the minimum age for Under 5 teams, a child must be 4 years of age on or before July 31 prior to the Fall season or on or before January 31 prior to the Spring season (Fall and Spring seasons are set by FCSA.)

- A. The age groups shall be as follows:

- Under 5 years of age
- Under 6 years of age
- Under 7 years of age
- Under 8 years of age
- Under 9 years of age
- Under 10 years of age
- Under 12 years of age
- Under 14 years of age
- Under 16 years of age
- Under 19 years of age

- B. A player may request to "play up" or "play down" one age group by the parent or legal guardian of the player requesting that option, in writing, to the MYSA Executive Board prior to the last registration date set by the MYSA Registrar. Any request for a player to play up

whose birthday is on or before five (5) months after the birthday cutoff for the age group into which that player seeks to play (i.e. on or before December 31) shall be approved unless such is denied by two-thirds (2/3rd) of the total number of the Executive Board. Any request for a player to play up whose birthday is on or before one (1) year but after five (5) months after the birthday cutoff for the age group into which that player seeks to play must be approved by a majority of the total number of the Executive Board members. Any request for a player to play up whose birthday is on or before two (2) years but after one (1) year after the birthday cutoff for the age group into which that player seeks to play must be approved by two-thirds (2/3rd) of the total number of the Executive Board members. A player may be allowed to play down only under exceptional circumstances, only if approved by two-thirds of the total number of the Executive Board members, and only if allowed by FCSA. A player that is allowed to play up or play down for a particular playing season does not mean that player will be allowed to play up or play down in any subsequent playing season. Any player allowed to play up or play down may be required to return to their applicable age group, if the coach requests in writing for the child to be returned to the applicable age group and a majority of the total number of the members of the Executive Board deems it to be advisable to return the player to their applicable age group.

- C. Any player allowed to "play up" or "play down" shall be assigned to a team as determined in Section V.
- D. Any under-age player playing for an older team that wishes or is required to return to a younger team after the older team's roster with his or her name has been turned in to FCSA, shall be assigned to a team as determined in Section V. Any over age player playing for a younger team that wishes or is required to return to an older team after the younger team's roster with his or her name has been turned in to FCSA shall be assigned to a team as determined in Section V as a late registrant with no prior team affiliations.
- E. Players must submit proof of age (birth certificate, immunization record, etc.) upon initial registration with MYSA and/or upon request.
- F. No player shall be denied the opportunity to participate due to financial inability; however, a player shall be duly registered 72 hours prior to participation in any matches. A Request for a Registration Fee Scholarship must be submitted on the required form explaining the basis of the need for a Scholarship and must be approved by the MYSA President and Registrar. Alternate payment plans or volunteer service to MYSA (e.g. work in the concession stand, increased fund raising obligations, etc.) are acceptable alternatives to the granting of a Registration Fee Scholarship. Each player's registration fee or an application for a registration fee scholarship (full or partial) or an application for an alternate registration fee payment plan must be submitted to the MYSA President or Registrar on or before one (1) week prior to the first scheduled match or the player may be removed from the roster of a MYSA team by the MYSA Registrar.
- G. All teams shall be formed under the supervision of the President and the Registrar. Registration fees should be paid before the MYSA Registrar submits team rosters to FCSA. No refunds of registration fee will be given, except to the extent allowed by the MYSA Executive Board, after the player is placed on a team roster submitted to FCSA by the MYSA Registrar.

## SECTION IV: TEAM GUIDELINES

- A. Each team in any match shall field the number of players allowed by FCSA and a team's roster shall not have any more or less players than may be allowed by FCSA. To the extent allowed by FCSA, MYSA teams in the following age groups shall field the following number of players and shall have the following maximum and minimum number of players assigned to their team roster:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Field</u>	Max.	Min.
		<u>Roster</u>	<u>Roster</u>
Under 5/6	3	6	4
Under 7/8	4	8	6
Under 9/10	6	12	8
Under 12	8	16	10
Under 14 and older	11	18	14

Exceptions to the forgoing field and roster requirements which are allowed by FCSA shall be permitted by MYSA if such is required by MYSA's enrollment. Under no circumstances shall the number of players on any team roster at any time exceed two (2) times the number of players fielded in the applicable age group, unless approved by MYSA Executive Board and team coach.

- B. At the option of the coach of the team with the insufficient number of players, MYSA matches may be played if the number of players in attendance for each team in an under 7 or under 8 match is equal to or more than one players less than the number of players to be fielded for that age group. At the option of the coach of the team with the insufficient number of players, MYSA matches may be played if the number of players in attendance for each team in an under 9 through under 12 match is equal to or more than two players less than the number of players to be fielded for that age group. At the option of the coach of the team with the insufficient number of players, MYSA matches may be played if the number of players in attendance for each team in an under 14 or older match is seven (7) players or more. If the minimum number of players for a match other than an under 6 match are not present at the time the match is schedule to begin, or if the coach of the team with insufficient players elects not to play, the match will be forfeited by the team(s) that failed to have sufficient players present to play. Under 5 and under 6 MYSA matches shall be played with both teams fielding one player less than the normal field requirements if there is an insufficient number of players for either one of the teams to meet the normal field requirement (herein referred to as the "reduced field requirement"); provided, however, this reduced field requirement for an under 5/6 match shall not be less than one-half (1/2) of the number of players in attendance for the team with the largest number of players. Any Under 6 match in which sufficient players for either team are not in attendance to play with one less player than the reduced field requirement at the time the match is scheduled to begin shall be cancelled. Any Under 5/6 match commenced under a reduced field requirement shall have the number of fielded players increased, up to the regular field requirement, as players appear after the start of a match. Coaches may agree to playing a MYSA match short of the field requirements set forth above if the opponent is short of players; provided however, the reduced number of fielded players under such an agreement shall not be less than one-half (1/2) of the number of players in attendance for the team with the largest number of players. While there is no requirement that a coach or an opposing coach agree to playing short (except for the foregoing reduced field requirement for Under 5/6 matches), a match started in which either team is playing short shall be considered a regular match and standing points shall be awarded in accordance with the final score.

- C. No player shall play on more than one MYSA or FCSA team and all transfers to or from outside MYSA's boundaries shall be controlled by the FCSA rules, regulations, and policies.
- D. Except for health reasons or disciplinary reasons as set forth below, all registered players in attendance shall be provided the opportunity to participate and play at least one-half (1/2) of each match, even if the player merely stands on the field. The failure of a player in attendance to play at least one-half of a match is presumptively a wrongful denial of the required match participation by a coach. The coach must notify the opposing team's coach and the referee before the start of the match if disciplinary and/or health problems apply. Failure to do so is deemed conclusive that there was no health reason existing prior to the match or any disciplinary reason to deny a player the required match participation. Any coach denying the required match participation due to health reasons occurring during a match must be prepared to present independent confirmation by a neutral person (such as a child's parent, a referee or an opposing coach) that there was a legitimate health reason to deny the required match participation.
- E. A coach may suspend a player from match participation if a player has been guilty of insubordination, willful evasion of practice and/or matches, or serious misconduct.
- F. Any player or the parent or legal guardian of any player participating in the relevant match, any coach participating in the relevant match, or any referee or field monitor may complain in writing to the MYSA Executive Board if he or she feels that a player has been wrongfully denied the required match participation. The coach is subject to suspension or denial of approval for the coach to serve as a head coach in future seasons by the MYSA Executive Board as a result of his or her wrongfully denying a player the required match participation or repeated failure to afford the required match participation. Wrongful denial of the required match participation may also result in the MYSA Executive Board declaring that the match is forfeited by the team whose coach denied the required match participation.
- G. Any coach/team knowingly playing with a player in violation of the maximum age limits for his/her team as defined in Section III above, shall forfeit all matches and points gained as a result of any such matches in which the player participated. The coach also may be subject to suspension by the MYSA Executive Board as a result of his or her playing of a player in violation of such age limits.
- H. Playing a suspended player shall result in forfeiture of that match and points for any match that he/she participated in while under suspension. The coach also may be subject to suspension by the MYSA Executive Board as a result of his or her playing of a suspended player.
- I. A match in which a particular ineligible player participated is defined as a match at which a player is suited-up and available to play.

## **SECTION V: RECREATIONAL TEAM FORMATION AND PLAYER ASSIGNMENT**

- A. Criteria for placing players on recreational teams (including traveling recreational teams) shall be:
  - 1. Players that were on a MYSA team from the previous season may remain on the same team if allowed by MYSA enrollment. Players that have skipped only one (1) season may also return to the same MYSA team, but only if the assignment of

returning players from the previous season to that MYSA team and MYSA enrollment allow without reassignment of any player returning from the previous season. Otherwise, the returning player, after a skipped season, shall be assigned to a team as a new registrant with no prior MYSA team affiliation. All returning players, after skipping more than one (1) season, shall be assigned as a new registrant with no prior team affiliation. When players are allowed to remain on the same team, such does not mean that a player is guaranteed a particular coach. This only means that the players shall be allowed to play together, if allowed by MYSA enrollment.

- a. The players that otherwise would have a right to return to a team may be reassigned to the extent necessary to prevent MYSA from turning players away (e.g. new MYSA registrants are in insufficient numbers to form a team but existing teams have the maximum number of players and the reassignment of players would allow for the formation of another team). Reassignment of players shall be by random draw of the players on existing teams of the playing age with obligation to reducing the displacement of players on an existing team.
  - b. In the event that low MYSA enrollment makes it necessary to complete the roster for a practical number of teams in an age group, returning players may be reassigned as new registrants with no prior team affiliation. Such returning players on a team with no approved head coach shall be the first players to be reassigned, then returning players on teams with the fewest number of returning players shall be the next players to be reassigned and such reassignment shall be accomplished by random draw. To the extent the MYSA Registrar believes a more equitable order for reassignment of players should be followed for any particular season, the MYSA Registrar may use such different order if approved by the Executive Board.
2. Unless requested to be placed on different teams by random draw players shall be placed on teams as follows:
- a. The child of an approved head coach, coaching in the child's age group and/or a child living on a permanent basis in the household of such an approved head coach, shall be placed on the team coached by that head coach.
  - b. Siblings and children living on a permanent basis in the same household as another player that is playing in the same age group shall be placed on the same team. Both such players will be placed on one of the teams to which either one of the children have a right to be assigned, if MYSA enrollment allows such an assignment. Otherwise, such children shall be placed on a team by random draw.

Any player, parent, or coach participating in a deception concerning the household in which a child is living on a permanent basis, so as to manipulate team placement may subject the player and/or coach to suspension and/or the player to team reassignment by the MYSA Executive Board.

3. Any special requests for player placement shall be presented to the MYSA Registrar, in writing, prior to the last registration date set by the MYSA Registrar with the signature of a parent and/or legal guardian of the player. The basis of such

requests shall be reviewed and, if acceptable, approved by the MYSA President, applicable Registrar, and applicable Coaches Coordinator, by 2/3 vote.

4. New registrants shall be placed on teams by a random draw. Any registrants to be placed on the same team shall be drawn together for the same team.
5. Unless there is only one (1) team in the age group or unless the exercise of the request would result in any team being over the maximum roster size or below three (3) more than the number of players fielded in that age group, a player's parent or legal guardian may request, in writing, that the player not be assigned to a team coached by a particular head coach or be reassigned to a team with a different head coach after being assigned to a team.
  - a. If the request is made before the random draw, the player shall be included in the random draw but shall be replaced in the pool of unselected players if the player is drawn for the team coached by the coach involved. Only one such request shall be allowed during a season.
  - b. If the request is made after a player is assigned to a team, the player shall be reassigned, if possible, as a late registrant. Only one such request shall be allowed during a year.
6. Unless there is only one team in the coaches age group or unless the exercise of the request would result in any team being over the maximum roster size or below three (3) more than the number of players fielded in that age group, a head coach may request, in writing, that one player not be assigned to his team.
  - a. If the request is made before the random draw, the player involved shall be included in the random draw but shall be replaced in the pool of unselected players if the player is drawn for the team coached by the coach involved. Only one such request shall be allowed during a season.
  - b. If the request is made after a player is assigned to a team, the player shall be reassigned, if possible, as a late registrant. Only one such request shall be allowed during a year.

All children wanting to play soccer should be afforded the opportunity to play; therefore, a head coach should not seek the reassignment of a player if the request is based solely on the playing ability of the player. A coach is expected to teach such a player and not attempt to hand a problem off to another coach. Therefore, any coach making such a request should be prepared to give the basis of the request to the MYSA Executive Board, if requested.

7. If a team is reduced as a result of requests for reassignment or as a result of players quitting soccer to below the mandatory number of players to be fielded for that age group, the team may be disbanded by the MYSA Executive Board. To the extent possible, the players on that disbanded team shall be reassigned as late registrants by random draw.
8. No head coach, assistant coach, parent, or team supporter shall directly or indirectly attempt to recruit a player for their team. Any head coach or assistant coach participating in any such recruitment may be subject to suspension by the MYSA Executive Board. The MYSA Executive Board may also take such actions concerning the recruited player as they may deem appropriate, including team

reassignment or suspension. The MYSA Executive Board may assign or reassign players so as to prevent even the appearance that a player was recruited to a particular team.

9. To the extent there is a team with room on their roster, a late registrant shall be placed on the team in the applicable age group with the fewest number of players. However, no player treated as a late registrant as a result of a request for reassignment to a team with a different head coach shall be placed on the team from which the player sought reassignment. If there are more than one team with the fewest players with, the player shall be placed on one of those teams by a random draw.
  10. All requests for special exceptions to the foregoing rules are viewed with much disfavor and shall be granted only under a clear showing of exceptional circumstances.
- B. In the event there are insufficient teams on which to place all persons seeking to play, all late registrations (i.e. registration after teams have been formed) shall be placed at the bottom of the waiting list in chronological order of registration, with the following exceptions.
1. Returning players from the previous season shall be assigned before all other players.
  2. Returning players who have skipped only one season shall receive priority over new players.
  3. Returning players who have skipped more than one season shall not receive any priority over new players.
  4. All players treated as late registrants which are being reassigned from an existing team to a new team shall be placed on a team before any player on the then existing waiting list.
  5. After all previous re-organization of the waiting list, the first player listed on the waiting list shall be the first player assigned.
- C. Coaches are required to notify the Registrar when a player on their team quits playing soccer. No player who quits playing soccer shall be allowed to re-register for that season, except by approval of the MYSA Executive Board. The MYSA Executive Board may impose conditions on the player, including the assignment of the player to a team without compliance with the standard placement requirements so as to eliminate the possibility of using such action to manipulate team placement. A player, parent, or coach participating in a deception concerning a player quitting soccer so as to manipulate team placement may subject the player or coach to suspension and/or the player to team reassignment by the MYSA Executive Board.
- D. Failure to register by the last registration date can result in the reassignment of a returning player to a new team as a late registrant.
- E. All team rosters shall be final upon approval by FCSA.

## **SECTION VI: COMPETITIVE PLAYER RE-ASSIGNMENT**

MYSAs primary purpose is to provide recreational team play. If any competitive team (including Academy teams) should be formed for competition, they shall be formed according to FCSA requirements and will be managed by the Canadian Valley Futbol Club. If a competitive player is returning to recreational league play, he/she shall be placed according to the guidelines in Section V.

## **SECTION VII: REASONABLE BALANCE**

MYSAs strives to produce a competitive balance throughout recreational soccer. Understanding that this balance is delicate and very difficult to achieve, the following system shall be utilized. This policy will be established on a team-by-team basis and determined by the MYSA Executive Board.

- A. Each division, U7 and above, shall be reviewed by the MYSA Executive Board at the conclusion of each season.
- B. If, at the determination of the MYSA Executive Board, a team appears significantly superior in its respective division, said team shall be moved to the next greater age division the following season.
- C. Divisional superiority shall be determined by a combination of win-loss record, scoring margin, and team skill evaluation.
- D. Any players not desiring to move into the older age group will be allowed to register and be placed on a team according to the guidelines for late registrants.
- E. All teams that were moved to an older age group by MYSA mandate shall also be re-evaluated to determine necessity to remain in said division.
- F. All girls teams required by MYSA to play in an older division also have the option to play in the boys division of their true age group.

## **SECTION VIII: EJECTION, SUSPENSION, AND FORFEITED MATCHES**

- A . Each member of the MYSA Executive Board who is not a coach of one of the teams playing the match and who is not the parent or legal guardian of a player on one of the teams playing the match shall be field monitors for any MYSA match. Field monitors shall have the authority to eject coaches, players, parents, spectators, and referees from any match for misconduct and shall monitor a coach's compliance with his or her obligation to afford each player the opportunity to play at least one-half (1/2) of each match. A field monitor's determination as to the amount of playing time for any player is conclusive and not subject to appeal. After the report of the field monitor that a player did not play at least one-half (1/2) of a match, the only determination remaining to be made by the MYSA Executive Board is the determination of whether the player was wrongfully denied the required playing time and the punishment to be imposed by the MYSA Executive Board for any such wrongful denial of playing time. The MYSA Executive Board may also appoint such other experienced

coaches or experienced referees as field monitors for matches in which they are not coaches or referees and have no children playing.

- B.** When any referee is ejected from an MYSA match by a field monitor, that referee shall not participate in any further matches for that day and all matches assigned to that referee shall continue with a field monitor or another referee obtained by the field monitor acting as the referee, and no objections to the qualification of the field monitor acting as a referee or a substitute referee shall be allowed. A referee who is ejected may be reported to the FCSA who will in turn report to OSA.
- C.** Coaches, players, parents, and spectators may be ejected from any match by the referee for misconduct.
- D.** A coach, player, parent, or spectator who is ejected from a match shall leave the immediate area of the playing field before recommencement of the match and shall not return until the match is completed.
- E.** Refusal by an ejected coach, player, parent, or spectator to leave the area of the playing field within the time specified by the referee shall result in immediate termination of the match, with the match forfeited by the team whose coach, player, parent, or spectator refused to leave and shall not be replayed.
- F.** A player or coach who is ejected (red card) shall be prohibited from participation in at least the next match his/her team plays, and such additional punishment, including further suspension, as the MYSA Executive Board shall deem appropriate. If the coach or player does participate in the next match his/her team plays, that match shall be forfeited, if won and if the match was lost, the first victory thereafter shall be forfeited.
- G.** A player or coach who intentionally strikes a referee, linesman, or field monitor shall be prohibited from participation in MYSA competition for at least one calendar year and charges may be filed.
- H.** A coach or player who receives three (3) cautions (yellow cards) in any one season shall be suspended from any participation in the next regularly scheduled match.
- I.** It is a coach's responsibility to report what he/she considers to be misconduct of a MYSA team, coach, player, parents, spectators, and/or referee to the MYSA Coaches Coordinator or Referee Coordinator. The MYSA Coaches Coordinator and Referee Coordinator shall investigate any serious misconduct of a MYSA team, coach, player, parents, spectators, and/or referee that comes to their attention and provide a report with recommended course of action to the MYSA Executive Board. Such investigation may include the use of a field monitor to examine the suspected misconduct at future matches. After investigation and recommendation of the MYSA Coaches Coordinator and Referee Coordinator, the MYSA Executive Board, by a vote of two-thirds of the total number of its members, may suspend a team, coach, or players and forbid future participation of a team, coach, or player in MYSA for a time certain or indefinite if, in the opinion of the MYSA Executive Board, the team, coach, player, parents, or supporters are acting contrary to the best interest of the players or MYSA, or are encouraging dangerous playing practices, or are engaged in conduct that is reflected herein as conduct possibly resulting in suspension, or are acting in an ungentlemanly or unsportsmanlike manner, or are engaged in conduct that violate MYSA's Code of Ethics. Even the suspicion of such conduct by a coach is sufficient grounds for the MYSA Executive Board to deny approval for the coach to serve as a head coach in future seasons so as to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Except for emergencies declared by all members of the MYSA Executive Board, the team, coach or player subject to

suspension for more than one (1) match under this paragraph shall be provided forty-eight (48) hours in which to provide a written response to the MYSA Executive Board before sanctions are imposed. In the event there are insufficient votes for suspension, the MYSA Executive Board, by a majority vote, may issue a written warning to the team, coach, or player that suspension under this paragraph is likely if immediate action is not taken to correct the problem. The MYSA Coach Coordinator and/or Referee Coordinator may also recommend such a written warning; however, the actions of MYSA Executive Board shall not be limited to the recommended sanctions made to the MYSA Executive Board. The MYSA Executive Board may also condition a coach's future participation in MYSA on successful completion of future training.

- J. After investigation and recommendation of the MYSA Coaches Coordinator and Referee Coordinator, the MYSA Executive Board may suspend a referee and forbid future participation of a referee in MYSA matches for a time certain if the MYSA Executive Board, in their sole opinion, determines by majority vote that the conduct of the referee merits such action. The MYSA Executive Board may also condition a referee's future participation in MYSA matches on successful completion of future training.
- K. The score of any forfeited match shall be recorded as a 3-0 loss for the team forfeiting the match. A double forfeited match shall be recorded as a 0-0 loss for each team.
- L. In addition to MYSA powers to suspend outlined herein and in the MYSA By-laws, FCSA's rules, regulations, and policies also provided for suspension of teams, coaches, or players under certain conditions. Therefore, the conduct of each team, player, and coach is subject to examination by both MYSA and FCSA.

## **SECTION IX: PRACTICE**

- A. Team meetings shall include matches, practices, scrimmages, and instructional meetings.
- B. Team meetings shall be limited to three (3) during a calendar week. No team meetings shall exceed ninety (90) minutes each, except Under 19 age group teams, whose team meetings may not exceed one hundred (100) minutes in duration. Parent information meetings, with no instructional meeting of the players, shall not be counted as a team meeting. If players on an MYSA team are also playing indoor soccer during an MYSA soccer season and one more than one-half (1/2) of the players on a MYSA team is also playing on the same indoor soccer team, each team meeting of the indoor team shall reduce by one (1) the number of team meetings allowed for the MYSA team.
- C. A calendar week shall begin with Saturday and shall consist of that day and the following six days.
- D. Practices may be held Monday through Saturday at the discretion of the coach. Practice may be held on Sunday, provided the coach has the approval of the players' parents or legal guardians.
- E. Locations of fields for practice shall be approved by the MYSA Executive Board, if necessary.
- F. The normal activity schedule for a player can be expected to be two (2) one and one half (1-1/2) hour time periods consisting of practices, instructional meetings, or scrimmages, plus one match.

- G. Prior to formal team formation, team meetings may only consist of coaches, parents, and players assigned to the team from the immediate previous season. No unregistered player is allowed to participate in any team meetings. Team meetings of indoor teams are not covered, sanctioned, or controlled by MYSA or its rules, regulations, policies, or insurance.

## **SECTION X: POINTS AND TEAM STANDINGS**

- A. Age group division standings will be kept on an up-to-date basis by the MYSA Schedule Coordinator, weekly, during the season.
- B. Points to determine division standings in a MYSA formed division for age groups of Under 7 and older are to be computed as follows with respect to matches between teams in that MYSA division:

Winning match            6 points for the winning team  
Tie match                3 points for each team  
Plus one (1) point per goal scored, up to a total of three (3) points, per team

Points to determine division standings in a MYSA formed division for age groups of Under 7 and older are to be computed as follows with respect to matches where both of the teams are not from the same MYSA age division:

Winning match            2 points for the winning team  
Tie match                1 point for each team  
Plus one (1) point for the first goal scored per team.

The primary objective of coaches of Under 5/6 teams is to teach the technical requirements of soccer and not to promote a competitive atmosphere. Therefore, no points shall be awarded to participating teams in any Under 5/6 MYSA division and win/loss records shall not be maintained by MYSA except as may be needed for administrative purposes.

- C. All teams in the same division will play an equal number of division matches.
- D. Any match terminated (other than by forfeiture) during the first half is void and, when such a match is rescheduled, it will start as a new match with no score. A match terminated (other than by forfeiture) in the second half is complete and the score at the time of termination is final.

## **SECTION XI: DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP DETERMINATION**

- A. If there are less than four (4) MYSA teams in any one age group, they shall be traveling teams under a FCSA authorized division unless sufficient intra-club matches can be scheduled outside of an FCSA formed division so as to form a MYSA division. If there are four (4) or more MYSA teams but less than eleven (11) MYSA teams in one age group, one MYSA division shall be formed unless the Executive Board approves more than one (1) division in that age group. If there are eleven (11) or more MYSA teams in one age group, multiple MYSA divisions shall be formed; however, no such division shall have less than four (4) teams unless sufficient intra-club matches can be scheduled outside of an FCSA formed division so as to form a MYSA division with four (4) or less MYSA teams. If MYSA

teams from the same age group are to be placed in different divisions (whether MYSA or FCSA formed divisions), the MYSA President, Registrar, and Schedule Coordinator shall determine the divisions into which each such team shall be placed according to the age and/or skill levels of the teams. Inter-club matches with teams formed by clubs other than MYSA (other than matches scheduled under a FCSA formed traveling division) may only be scheduled in such age groups and with such clubs as may be approved by the Executive Board.

**B.** In a MYSA division, the champion and the remaining division standings will be determined in the order of the respective teams division points earned at the end of the regular season. There shall be no champion declared for any division of a MYSA Under 5/6 age group.

**C.** All standings and/or playoffs in any FCSA division shall be in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of FCSA. If, at the end of the regular season of a MYSA division in an age group, there are ties, the following system shall determine placements, in the following order.

1. Head-to-head

2. Goal differential

3. Fewest goals allowed

4 In the event teams are still tied, or the teams have not played each other during the season, a playoff shall be held to determine the division standings at such time as may be scheduled by the MYSA Schedule Coordinator and Referee Coordinator; provided, however, the MYSA Schedule Coordinator and Referee Coordinator shall avoid, to the extent feasible, requiring any playoff team from playing more than one playoff match in a twenty (20) hour period. To the extent not prohibited by FCSA, the following rules shall apply to any such MYSA Division playoffs:

a. No playoff match shall be allowed to end in a tie.

b. Ties between two (2) teams shall be determined by a single playoff match.

c. Ties between three (3) teams shall be determined by the following playoff rules using the standard MYSA division point system:

1st match: Team A v Team B

2nd match: Team B v Team C

3rd match: Team A v Team C

If a tie still exists following this format, the winner shall be determined by the total number of goals scored in all the playoff matches, not to include shoot-out goals.

If a tie exists following goals scored, the team with the least total number of goals scored against them in all the playoff matches, not to include shoot-out goals, shall be declared the winner.

If a tie exists after goals for/goals against: the winner shall be determined by independent draw (i.e. placement positions are written on separate pieces of paper and placed in a group, team names are written on separate pieces of paper and placed in a separate group and a disinterested person

shall draw one team name and one placement position for each of the drawn teams until all positions are determined) under the supervision of the MYSA President.

- d. Ties between four (4) teams shall be determined by the following playoff rules:

1st match: Team A v Team B  
2nd match: Team C v Team D  
3rd match: Winner of 1st match v Winner of 2nd match  
4th match: Loser of 1st match v Loser of 2nd match  
5th match: Loser of 3rd match v Winner of 4th match shall play, if and only if, they have not played each other in a previous playoff match

First place in the playoff is the 3rd match winner; second place in the playoff is the 5th match winner if such match is played, if not played, then the 3rd match loser; third place in the playoff is the 5th match loser if such match is played, if not played, then the 4th match winner; and fourth place in the playoff is 4th match loser.

5. If not determined by the foregoing rules on ties, the MYSA President, Schedule Coordinator, and Referee Coordinator shall determine the manner they deem to be advisable to break the tie, including by independent draw as described in Item 4 above and this determination shall be final.

6. If a championship or playoff match is still tied after two (2) overtime periods, FCSA shoot-out competition rules shall apply to determine the winner, including the requirement that only those players on the field at the end of the second overtime period shall participate in the shoot-out. The overtime periods shall be sudden death periods and the duration of the overtime periods will be as follows:

Under 16 & 19 - Two 15-minute overtime periods.

Under 12 & 14- Two 10-minute overtime periods.

Under 8 & 10 - Two 5-minute overtime periods.

A coin toss shall determine the team to kickoff and the end to be defended during the first overtime period. The team to kickoff the second overtime period shall be the team who did not kickoff the first overtime period and ends are to be changed at the beginning of the second overtime period. Five (5) minutes intervals shall be allowed before each overtime period and before any shoot-out.

- D. After the Spring season has been completed, recreation teams from MYSA will be invited to the Frontier Country Soccer Association's Day of Champions. Participating in this event representing MYSA is optional and is at the expense of the team's coaches, players, parents, and legal guardians that are involved. If MYSA is to make the determination of which MYSA teams in an age group are to attend such tournaments or similar tournaments, such determination shall be made (1) in the order of division standings with respect to each MYSA age groups in which all teams play in the same division and (2) in such manner consistent with the foregoing division standing rules as may be determined by the Executive Board (with all interested members abstaining) with respect to MYSA age groups in which any of the teams play in different divisions. It is the goal of any such selection method utilized to award the superior team(s) with the right to attend such tournaments.

## **SECTION XII: COACHES GUIDELINES**

- A. The Executive Board shall approve all head coaches each season based upon the persons coaching ability and license, past performance as a coach or assistant coach, compliance with MYSA rules, policies, and code of ethics, past non-monetary contributions to MYSA, compatibility with the purpose and philosophy of MYSA, and any other factors deemed important by the MYSA Executive Board. New head coaches shall be recruited by the Registrar and Coaches Coordinator and recommended to the MYSA Executive Board. A returning head coach shall receive first consideration to return as a head coach of the team for which he or she was a head coach in the previous season. The assistant coach of a team who has lost their head coach shall receive first consideration as the head coach of that team and a head coach moving to a new age group shall receive first consideration as a new coach in the new age group. A coach who is to receive "first consideration" for a coaching position shall only mean that such a coach shall be evaluated without comparison to other persons also seeking to coach. A coach who has skipped a season shall not receive any special consideration in the selection of head coaches. It is the head coaches' responsibility to appoint his/her assistant coach from among the parents of the players on the head coach's team. All head and assistant coaches must register with MYSA as a coach on the form required by the Executive Board before they shall assume their responsibilities as a coach. MYSA reserves the right to conduct a records check for past criminal history as to any head coach, assistant coach, or other team manager, trainer, etc.**

**All MYSA head and assistant coaches must register with MYSA during registration on the proper form so that he or she will be covered by liability insurance.**

- B. Except concerning Under 5/6 games, both teams shall position the team benches on the North or the East sides of the field, whichever may be applicable to the particular field. All spectators shall sit on the opposite side of the field from the players' benches.**
- C. If an official referee does not appear within fifteen (15) minutes of the time a match is scheduled to begin, a field monitor or any other person mutually agreed upon by the coaches of both teams may act as referee. In the event a field monitor is not available and a person cannot be mutually agreed upon, the match will be canceled and rescheduled as a referee canceled match. Complaints concerning the credentials or qualification of a referee shall be investigated by the MYSA Coaches Coordinator and Referee Coordinator and reported to the MYSA Executive Board for such action as they may, in their sole opinion, deem appropriate; however, A PROTEST OF A MATCH WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON ANY PERSON'S CREDENTIALS OR QUALIFICATIONS TO REFEREE A MATCH.**
- D. The coach is responsible for setting a good example for his players, assistant coaches, and parents.**
- E. All coaches shall make sure their players wear shin guards during each team meeting. SHIN GUARDS ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL AGE GROUPS. No Coach shall allow an unregistered player to participate in any team meeting.**
- F. Except for allowances made by the MYSA Executive Board with respect to coaches of Under 5/6 teams, coaches should remain in the coaches box. Space permitting at the soccer complex, the teams' spectators should remain along a line 10 yards back from the touch line but in all events at least 2 yards back from the touch line. Coaches and spectators should be no further toward the goal line than the penalty area. No spectators or coaches are allowed to remain behind the goal or along the goal line.**

- G. **Except for allowances made by the MYSA Executive Board of Directors with respect to coaches of Under 5/6 teams, coaching from the sidelines during a match should be minimized. It can be permitted by the referee as long as it is in a positive manner and directed only to his or her team (not the opponent). The coach should primarily take notes for instruction and coaching during half time, after the match, or at practices.**
  
- H. **The referee may be addressed by coaches or captains for injuries or substitutions. Parents and spectators should not address the referee during a match. If you have questions of the referee, see him/her at halftime or after the match. Any evaluation of a referee should be sent to the Referee Coordinator. A referee is considered to have had a successful match if he correctly makes 70% to 80% of his calls. Under the rules of MYSA, FCSA, OSA, USYSA and FIFA, dissent and/or foul and abusive language is not permitted.**
  
- I. **MYSA strongly urges the head coach of each team to have Team Parents other than the coach and assistant coach. The appointment of Team Parents promotes parent participation with the team, and frees the coaches to use their time to plan practices, lineups, tactics, etc. One or more of the following team parents are suggested:**
  - 1. **Team Parent for Weather Contact - parent called by coach to advise of weather cancellation of any match or practice and parent who is then responsible for calling all other parents to advise them of such weather cancellations.**
  - 2. **Team Parent for Game Drinks and Concession Stand Coordination - parent that obtains commitments for game drinks and team concession stand obligations from other parents and calls parents to insure commitments are met.**
  - 3. **Team Parent for Fund Raising Coordination - Parent responsible for coordinating MYSA fund raising obligations of the team, collecting proceeds from fund raisers, and insuring timely delivery of proceeds from fund raisers to the MYSA Fund Raising Coordinator.**
  - 4. **Traveling Team Parent for Travel Coordination - Parent responsible for coordinating transportation, housing, and other travel needs for players and traveling teams.**
  
- J. **MYSA will furnish one (1) game ball per team per playing year. While balls may be accumulated by the coaches, they remain the property of MYSA. If a coach leaves the club, he/she should return the balls to the Vice-President. When a coach moves into a higher age bracket and changes ball size, he/she should turn in the smaller soccer balls before being issued new ones.**
  
- K. **The Referee Assignor will assign referees for each match. The referee is in charge of the field upon arrival to officiate a match.**
  
- L. **Upon request of the referee, each team will supply one linesman who shall only assist the referee in determining out-of-bounds and enforcement of spectator restraining line requirements.**
  
- M. **Coaches are responsible for the coaches and players passes and the official team roster. These have to be presented to the referee before the start of each match. Coaches should also carry player information forms so that they are aware of medical problems and emergency telephone numbers in the case of an accident or illness at a match or at practice.**

- N. Coaches are responsible for assisting the referee and any MYSA field monitor in policing the players and spectators conduct. A referee may stop a match until an unruly person leaves the immediate playing area.
- O. Foul and abusive language by a coach, player, parent, or spectator shall not be tolerated at practices or matches.
- P. Beverages containing alcohol are not allowed at any team meetings.
- Q. A coach is not to run up the score against an opposing team. If a seven goal differential is achieved, the coach of the losing team shall add an additional player to the field. If the goal differential reaches 10, another additional player shall be added to the field by the losing team.
- R. Each coach is to encourage courtesy towards officials, players, parents, and coaches.
- S. The head or assistant coach is not to leave the practice or match field area until all their players have been picked up by their parents. Coaches are responsible for their players during practices and matches.
- T. Prior to each season a coach should have a parents' information meeting for all parents and legal guardians of the players. At this parents' meeting, the coaches can introduce himself or herself to the parents, introduce and/or appoint team parents and/or the assistant coach, select MYSA voting representative, answer questions the parents may have, and hand out a team roster and other team related informational material.
- U. Assistant coaches may not be selected by the coach until after team rosters are finalized.
- V. All coaches shall attempt to learn the rules of the game.
- W. Coaches shall comply with the following Code of Ethics for Coaches:
  1. Teach sportsmanship, fair play, and the techniques of soccer. (Only professionals have to win).
  2. Give a good example to your players. (You are their behavioral model.)
  3. Respect the dignity of the players, parents, and the officials.
  4. Coach at practice, not during the match. (The match belongs to the players and is a test of your coaching skills.)
  5. Coach yourself before you coach others.
  6. Show respect and courtesy to other coaches, players, parents, and officials at all times.
  7. Control parents and spectators at all times.

### **SECTION XIII: PROTESTS**

- A. Intra-club protests (i.e. protests that can only affect MYSA formed teams) shall be heard by the MYSA Protest Committee upon receipt, in writing, of the Protest Notice by any member

of the MYSA Executive Board that is not a coach or parent of one of the players on any team involved in the asserted protest.

1. The Protest Notice shall be in the form of a letter from a coach, parent, or player and shall be submitted within 48 hours of the event giving rise to the protest. The notice shall state the Law(s) or rules involved and shall be accompanied by a check for \$35.00 made out to MYSA. The check is not subject to refund unless the protest is upheld.
2. The coach, player, and/or referee involved in the protest shall be notified of the protest and shall be required to furnish, within 48 hours, a written response to the Protest Committee.
3. The Protest Committee shall review the event and make a ruling within five (5) days of the time required for responses to have submitted. The decision of the Protest Committee shall be rendered in writing to the coaches, player, and/or referee involved in the protest.
4. In no case shall the Protest Committee hear any protest which is solely based on the qualifications or judgment decisions of the referee.
5. The Protest Committee may uphold or change a match result or schedule a replay of the match when the Protest Committee determines that the referee's interpretation of the laws of the match is faulty.
6. If a Protest Notice is received after the time period specified, it shall be returned, along with the check, to the person(s) making the protest.
7. All decisions of the Protest Committee are final and are not subject to further appeal within MYSA.

B. Inter-club protests (i.e. protests that can affect teams formed outside MYSA) shall be heard and decided by the FCSA under their rules, requirements, and policies.

## **SECTION XIV: RAIN POLICY - MATCH CANCELLATIONS AND MATCH RESCHEDULING**

A. Cancellation by MYSA President, Vice-President, and/or Referee Coordinator:

1. In the event that it is, or has been, raining such that soccer play is questionable on any date for which matches have been scheduled or if other weather conditions exist which make playing such matches questionable, the MYSA President, Vice-President, Schedule Coordinator, and/or Referee Coordinator will go to the fields and determine, on the day prior to the matches, or the morning of the matches, whether or not matches will be allowed on the complex. They will decide whether any particular field/fields or the entire complex should be rescheduled. After being advised by the MYSA President, the MYSA Coaches Coordinator is to notify the necessary MYSA coaches of any matches to be cancelled. The respective MYSA coaches scheduled to play a cancelled match against a non-MYSA team is responsible for notifying the coach of the non-MYSA team that the match was cancelled.

2. The MYSA President, Schedule Coordinator, and Referee Coordinator may also cancel MYSA matches in the case (1) of a legitimate school or community function or (2) upon at least 48 hours notice, in the case of a soccer tournament in which a MYSA team intends to participate that conflicts with match schedules or (3) for such other good reason deemed by them to be sufficient. Consideration will be given to Mustang Western Days.

**B. Rescheduling matches cancelled by the MYSA President, Vice-President, Schedule Coordinator, and/or Referee Coordinator:**

1. In the event that MYSA matches are cancelled by the MYSA President, Vice-President, Schedule Coordinator, and/or Referee Coordinator, all MYSA matches to be rescheduled will be rescheduled by the MYSA Schedule Coordinator. The MYSA Schedule Coordinator is responsible for coordinating with the Referee Coordinator to assure fields and referees are available. The MYSA Schedule Coordinator will then notify the affected coaches. Any conflicts should be resolved, if possible. However, all decisions rendered by the MYSA Schedule Coordinator will be considered final. The MYSA Fall and Spring schedules are made with a view to the number of weeks needed to comply with the FCSA requirements. The FCSA determines the beginning and the end of the soccer season. MYSA cannot deviate from this determination of scheduling and any rescheduled match must be accomplished within these parameters.
2. All cancelled FCSA matches (i.e. matches involving non-MYSA teams) must be rescheduled under the rules, regulations and policies of FCSA.

**C. Cancellation by Field Monitor or Match Referee:**

1. Matches will only be cancelled or terminated by the referee or field monitor when, in either of their opinion, the field and/or weather conditions are not suitable for play and/or are dangerous to players at match time. Only the referee may terminate a match after the match has started.
2. If the referee terminates a match under this section before the second half is started, the match will be replayed from the start.
3. If the referee terminates a match under this section after the second half is started, the match will be considered complete.

**D. Cancellation of MYSA matches by mutual consent of coaches:**

1. The coaches of both teams may agree to cancel a scheduled MYSA match (i.e. a match to be played on a MYSA field) if approved by the MYSA Referee Coordinator and Schedule Coordinator. The coach requesting the cancellation of a scheduled match must obtain the opposing coach's consent and contact the MYSA Referee Assignor and Schedule Coordinator for approval no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled match. Failure to do so shall result in forfeiture of the match by the team of the coach requesting the cancellation.
2. Under no condition will matches be cancelled because of the following, unless consented to by the opposing coach, the MYSA Referee Assignor, and the MYSA Schedule Coordinator:

- a. Inability of a Head Coach to be present for the match. It is expected that the Assistant Coach or one of the team parents will be present to instruct and coach the players.
  - b. Coaches, players, or parents desire to attend OU or OSU football games (or any other non-soccer related games, including indoor soccer matches, baseball games, basketball games, football games, etc.).
  - c. "Key" players cannot be present for the match.
- E. Rescheduling of MYSA matches cancelled by mutual consent of coaches or by a Field Monitor or Referee:
- 1. The coach requesting the cancellation by agreement or the coach of the home team in a match cancelled by a field monitor or referee is responsible for the rescheduling of the match at a time and place agreeable to both coaches. The rescheduled match must be approved by the MYSA Schedule Coordinator and the MYSA Referee Assignor, so that a properly prepared field can be reserved and a referee appointed to officiate. If within the shorter of two (2) weeks after the time the cancelled match was scheduled or two (2) weeks prior to the end of the season both coaches cannot agree on a time for rescheduling the match, the MYSA Schedule Coordinator will schedule the match at the request of either coach at a time and date determined by the MYSA Schedule Coordinator. If one team does not show at the appropriate time, the match shall be considered a forfeit. The team showing up will be considered the winner. If neither team shows up, it will be considered a double forfeit with no standing points for either team. Failure of both coaches to timely request the MYSA Schedule Coordinator to schedule the match shall also result in the match to be considered as a double forfeiture.
- F. Any team that forfeits a game shall be responsible for any and all referee fees incurred for the match. Referee fee schedules may be available upon request.
- G. The cancellation and rescheduling of FCSA matches not to be played on MYSA fields are controlled by the rules, regulations, and policies of FCSA and the club at which the matches were to be played and rescheduled.

## **SECTION XV: FIELDS AND SCRIMMAGES**

- A. The MYSA complex match fields are not to be used for practices. The match fields are reserved for CVFC use, when not utilized for MYSA scheduled matches. Scrimmages are allowed on the MYSA complex match fields only on the following basis:
- 1. Scrimmages must be scheduled through the MYSA President.
  - 2. The team who schedules the scrimmage is responsible for marking the field and obtaining and paying for referees.
  - 3. If bad weather or watering has made the field wet enough that play would damage the grass, the scrimmage will not be played.
  - 4. The MYSA Vice-President and the MYSA Schedule Coordinator shall be the sole authority as to whether or not a field is to be used.

## **SECTION XVI: TEAM UNIFORM POLICY - COLOR SELECTION**

- A. The coach of the team is responsible for the coordination of the purchase of uniforms for the team by the team's parents. ALL PLAYERS MUST WEAR SHINGUARDS DURING PRACTICES AND MATCHES. The Executive Board may adopt an approved club jersey and require or make optional the purchase of such jersey by any players on any or all recreational teams.**
- B. Under no circumstances will MYSA procure uniforms for any team.**
- C. Coaches must contact the MYSA Schedule Coordinator PRIOR to ordering their uniforms for color and team name approval. This is to avoid two teams in one age group having the same name or color uniform. Any existing team from the immediately preceding season shall have name and shirt color preference for use of the same name and shirt color as they used in the immediately preceding season. Further, the same preference shall exist for those teams who played in the age group in the immediately preceding season as opposed to teams that are moving into a new age group. A number must be placed on the back of each shirt and the number must be eight (8) inches in height.**
- D. MYSA recommends that the uniforms be as inexpensive as possible.**
- E. Please note that this team uniform policy doesn't guaranty that a conflict in uniform color will not exist and it is the home teams' responsibility to change shirt colors in the event of a conflict.**

## **SECTION XVII: SOCCER CAMPS**

- A. MYSA supports the concept of quality soccer camps which improve the individual's skill and knowledge of the sport. Any individual wishing to set up a soccer camp through MYSA must submit a written proposal to the club. Proposals will be reviewed by the MYSA Executive Board. Notification of approval by the Executive Board will be done in writing by the MYSA President.**
- B. Consideration for approval of a soccer camp would include, but not be limited to:**
  - 1. Qualifications of the instructors.**
  - 2. Instructor/player ratio.**
  - 3. The dates of the camp should not conflict with any other camp approved by MYSA.**
  - 4. The fee charged for the camp, the amount of coaching time received, and items included in the fee such as shirts, balls, etc.**

## **SECTION XVIII: REFEREES**

- A. Referees shall attend an OSA approved clinic and attain a USSF Referee status.**
- B. Referees should present a professional image, wearing the proper uniform and having the proper equipment.**

- C. Referees should maintain a thorough knowledge of the rules of the MYSA, FCSA, OSA, USYSA, and FIFA. He/she will attend club referee meeting as called by the Referee Coordinator.**
- D. A referee's primary duty is to keep the play safe. He/she should do this by match control which does not interfere with the flow of the match, but also punishes the player who commits a foul.**
- E. Referees should inspect both teams for proper uniform with shin guards and should allow no jewelry, watches, earrings, stitches, hard casts, or splints. A player may not wear anything dangerous to himself or to others. This is at the discretion of the referee and Referee Assignor.**
- F. Referees should be unbiased and fair.**
- G. Referees should not allow foul and abusive language. Dissent is not permitted. Players and coaches violating these rules should be cautioned (yellow card). For persistent violations, the individual should be ejected (red card).**
- H. Match reports should be signed and returned to the referee at the completion of each match.**
- I. All referees participating in any MYSA matches shall, as a group, select one (1) MYSA coach and one (1) MYSA player each season which, in their sole opinion, exhibited the highest level of sportsmanship during the season. This selection shall be honored by a letter of recognition from the MYSA President and by announcement at the award ceremonies held at the end of each season. The MYSA Referee Coordinator shall be responsible for the coordination of the referee's selection process.**
- J. Any person who is ejected or suspended shall not act as a referee or linesman.**
- K. New licensed referees qualify to apply for a \$50.00 uniform reimbursement if that referee is a center or linesman in at least thirty (30) MYSA matches within two (2) years after his or her first referee clinic that results in a referee license being issued to that referee. A referee's field notes and/or documentation from the Referee Coordinator is necessary to apply for this reimbursement. Application for this reimbursement must be made within three (3) years after attending such first clinic.**