

REVISED: Fall 1998

SECTION 1. CONSTITUTION
RIO VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Article 1 – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Rio Valley Youth Soccer Association, a Texas non-profit corporation, hereinafter referred to as “RVYSA”.

Article 2 – Purpose

The purpose of RVYSA is to develop, promote, and administer the game of soccer at the youth level through its affiliated member organizations within RVYSA territory. RVYSA shall promote and encourage good sportsmanship, as well as educate youth participants and adult sponsors in the fundamentals of the game. It also shall promote the game through sponsorship of regularly scheduled competition and conduct such other activities as shall be deemed appropriate to the promotion of youth soccer.

Article 3 – Affiliation

RVYSA and its member organization shall affiliate and comply with the authority of the South Texas Youth Soccer Association, hereinafter referred to as “STYSA” and the United States Youth Soccer Association, hereinafter referred to as “USYSA”

Article 4 – Seasonal and Fiscal Year

The “Seasonal Year” of RVYSA shall be the same as STYSA (which currently is September 1 through August 31). The “Fiscal Year” of RVYSA shall be September 1 through August 31.

Article 6 – Membership

Membership in RVYSA shall consist of properly constituted and approved youth soccer associations, clubs and leagues, hereafter known as “member organizations” and their duly registered players, the players’ parents and/or guardians, coaches, board members and supporters. Each member club shall retain its own autonomy; however, each will adhere to the Constitution and Bylaws of RVYSA pertaining to all matters within RVYSA’s jurisdiction. RVYSA (with the approval of its member organizations) shall admit, as members, applicant clubs within its jurisdiction, and provide such applicants with management assistance when requested. However any applicant must have at least 6 member teams.

Article 7 – Governing Board

RVYSA shall be governed by its Governing Board, which composed of one representative and an alternate (designated in writing to the RVYSA Secretary, by each member organization). The duties and responsibilities of the Board shall be to:

1. interpret and enforce the RVYSA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and decisions of the Governing Board,
2. establish all RVYSA fees and charges,
3. establish and administer all RVYSA Rules,
4. resolve all disputes, protests and appeals there from, except as provided otherwise in these Bylaws or in the RVYSA Constitution or Rules, or, except when RVYSA authority to do so superceded by STYSA or USYSA,
5. establish and coordinate or approve all inter – association play and tournaments,
6. adopt a budget and approve all expenditures not budgeted,
7. carry out all other duties and responsibilities as specified in this Constitution, the Bylaws and Rules of RVYSA.

Article 8 – Officers

- A. **Positions.** The members of the Governing Board shall elect the following officers of RVYSA.

President
 Executive Vice President
 Vice – President – Select
 Vice – President / Girls
 Vice – President – Recreational / Boys
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Registrar
 Referee Commissioner

The above officers shall constitute the RVYSA Executive Committee

- B. **Term of Office.** The Executive Vice – President, Vice – President – Select, Vice – President – Recreational / Boys, Secretary and Registrar shall be elected for a one year term. This term begins July 1 and ends June 30.

The President, Vice – President / Girls, Treasurer and Referee Commissioner shall be elected for a one year team. The term begins January 1 and ends December 31.

No officer shall serve more than 2 consecutive terms in the same office, no more than six years as an officer. *(This provision was deleted by vote of the Governing Board)*

- C. **Attendance.** Any RVYSA officer who is absent two (2) consecutive Governing Board meetings without reasonable excuse may have his/her position declared vacant by the Governing Board with a simple majority vote. Declaring an officer’s position vacant shall not be considered as “REMOVAL” under this Constitution or the RVYSA Bylaws.

- D. Vacancy.** In the event any office becomes vacant, a successor shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the Governing Board in attendance at any duly constituted meeting.
- E. Removal.** Except for a vacancy for non-attendance, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Governing Board in attendance at any duly constituted meeting shall be required to "REMOVE" any officer.

Article 9 – Meetings

- A. Regular Meetings.** The regular meetings of RVYSA shall be held monthly. Regular meetings shall be scheduled at a regular time and place made known to each of the member clubs.
- B. Special Meetings** Special meetings maybe called by written request to the RVYSA Secretary, by the President or by one third (1/3, rounded upwards) of the Governing Board.
- C. Place of Meetings.** The Governing Board shall designate the place of meeting at a central location which takes into consideration the distance and convenience of the members who can attend.
- D. Notice.** Notice shall have been accomplished by the RVYSA Secretary, or his/her designate, when he/she places with the U.S. Postal Service a written notice, properly addressed and with sufficient postage, to each Governing Board member. Unless specifically stated otherwise, all meetings shall require seven (7) days written notice.
- E. Order of Business.** The order of business shall be as follows:
1. Roll call and vote accreditation
 2. Reading of minutes of last meeting
 3. Unfinished business
 4. Reports, if any, of chairpersons of standing committees
 5. Report of officers
 6. Elections of officers (December / June meetings)
 7. Amendments, if any, to the Constitution, Bylaws or Rules
 8. New Business
 9. Adjournment

The President may modify the order of presentation of any meeting's business to accommodate guest or Governing Board members, or to bring about the more efficient handing of matters to be presented.

- F. Attendance.** Any member organization which is absent two (2) consecutive Governing Board meetings, without reasonable excuse, will have its representative's and alternate's positions declared vacant. Declaring a member organization's position vacant shall be not

be considered as "REMOVAL" under this Constitution or the RVYSA Bylaws, however, an initial fine of one hundred dollars (\$ 100) shall be levied against such member organization, and an additional one hundred (\$100) fine per month will be assessed thereafter, until such organization is voted back into good standing.

- G. **Quorum.** A majority of the Governing Board shall constitute a quorum at all meetings.

Article 10 – Amendments

Any proposals or motions to amend this Constitution must be made in writing to the Secretary for distribution to RVYSA Governing Board members. In addition, thirty (30) days written notice to each Governing Board members, of a meeting to amend this Constitution, shall be required. Such notice shall contain the amendments proposed as well as the date, time, and place of the meeting. Amendments to this Constitution may be approved at any duly constituted meeting by a 2/3 majority vote of the eligible Governing Vote members in attendance.

Article 11 – Dissolution

In the event that RVYSA ceases to function or dissolves and after paying or making the provisions for payment of all just liabilities, the Governing Board shall transfer all of the net assets to any successor organization which has similar purposes as specified in this Constitution. That is provided, however, that such successor organization qualifies under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or any corresponding provision). Should no successor organization exist, the net assets shall be distributed to STYSA provided STYSA qualifies under Section 501 (c) (3). If STYSA does not exist or does not qualify, then the Governing Board may distribute the net assets to any youth organization it designates, so long as the organization qualifies under Section 501 (c) (3).

SECTION II. RVYSA BYLAWS

Article 1 – Offices

- A. **Principal Office.** The principal office of RVYSA shall be in the State of Texas and within the “boundaries” of the Rio Grande Valley. It shall be located at the residence or business of the RVYSA President. The RVYSA President may designate other offices as may be required from time to time.
- B. **Registered Office.** RVYSA shall have continuously maintain in the Rio Grande Valley a registered office, and a registered agent whose office is identical with such registered office, as required by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act. The registered office may be but not be identical with the principal office and the address of the registered office may be changed from time to time. The registered agent shall be the RVYSA President, unless the President appoints a designate to the registered agent in his/her place.

Article 2 – Membership

- A. **Application for Membership.** An organization seeking membership in RVYSA must file a written application requesting membership, which must be accompanied by a current copy of the applicant’s Constitution, Bylaws and Rules (if there any Rules). Each applying club or league shall be furnished a copy of the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of RVYSA and a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of STYSA. Application for membership to RVYSA must be accompanied by the current annual fees, which shall be returned if the applicant is denied membership. With the notice of the meeting in which membership is to be considered, the RVYSA Secretary shall also post a copy of the applicant’s application, Constitution, Bylaws and Rules (if there are any Rules) to each member organization’s representative.
- B. **Complaint Against a Member.** Any member organization or member may file a written complaint, against a member organization or member, with the RVYSA Secretary. This complaint may request action by the RVYSA Executive Committee in response to any violation of the RVYSA Constitution, Bylaws or Rules. Such action may be investigation, review, disciplinary action or other action.
- C. **Appeal of Member Organization Action.** The rights of any member disciplined, or of any complainant, to appeal any disciplinary action by a member organization shall be as follows:
1. **Intra-Association Play.** If the individual disciplined or his/her child is involved only in intra-association ply during the season, then an appeal to RVYSA shall be allowed only if punishment by the organization is suspension for one full season or more.
 2. **Inter-Association Play.** If the individual disciplined, or his/her child is involved in inter-association play during the season, then either the person disciplined or the complainant may appeal to RVYSA any disciplinary decision by a member organization.

3. **Appeals.** An appeal, when provided for in these Bylaws, shall be initiated by the following procedure:

- a) **Appeal to Executive Committee.** Appeal of a member organization's decision must first be made to the RVYSA Executive Committee within fourteen (14) days of the decision. The appeal procedures listed in this section shall apply, and a fifty dollar (\$50.00) appeal fee must be filed with the appeal. Such fee shall be refunded if the appeal is upheld at this level or any higher level.
- b) **Appeal to Governing Board.** Any decision by the RVYSA Executive Committee may be appealed to the RVYSA Governing Board within fourteen (14) days of the decision by utilizing the RVYSA appeal procedures, and by providing an additional seventy-five (\$75.00) appeal fee. Such fee shall be refunded if the appeal is upheld at the level or any higher level.
- c) **Appeal Ruling.** A simple majority vote of the members in attendance at any duly constituted meeting in which an appeal is heard, shall be required to uphold or deny the appeal. In addition, RVYSA may enter its own disciplinary sanctions as provided in Paragraph F of this Article. Any appeal to STYSA shall be governed by procedures approved by STYSA

D. **Physical Contact or Abuse of Referees.** Nothing in these Bylaws, the RVYSA Constitution of Rules shall be construed to restrict or prohibit the RVYSA Governing Board's right, upon the written request by any Governing Board member or RVYSA officer to the RVYSA Secretary (utilizing the hearing procedures listed in the Bylaws), to investigate and hold a hearing for disciplinary action on any situation which involves physical contact between players, coaches, referees and/or spectators or any abuse or threatened abuse of any referee.

E. **Complaint and Appeal Hearing Procedures.** A complaint or appeal shall be in writing and provided to the RVYSA Secretary (with the appropriate appellate fee) within fourteen (14) days of the incident giving rise to the complaint, or within fourteen (14) days of the date of the decision from which the appeal is taken. Also, copies of the appeal shall be provided to all RVYSA officers. If the appeal is to the Governing Board, then the RVYSA Secretary shall provide copies of the appeal to the Governing Board members with the notice of the appellate hearing. The complaint or appeal shall contain a statement of facts, and the ruling of the member organizations (or Executive Committee, if applicable). The complainant's or appellant's position may be provided with the complaint or appeal. Upon receipt of the complaint or appeal, the RVYSA Secretary shall contact the chief executive officer of the member organization from which the complaint comes, or is appealed, and request the original complaint. Note: the name, address, and telephone number of the complainant(s) must be on any and all paperwork relating to the matter. The RVYSA Secretary shall provide a synopsis of the complaint, with the notice of the hearing, to the person(s) or organization(s) complained about, hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent". The President of RVYSA shall call a special meeting, if necessary, or allow the complaint or appeal to be heard at a regular meeting of the RVYSA Executive Committee or Governing

Board. However, the Secretary shall provide five *5 (days written notice of any hearing to the complainant(s) the appellant, the respondent and the chief executive officer of the member organization(s) involved. In the notice of any hearing the RVYSA President or Secretary shall designate a reasonable time period for presentation by the complainant, respondent, member organization and the appellant (as well as their respective representatives). The notice provided for herein may be waived by the appellant in writing.

- F. Discipline of Members.** Upon complaint, or pursuant to Paragraph D of this Article, the Executive Committee or Governing Board – by affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of all the members in attendance at any duly constituted hearing – may censure, place on probation, suspend, expel or provide any appropriate punishment to a member (or member organization) for any violation of the RVYSA Constitution, Bylaws or Rules.
- G. Notification of Discipline.** Any disciplinary action by any member organization shall be reported in writing within fourteen (14) days of such action to the RVYSA Executive Vice – President. Such disciplinary action, or any disciplinary action by RVYSA, shall be reported to the RVYSA Secretary by the Executive Vice – President for inclusion with the notice of the next RVYSA meeting.
- H. No Conflict with Rules’ Progressive Discipline System.** To prevent duplicate hearings by RVYSA, this Article shall not apply to any situation which is handled through the Progressive Discipline System, as provided for in the RVYSA rules.
- I. Resignation.** Any member organization may resign by filling a written resignation with the RVYSA Secretary, but such resignation shall not relieve the member organization of playing any and all dues, fees assessments or other charges due and unpaid.
- J. Reinstatement.** Upon written request which is filed with the RVYSA Secretary (signed by a former member and including an up-to-date copy of its Constitution, Bylaws and Rules, if there are any Rules) the Governing Board may reinstate such former member to its membership (on such terms as the Governing Board may deem appropriate) by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members in attendance at a duly constituted meeting.
- K. Transfer of Membership.** Membership in RVYSA shall not be transferable or assignable.

Article 3 – Voting

- A. Voting.** Each member organization shall have voting strength established, each September, according to the number of paid registrations of the previous year (as reckoned from September 1 through August 31). This does not apply in the cases of Discipline /

Appeal or Executive Committee meetings, where each member of the committee has only one vote.

Voting strength will be figured as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| 200 or less registration..... | 1 Vote |
| 201 – 500 registration..... | 2 Votes |
| 501 – 1000 registration..... | 3 Votes |
| 1001 -1500 registration..... | 4 Votes |
| More than 1500 registration..... | 5 Votes |

Voting powers shall remain the same until the next year’s Fall registration date, regardless of whether or not registration figures change, or whether or not a member organization has a Spring season. The representative or alternate shall cast all votes for the member organization, unless there is a valid proxy. A simple majority of the votes on any issue at any meeting shall decide all questions, except those involving amendment to the Constitution, Bylaws or Rules, those involving the removal of an officers, or those involving the discipline of a member or member organization. No officer of RVYSA shall cast votes for a member organization unless such officer is the valid proxy of such organization.

B. Proxy. To be valid, a proxy must be in writing, signed and dated by the chief executive officer of the member organization. It must be presented to the RVYSA Secretary prior to any vote at which it will be utilized. The proxy must designate the individual appointed to vote for the member organization. It shall be viable only for the meeting immediately after the date of the proxy.

Article 4 – Officers

A. General Provision. All officers of RVYSA shall carry out the decisions of the Governing Board and shall uphold and enforce the provisions of the RVYSA Constitution, Bylaws and Rules.

B. President. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officers of RVYSA and shall have the following duties and responsibilities.

1. shall preside at RVYSA regular and special Governing Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings,
2. may appoint committees,
3. shall cast the deciding vote, in the event of a tie, at any meetings at which he/she presides; or may waive the right to do so,
4. may appoint a delegate to any member organization meeting,
5. shall submit a written annual report (which shall become a part of the minutes) to all Governing Board members at the September regular meeting,

6. prior to the last meeting of each fiscal year, shall appoint an auditing committee for the purpose of inspecting the Treasurer's books to certify their accuracy,
7. with the Treasurer shall prepare and oversee all RVYSA budgets and financial reports,
8. shall handle all public relations in the best interest of RVYSA,
9. shall have the responsibility for new area development,
10. shall represent RVYSA at all STYSA meetings, and shall include in the budget reasonable expenses to attend such meetings,
11. shall have the right to designate individual(s) to carry out any of his/her listed duties and responsibilities,
12. shall manage the day to day operations of RVYSA.

C. **Executive Vice President.** The Executive Vice – President shall succeed the powers of the President in his/her absence and, in addition, have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. shall assume responsibility for all insurance matters; including, but not limited to, informing the Governing Board members about insurance coverage, handling claims (including follow-up), and dealing with any insurance problems that might arise,
2. shall function as chairperson of the Discipline and Protest Committee, unless a matter involves his/her own organization. Then he/she shall appoint a chairperson from the D & P Committee. Prior to the start of each season, he/she shall appoint five (5) members (in addition to himself/herself) to a Discipline and Protest Committee to rule on any Inter-Association discipline and protest matter,
3. shall promote activities for the development of RVYSA players, coaches and referees,
4. shall rule on questions of policy regarding player transfers and adds, unless there is a conflict of interest, in which case the question shall be referred to the D & P Committee. Whatever the case, any ruling may be appealed to the Governing Board upon written request to the Secretary, and with payment of a \$ 50.00 appeal fee,
5. may appoint other individuals or committees to assist in carrying out his/her duties and responsibilities.

D. **Vice – President – Select.** The Vice – President – Select shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. shall coordinate and administer all inter-Association select team activities. ("Select" shall mean Gold/Division I, or Blue/Division II)

2. shall appoint a Scheduler and a Scorer (may be the same person) for each Select Inter-Association division or subdivision,
3. shall function as the RVYSA coordinator and contact point for all STYSA/USYSA Select activities and tournament play,
4. shall be responsible for whether or not a select game is declared a forfeit, and whether said game will be replayed or omitted from the schedule. He/she also shall determine whether a game shall be cancelled due to unplayability of the field or any other reason except abandonment, and shall decide if that game will be replayed or omitted from the schedule,
5. at the Vice – President’s sole and absolute discretion, a forfeiture may be declared against the winning team if the official scorecard is not submitted to the individual designated as the official scorer within seventy – two (72) hours after completion of the game.
6. may appoint other individuals or committees to assist in carrying out his/her duties and responsibilities,
7. shall receive, review and approve in advance all schedules of play between teams of member associations.

E. Vice – President – Recreational / Boys. The Vice – President – Recreational / Boys shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. shall coordinate and administer all Inter-Association recreational boys’ team activities. (Recreational” shall mean Re/Division III & White/Division IV).
2. shall appoint a Scheduler and Scorer (may be the same person) for each recreational Inter-Association division or subdivision,
3. shall coordinate all RVYSA recreational boys tournaments,
4. shall function as the RVYSA coordinator for all STYSA recreational boys’ league and tournament play,
5. shall be responsible for declaring whether or not a Recreational game is a forfeit, and whether said game will be replayed or omitted from the schedule. In the event a game is cancelled because of unplayability of the field or for any other reason except abandonment, he/she shall determine whether that game will be replayed or omitted from the schedule.
6. at the Vice – President’s sole and absolute discretion, a forfeiture may be declared against the winning team if the official scorecard is not submitted to the individual designated as the official scorer within seventy –two (72) hours after the completion of the game,

7. may appoint other individuals or committees to assist in carrying out his/her duties and responsibilities,
8. shall receive, review and approve in advance all schedules of play between teams and member associations.

F. **Vice – President Girls.** The Vice – President Girls shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. shall coordinate all girls' Inter-Association recreational team activities,
2. shall appoint a Scheduler and a Scorer (may be the same person) for each girls' recreational Inter-Association division or subdivision,
3. shall coordinate all RVYSA girls' recreational tournaments,
4. shall function as the RVYSA coordinator for all STYSA girls' recreational and tournament play,
5. shall be responsible for declaring whether or not a Girls' game is a forfeit, and whether said game will be replayed or omitted from the schedule. In the event a game is cancelled because of unplayability of the field, or for any other reason except abandonment, he/she will determine whether the game will be replayed or omitted from the schedule,
6. at the Vice – President's sole and absolute discretion, a forfeiture may be declared against the winning team if the official scorecard is not submitted to the individual designated as the official scorer within seventy – two (72) hours after completion of the game,
7. may appoint other individuals or committees to assist in carrying out his/her duties and responsibilities,
8. shall receive, review and approve in advance all schedules of play between teams of member associations.

G. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. shall keep the records and minutes of all the RVYSA meetings and provide a copy of said minutes to every member of the Executive Committee and Governing Board.
2. shall give notice of all such meetings as required,
3. shall attend to all correspondence of RVYSA,
4. shall obtain, from the Registrar, paid registration statistics according to the first Fall registration date for the purpose of calculating each member organization's voting power each September,

5. may appoint other individuals or committees to assist in carrying out his/her duties and responsibilities,
6. shall distribute a copy of the RVYSA Constitution/Bylaws/Rules to all members of the Executive Committee and Governing Board.

H. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. shall collect all dues and fees owed to RVYSA, control all monies of RVYSA, and maintain detailed records of RVYSA income and expenditures,
2. shall prepare and submit a financial report of income, expenditures, current assets and liabilities to the Governing Board at each regular meeting,
3. shall pay all RVYSA bills which have been properly passed upon and approved by the President,
4. shall assist the President in preparation of the yearly RVYSA budget,
5. shall prepare an annual report for the September meeting.
6. may appoint other individuals or committees to assist in carrying out his/her duties and responsibilities.

I. Registrar. The Registrar shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. shall supply members with proper registration information and materials,
2. shall coordinate the Registrars of the other member organizations in registering all RVYSA players with RVYSA, STYSA and USYSA,
3. shall insure that all STYSA and USYSA registration forms are timely filed with the proper authorities,
4. shall maintain and prepare registration statistics of each season and present a report of such statistics to the Governing Board at the next regular meeting after registration,
5. shall provide paid registration statistics (September 1 through August 31) of each member organization to the RVYSA Secretary five (5) days before the September RVYSA meeting so that the Secretary can determine each member organization's voting power for the coming seasonal year,
6. may appoint other individuals or committees to assist in carrying out his/her duties or responsibilities.

J. Referee Commissioner. The Referee Commissioner shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. shall institute and coordinate the initial and continuing education of referees within the member organizations,
2. shall acquire and coordinate referees for all RVYSA-sponsored or –hosted tournaments,
3. shall gather and maintain current lists of referees from the various member organizations.
4. shall receive complaints against member organizations' referees,
5. shall remain informed of FIFA, USYSA, STYSA and RVYSA rules changes and shall disseminate this, and other pertinent information, to member association referee coordinators and/or referees,
6. may appoint other individuals or committees to assist in carrying out his/her duties and responsibilities.

Article 5 – Executive Committee

The President, Executive Vice – President, Vice – President – Select, Vice – President Recreational/Boys, Vice – President/Girls, Secretary, Treasure, Registrar and Referee Commissioner shall constitute the Executive Committee for matters demanding immediate attention, where it is impractical or impossible to call a Governing Board meeting. The President, or any three (3) RVYSA officers, may call an Executive Committee with two (2) days notice to the Executive Committee members. The President shall designate the location, date and time of any such meeting.

Article 6 – Notice

Notice, in these Bylaws shall be have been accomplished when the RVYSA Secretary, or his/her designate, places with the U. S. Postal Service a written notice (properly addressed and when sufficient postage) to the persons designated in these Bylaws to receive such notice.

Article 7 – Amendments

Any proposals or motions to amend these Bylaws must be made in writing to the Secretary for distribution to RVYSA Governing Board members. In addition, it shall be required that thirty (30) days written notice, of a meeting to amend these Bylaws, be given to each Governing Board member. Such notice shall contain the amendments proposed as well as the date, time and place of the meeting. Amendments to these Bylaws may be approved at any duly constituted meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the eligible Governing Board members in attendance.

SECTION III. RVYSA RULES

1. GENERAL

A. Exceptions to FIFA Laws. Except as otherwise noted in these rules, FIFA Laws shall govern the play of any games between member organizations; with the provision that teams, players and coaches competing in STYSA and/or USYSA competitions shall be governed by STYSA and/or USYSA respectively.

B. Definitions

- 1 "Season" means from the date of registration through the regular season games, any post-season tournament games. At present, there are two (2) seasons per seasonal year; Fall (approximately September through December), and Spring (approximately February through May).
- 2 "Seasonal Year" means one calendar year, as defined by STYSA, including one Fall season and the following Spring season.

2. TEAM FORMATION

A. Team Formation – Age Teams are formed so that players are placed on the youngest team for which they qualify. Exceptions may be made by the Member Organizations. Teams shall be comprised of players who are, as of midnight on July 31 of the previous Seasonal Year;

1. Under 19 years of age
2. Under 18 years of age
3. Under 17 years of age
4. Under 16 years of age
5. Under 15 years of age
6. Under 14 years of age
7. Under 13 years of age
8. Under 12 years of age
9. Under 11 years of age
10. Under 10 years of age
11. Under 8 years of age
12. Under 6 years of age

B. Team Formation – Recreational Teams. The system of roster players in a recreational league or recreational play shall be employed for the purpose of creating fair and balanced distribution of playing talent among all such teams participation from a single club. As a means of assisting in the rostering of teams, the following shall be deemed to be among those team formation processes that are in compliance with the rules stated above.

1. A draft, wherein all players within a club are available to be, and are, drafted on teams in a manner reasonably established to permit a fair and balanced distribution of players to all teams.
2. A neighborhood system wherein all players from a neighborhood, within club boundaries, are rostered to a team; however, only where such a system will result in a fair and balanced distribution of players within the club. This method shall not be utilized whenever it will permit a select team, or a team which is much better than other teams in the same age bracket, to form on this basis.
3. A core system may be utilized, in which players rostered to a team from the previous season are returned to the same team, provided that none of the above rules are violated, AND provided that the competition between teams of that club (in the age group in question) is reasonably fair and even. "Reasonably fair and even" recognizes that some teams may be better than other; however, IF one or more teams win consistently, or are capable of winning a large majority of its games (in the same age group) within the club, this team shall not be permitted to return intact, as a core team, in the next season's recreational (Division III) play.
4. If the formation of any Division III or IV team has violated any of the above rules (whether in the current season, or any previous season), such team shall not be eligible for play with any team not registered with the club under which the offending team is registered; UNLESS such play is with a Division I or II team, OR such play is within a tournament, OR such team registers and plays in a Division I (Competitive) or Division II (Select) bracket. For the purposes of this rule, a team shall be considered to be the same team roster in effect at the time the violation occurred.
5. Any violation of rule (4), above, shall subject the coach of the team, as well as any club officials involved in said rostering, to possible disciplinary action, and shall cause to be forfeited all games played by such team with any teams registered outside of the offending team's own club.

C. **Team Formation – Classic/Division II (Select)** Teams may be rostered to participate in an intra/inter-association league in which:

1. The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players to any team, on the basis of talent or ability, is permitted.
2. Players are primarily selected from the players of a single club.

D. **Team Formation – Premier/Division I (Competitive)** Teams may be rostered to participate in an intra/inter association league in which:

1. The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability is permitted.
2. Players may be selected from the pool of players of any club/association within STYSA, provided that they comply with applicable transfer rules.

3. **PLAYERS BOUND TO TEAM.** Any player rostered to a Primary Team is bound to that team for the entire Seasonal Year unless the player requests and obtains a Release or Transfer.
4. **INITIAL ROSTERING.** Initial Rostering shall commence September 1, or no later than the player's first participation in any competition (excluding tryouts and scrimmages leading to team formation) sanctioned by STYSA. That is, if a player has not already been rostered to a team, he/she first plays a game.
5. **TRANSFERS.** No Primary Team may have more than three (3) players transferred onto that team during the Seasonal Year. All requests for transfer shall be submitted to RVYSA on the Trans/Release form. No player may play a game as part of the team to which he/she has been transferred until the properly executed Transfer/Release form has been received by the RVYSA Registrar. If the transfer is approved, a copy of the completed Transfer/Release form shall be retained by RVYSA, and a copy shall be sent to STYSA.
6. **ADDS.** To be eligible to participate in Championship play, players must be added to the team by STYSA's Final Registration date, and must have played with the team in at least two (2) regularly scheduled season games. It is specifically intended that this rule prohibit the addition of players for the purpose of strengthening a team for Fall Championship play.
7. **RELEASES.** A release may be requested by a player at any time. If the adds or transfers will cause a roster to exceed its maximum allowable number, releases must first be obtained for players not returning to that team. A player may be released from a team involuntarily only if he/she is unable to play for one of the following reasons:
 - A. The player has violated the rules of USSF, USYSA, STYSA, RVYSA, or one of its member organizations.
 - B. The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance.
 - C. The player is injured in such a manner that he/she will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season. The Release form must be filled out, and one copy must be sent to the RVYSA Registrar. Should the released player decide to return to his/her original team (or move to any other team) during the same Seasonal Year, he/she will be considered a Transfer.
8. **MULTIPLE ROSTERING AND GUEST PLAYERS.** Players, with the concurrence of their Club's Registrar, may be rostered on more than one youth team per USYSA Seasonal Year, providing the following conditions are met:
 - A. Players can be rostered to only one Primary Team at any time during the Seasonal Year.
 - B. The first team to which a player is rostered is his/her Primary Team, unless the player is transferred.
 - C. RVYSA places no limit on the number of League or Tournament Team on which a player is rostered.
 - D. No player may play with two (2) teams on the same day or in the same competition.

E. If a player is on a team, or is a guest player on a team, that has scheduled a practice or game at the same time as the primary team has a scheduled practice or game, the player must practice/play with his primary team.

9. **REGISTRATION FEE.** The player registration fee shall be established by the Governing Board no later than the July meeting of each year. All player registration fees must be paid to RVYSA by the date established by the Executive Committee or the club shall not be in good standing.
10. **PROOF OF AGE, IDENTIFICATION AND RESIDENCY.** Proof of age shall consist of a certified United States birth certificate, any other documents that provide proof of age that is issued by the US Government or a passport. A foreign issued birth certificate along with a copy of the individual's official permanent record card issued by the school registrar will also be accepted.

Players attending middle school or a higher level educational institution must provide a current/recent photo ID in order to complete their registration, otherwise the player must have the approval of the Rio Valley Governing Board.

Additionally, players will need to provide proof of residency. A recent utility bill (within three months of the player's date of registration) in the player's parent or legal guardians name is required. Players residing outside the STYSA boundaries must comply with the established STYSA Registration Rules and/or Procedures. Amended by the Governing Board on July10, 2008.

11. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE** Each CLUB (member organizations) must submit a complete registration of all players by the deadline set by the Executive Committee. Failure to complete timely submission of registration data and/or fees will result in a fine of \$ 50 per week plus any additional fees incurred by RVYSA due to the delay caused by that member club.
12. **RECRUITING CODE OF ETHICS** Any club or person affiliated with RVYSA who violates the Recruiting Code of Ethics shall be subject to sanctions by the RVYSA Discipline and Protest Committee. The Recruiting Code of Ethics shall be approved by the Governing Board and included in the rules as Appendix A. Each member organization shall establish procedures to ensure that all parties who may engage in the recruiting of players are provided with a copy of the Recruiting Code of Ethics.
13. **PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE SYSTEM.** The following penalty point system is an effort to discourage violent play and misconduct during each playing season.
- A. **Penalty Points Awarded** Penalty points shall be awarded to individual players, coaches, assistant coaches or teams as follows for cautions and ejections:
1. Recorded Cautions (orally or by yellow card): 3 points per caution to the individual.

2. Recorded Ejections (orally or by red card): 9 points per ejection to the individual.
3. Threatened, attempted or actual physical violence against a Referee by a player, coach or assistant coach, OR knowing falsification of any team record or any official RVYSA, STYSA, or USYSA document by a coach or assistant coach, OR knowing playing of an ineligible player by a coach or assistant coach: 21 points to the individual.
4. Physical contact with Referee by a fan: 9 Points to the coach.
5. Maximum accumulation for an individual in any one game: 9 points, with the exception of physical contact with the Referee. Example: If a player receives a caution, then is ejected, the player and the team receive 9 penalty points and not 12 points.
6. A coach and/or assistant coach can be cautioned or ejected for misconduct of fans, and thereby awarded penalty points.
7. League and Inter-Association scorers shall maintain current records of individual penalty points.

B. Disciplinary Action for Penalty Point Accumulation. An accumulation of cautions, ejections and penalty points shall result in the following disciplinary actions:

1. **Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Players** Any individual player, coach or assistant coach shall be suspended as follows:
 - Nine (9) points = suspension for the next game.
 - Eighteen (18) points = suspension for the next (2) additional games.
 - Twenty-one (21) points = Automatic and indefinite suspension.
2. **Teams** "Season games" shall mean games which are scheduled at the beginning of any playing season, Fall or Spring, and shall not include any tournament games.

C. Procedure

1. A written warning shall be issued by the appropriate Vice – President to any player, coach, or assistant coach when they have accumulated two-thirds (2/3) of the points necessary for indefinite suspension.
2. Member organizations may not revoke cautions, ejections or penalty points.

3. "Suspension" for point accumulation of nine (9) or eighteen (18) penalty points shall mean:
 - a) A coach or assistant coach shall not attend nor shall he observe the next game or next two (2) games.
 - b) A player may attend the next game or next two (2) games; however, the player shall not dress in uniform, nor shall the player play or participate in such game(s).
4. "Automatic and indefinite suspension" shall mean that a player, coach, assistant coach or team shall not participate in any RVYSA-, STYSA-, or USYSA-sanctioned and approved activity, tournament nor inter-association game. The member association shall confiscate all player I.D. cards of the team members or player(s) suspended until:
 - a) Such person petitions the RVYSA Discipline & Protest Committee for a hearing, and the Committee reinstates him/her; OR
 - b) The team petitions the RVYSA Discipline & Protest Committee for a hearing, and the Committee reinstates it, with written approval of the STYSA D & P Chairperson.
5. All member organizations are required to record all penalty points. Member organizations Discipline and Protest Committee Chairpersons are responsible for enforcement during the regular playing year. If a player is suspended due to penalty point accumulation, the member organization must notify the appropriate Vice – President and the Registrar.
6. Individual point accumulation shall be continued into RVYSA or STYSA tournament play. Each member organization shall be responsible for reporting, to the respective tournament coordinator shall be responsible for reporting, to the respective tournament coordinators, such point accumulations for each of its players, coaches and/or assistant coaches who will be participating in the tournament(s).
7. Any individual disciplinary suspension, which cannot be completed in one season, will be carried over to RVYSA or STYSA tournament play. If the player does not participate in RVYSA or STYSA tournament play, the suspension will be carried over to the next season's regularly scheduled competitive activity (excluding practice and pre-season activity).
8. Discipline or penalty points shall be accumulated during each playing season and shall not be carried over into the next season. "Season" shall mean the period which is now considered Fall or Spring playing seasons, and any other season which is officially recognized by STYSA or USYSA.

9. Discipline or penalty points shall be accumulated during invitational and/or commercially sponsored tournaments shall not count.
10. The RVYSA Executive Board is hereby authorized to levy fines, or to take any other measure, against a member organization which does not comply with these/procedures, or which does not comply with decisions handed down by either the RVYSA or STYSA Executive Boards, or the RVYSA, Western District or STYSA Discipline & Protest Committees.
11. All automatic and indefinite suspensions shall be reported to the respective RVYSA Vice – President, or the RVYSA President, within 24 hours of the action taken. The person who receives this report shall notify the District Vice – President within 24 hours of the receiving the report. Notification may be done orally or by telephone; however, copies of any documentation concerning the suspension should also be forwarded to these persons.

D. Discipline and Protest Committee.

1. In July, the RVYSA D & P Committee of six (6) members (including the RVYSA Executive Vice – President) shall be appointed by the RVYSA Executive Vice – President from five (5) different member organizations. The Executive Vice – President shall act as Chairperson. Any three (3) members of the committee, with the permission of the Chairperson, may decide any issue before the committee by a simple majority vote.
2. No member, including the Chairperson, may vote on a matter involving any organization with which the member is affiliated, or on a matter in which the member or his/her child is personally involved.

E. What can be protested?

1. No protests will be allowed unless they are made know to the referee and opposing coach immediately after the game (with the exception of Article 13, E, and # 2 above).
2. The referee and opposing coach must be advised at the time as to the alleged basis for the protest.
3. Protest must be noted on the referee's game card or report. In addition, a referee's report, containing a complete description of the situation protested, shall be submitted to the Discipline and Protest Committee.
4. Protests shall be in writing, accompanied by a \$ 50.00 protest fee, payable to RVYSA. It shall contain, at least, the following information:
 - a) The date of the occurrence protested.

- b)** A list of all parties involved, with their addresses, telephone numbers and their organizational affiliation.
 - c)** A short, plain statement describing the matter protested and setting forth the rule which is alleged to have been violated.
 - d)** A list of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of witnesses to the incident which forms the basis of the protest.
 - e)** What action the protesting party request of the D & P Committee.
 - f)** The signature of the party preparing the protest shall be included, with his/her address and telephone numbers.
- 5.** Within seventy-two (72) hours of the end of the game, copies of the protest shall be simultaneously sent (by certified mail, return receipt requested) to the Chairperson of the D & P Committee and the person, teams (coach), or member organization (RVYSA Representative) against whom the protest is being lodged. The \$ 50.00 protest fee must be included with the D & P Committee Chairperson's copy.
- 6.** Within three (3) days of receipt of the protest, the organization or person against whom the protest is lodged may file a Response which shall:
 - a)** Admit or deny each of the allegations in the protest, or state why each cannot be admitted or denied.
 - b)** If a statement is denied, give a short statement of what the Respondent feels is correct.
 - c)** List any witnesses to the incident which forms the basis of the protest, giving their names, addresses and telephone numbers.
 - d)** Describe what action the Respondent requests of the D & P Committee.
 - e)** Contain the signature of the party preparing the response, along with his/her address and telephone numbers.
- 7.** If there is no response, the burden shall still be on the protesting party to show that the protest is valid and that such party is entitled to the relief requested.
- 8.** If the procedure has not been correctly followed, the D & P Chairperson shall notify the protesting party and the Respondent that the protest is being dismissed and that no further action will be taken. The reason for the dismissal shall be included in this notification.
- 9.** If the procedure has been correctly followed, within three (3) days of the receipt of the response (or within 3 days from the last date on which the response could

have timely received), the D & P Chairperson shall contact (by telephone or other method) at least two (2) members of the committee and read to them the protest, the response, and any results of the investigations conducted by the Chairperson. The decision of the committee shall then be reported by the Chairperson in writing, and provided to the protesting party and the Respondent. If the protest is upheld by the RVYSA D & P Committee, or at any higher level, the protest fee shall be refunded.

G. Appeals. All decisions by the D & P Committee may be appealed to the Executive Committee.

1. **Appeal to the Executive Committee.** Appeals from the D & P Committee decision must first be made to the RVYSA Executive Committee. The appeal procedures listed in this section shall apply, and an additional \$ 50.00 appeal fee must be filed with the appeal. The protest fee shall be refunded if the protest is upheld by the Committee or at any higher level.
2. **Appeal to the Governing Board.** Any decision by the RVYSA Executive Committee may be appealed to the RVYSA Governing Board utilizing the RVYSA appeal procedures, and providing an additional \$ 75.00 dollars appeal fee. This fee shall be refunded if the protest is upheld by the Board or any higher level.
3. **Appeal Ruling.** A simple majority vote of the members in attendance at any meeting, in which an appeal is heard, shall be required to uphold or deny the appeal. In addition, RVYSA may enter its own disciplinary sanctions.
4. **Appeal Hearing Procedures.** An appeal shall be submitted in writing to the RVYSA Secretary, with the appropriate appeal fee. Copies of the appeal shall be sent to all RVYSA officers. If the appeal is to the Governing Board, the RVYSA Secretary shall provide copies of the appeal to the Governing Board members with the notice of the appellate hearing. The appeal shall contain a statement of facts, the ruling of the Executive Committee, the complainant's or appellant's position and the action requested of the RVYSA D & P Committees. Other statements, supporting the complainant's or appellant's position may be provided with the appeal. The RVYSA President shall call a special meeting, if necessary, or allow the appeal to be heard at a regular meeting of the RVYSA Executive or Governing Board; however, the RVYSA Secretary shall provide, to the respondent, the chief executive officer(s) of the member organization(s) involved and the appellant five (5) days written notice of any hearing. In the notice of such hearing, the RVYSA President or Secretary shall designate a reasonable time period for presentation by the respondent, his/her member organization, the appellant and their respective representatives. Any notice provided for herein may be waived by the appellant in writing.
5. **Appeal from Governing Board.** Appeals beyond the Governing Board shall be governed by the STYSA Disciplinary and Protest Committee Procedures.

6. **Decisions Binding.** All decisions at all levels of appeal are binding, and shall be given full force and effect unless overruled by a higher authority. Failure to abide by the decisions of the appellate bodies shall subject the violator to disciplinary action by the RVYSA Governing Board.

14. **TEAMS.**

- A. **Team Size.** The following are restrictions relating to team size:

1. Any Division of a member organization, playing eleven (11) players on the field per side, shall be allowed no more than eighteen (18) nor less than twelve (12) registered players.
2. Any Division of a member organization, playing eight (8) players on the field per side, shall be allowed no more than twelve (12) nor less than nine (9) registered players.

- B. **Playing Ineligible Player.** Any team, playing a player who is ineligible, shall forfeit the game(s) in which that player has played.

15. **GAMES.**

- A. **Field Size.**

1. For small sided teams, they shall have a rectangular field with the following dimensions:

| Age | Field (in yards) | Goals (in feet) |
|------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| U-10 | 70 – 80 long x 40 – 50 wide | 6 – 7 high x 8- 21 wide |

2. The U-11 through U-19 teams shall have a rectangular field whose width is between 50 and 100 yards, and whose length is between 100 and 130 yards. All other dimensions shall be governed by FIFA.

- B. **Duration of Games.** The following times cover regular playing season times only:

U- 9 and U-10 Divisions shall play two 25-minute halves.
 U-11 and U-12 Divisions shall play two 30-minute halves.
 U-13 and U-14 Divisions shall play two 35-minute halves.
 U-15 and U-16 Divisions shall play two 40-minute halves.
 U-17 through U-19 Divisions shall play two 45-minute halves.

1. At the discretion of the Referee, time may be added for injury, substitution and other delays of the game.
2. There shall be no overtime or shootouts during regular season play, and if the score is tied at the end of the regulation play, the game shall be scored as a tie

game. Tournament play shall be governed by tournament rules as provided by the tournament sponsor.

C. Size of Ball. The size of ball utilized shall be as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------|
| U- 9 through U-12 Division | = | Size 4 ball |
| U-13 through U-19 Divisions | = | Size 5 ball |

D. Players on Field.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| U-11 through U-19 Divisions | = | Eleven (11) with minimum of Seven (7) |
| U- 9 through U-10 Divisions | = | Eight (8) with a minimum of Six (6) |

E. Forfeit for too few Players. The referee shall declare a forfeit if a team has less than the requisite number of players, on the field ready to play, within 15 minutes after the game was scheduled to start. The requisite number of players are the minimum number of players stated for each Division In “D” above. If neither team has the requisite number of players within 15 minutes after the game was scheduled to start, then the referee shall declare a double forfeit, and shall score the game as a loss for both teams.

F. Playing Time & Substitutions.

1. In Divisions II, III & IV, each coach must make every effort to play each registered player, that is present, at least one-half of each game (unless unable to do so because of discipline, illness or injury). In the event that a player from these Divisions is present, but will not be playing, the coach must inform the referee AND the opposing coach as to the reason that such player will not participate.
2. Prior permission of the referee is required to make any field player substitution any time, except at the resumption of play after the half-time break.
3. The goal keeper may be substituted as in the case of any other player; however, it shall be allowed only after notifying the referee of the intention to substitute the goalkeeper and receiving the referee’s approval.
4. Substitutions, with the prior approval of the referees, may be allowed at the following times:
 - a) On a throw-in by the team in possession.
 - b) On a goal-kick by either team.
 - c) After any goal by either team.
 - d) After stoppage of play for an injury by either team.
 - e) At half time by either team.
 - f) A player receiving a yellow card may be substituted immediately after receiving the yellow card.

G. Charging the Goalkeeper. The FIFA rules with respect to charging the goalkeeper shall not apply. “Charging” shall be defined as intentional, non-violent,

should to should contact while the ball is within playing distance. In all age divisions there shall be no charging or intentional or reckless contact with the goalkeeper in any manner whatsoever. Any such act will be considered, at least, as “dangerous play” and shall punish accordingly.

H. Requirements for Participating in Inter-Association Play.

1. Any member organization team may participate in inter-Association play with any other team, as long as RVYSA rules regarding Inter-Association play are strictly followed.
2. Any member organization that enters a team of a particular age group and level of play in RVYSA Inter-Association play must enter all of the member organizations teams which are of the same age group and level of play.
3. In order to participate in Inter-Association play, a member organization must comply with the following:
 - a) Submit, to the respective RVYSA Vice-President, a PROJECTIONS SUMMARY at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the opening day of the season. This document is a guide by which the commissioners may begin the scheduling process, and must include an estimate of the number of teams within each group that are expected to engage in inter-association play. The document should delineate between “best guess “numbers and “returning player” numbers.
 - b) Attend the INTER-ASSOCIATION SCHEDULING MEETING, to be held on the Sunday or Monday night prior to the opening Saturday. Any member organization wishing to engage in Inter-Association play MUST be present at the meeting(s) and MUST provide the following information:
 1. One field availability time for every two (2) teams, or portion thereof in each age division.
 2. A map with clear directions to home field(s).

For each team submitted, the representative MUST provide:

 3. Team Name.
 4. Team Color.
 5. Age Group.
 6. Desired level of play (Division I, II, III or IV).
 7. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of the coach and one other person responsible for the team.
 - c) Attend a COACHES MEETING held by the respective Vice – Presidents, on the Wednesday or Thursday night prior to the season opener. Each team playing Inter-Association must have a representative present. At this meeting, the Vice-President will distribute season schedules and any other pertinent information.

3. **USYSA Identification Cards.** Prior to the beginning of each game, players and coaches shall provide to the referees their properly completed and laminated USYSA Identification Cards. The cards must contain the following information:

Player's Card

Player's Name
 Player's Date of Birth
 Player's ID number
 Team Name
 Age Group
 Player's Photo
 Player's Signature
 Registrar's Signature

Coaches' Card

Coaches' Name

 Team ID Number
 Team Name
 Age Group
 Coaches' Photo
 Coaches' Signature
 Registrar's Signature

Players without proper USYSA identification cards are ineligible to play at any inter-association game. The appropriate Vice – President shall be empowered to waive this requirement, at his / her discretion, in case of extenuating circumstances.

4. **Shin Guards.**

- a) The coach has the prime and full responsibility for insuring that all his / her players wear shin guards at all games and at all practices.
- b) Before the beginning of each game, the referee will check all players for shin guards. Players not wearing shin guards will NOT be allowed to enter the field to play until they are wearing shin guards. (“Wearing” means that the shin guards will be inside the sock with the socks pulled up.)
- c) The linesman or referee will inspect incoming players. If the player is not wearing shin guards, he / she will not be allowed on the field of play.

I. **Home Team.**

1. **Ball.** The home team shall furnish a game ball of the appropriate size, which is acceptable to the referee.
2. **Referees.** The home team is responsible for furnishing referees.
3. **Uniforms.** The home team shall change uniforms if the colors of both teams are so close as to create confusion in the opinion of the referee. Failure to change uniforms upon the referees' request shall result in a forfeit by the home team.
4. **Corner Flags.** In all Division I and Division II games, it is the home association's responsibility to furnish corner flags, which meet FIFA standards for the flags.
5. **Scorecards.** The home team shall furnish Official RVYSA Scorecard.

- J. Scheduler and Scorer.** There shall be two positions for each age division, that of Scheduler and that of Scorer; however, one individual may handle both responsibilities. Their functions and duties are as follows:
1. **Duties of the Scheduler.** It shall be the duty of the scheduler to coordinate the establishment of Inter-Association league schedules and to furnish the participating coaches with a schedule of games, maps to fields, team uniform colors, as well as the names and telephone numbers of the other coaches in scheduling the Inter-Association play. The Scheduler should use one of the following methods:
 - a) A complete, double round robin, where each team players every other team in its division twice, on a home and away basis. This will be the preferred method, if the number of teams allows for a reasonable number of games with time left for end-of-season tournament play.
 - b) A complete, single round robin, where each team plays every other team in its division once. In this case, the Scheduler must attempt to have each team play an equal number of home and away games.
 - c) A minimum of eight (8) games shall be scheduled for each division per season.
 2. **Duties of the Scorer.** It shall be the duty of the Scorer to keep league standings which shall include wins, losses, ties, points, penalty points and goals for (up to a maximum of three per game). The standings, including penalty points, shall be distributed to the participating coaches at regular intervals during the season.
 3. **Appeals of Scheduler's/Scorer's Decision.** In the event that anyone disagrees with a Scheduler's or Scorer's decision, the decision can be appealed to the RVYSA Discipline and Protest Committee. The appeal shall be accompanied by the standard Protest Fee and brief statement, in writing, of the decision which is in dispute. The matter shall be resolved by the Committee using the same procedures as a protest.
- K. Game Cards for Inter-Association Play.** At the Vice – President's sole and absolute discretion, forfeiture may be declared against the winning team if the official scorecard is not submitted to the individual designated as the official scorer within seventy-two (72) after the completion of the game.
- L. Forfeits, Cancellations and Games Replayed.** For games canceled as a result of the playability of the field, FIFA rule shall apply, namely, that a game shall be fully replayed if stopped at any time during the game. Each respective Vice – President shall be responsible for declaring whether or not a game is a forfeit, or whether said game shall be replayed (or omitted from a schedule) for any reason except abandonment or playability of the field. Any team engaging in RVYSA inter-

association play will not be allowed to participate in invitational tournament play when it conflicts with regularly scheduled games.

M. Inter-Association League Standings Determination.

1. All RVYSA Inter-Association league standing shall be determined by points: two (2) points for a win, one (1) points for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss. A forfeit results in two (2) points for the winning team, and the game will be scored as three (3) to zero (0). Points are only awarded when playing scheduled games against opponents of the same division grouping, and are not awarded for Non-Conference games. If the rankings are tied at the end of the season play, the following hierarchy will be used to determined final league standings:
 - a) Winner in head to head competition among all tied teams; then,
 - b) The team with the highest goal difference in games between tied teams,
 - c) The difference between goals scored minus goals allowed, with the maximum difference of three goals per goal, totaled for all scheduled games against the opponent in the same age and division grouping. A score of 7 – 3 would be scored as + 3 for the winning team and – 3 points for the losing team. The team with the highest goal differential (greatest number) wins. Then,
 - d) Total goals allowed for all scheduled games against opponents in the same age division grouping. The team with the lowest total wins. Then,
 - e) If sufficient time allows, and at the sole discretion of the Vice – President, a play-off game can be scheduled with a coin flip used to determine field location.
 - f) For Divisions that only have two or three teams, the difference between goals scored minus goals allowed, with the maximum difference allowed of 3 (three) goals per game, totaled for all scheduled games against common opponents. Scoring is the same as (b) above. The team with the highest goal differential (greatest number) wins.
 - g) Coin flip by Vice – President.

N. Post-Season Competition. Post Season Fall Playoffs for the various age divisions shall be approved by the Executive Committee no later than the regular October meeting.

1. **RVYSA Fees Must be Paid.** All member organizations must be registered with, and all fees paid, RVYSA prior to any of their teams being eligible to compete in RVYSA or STYSA tournament competition.
2. **Procedure.**
 - a) All Inter-Association final standings, as a result of league play, shall determine which teams advance to the STYSA tournaments.
 - b) For play that does not fall under (a), a RVYSA Tournament will be held. The RVYSA Tournament format (round robin, single or double elimination) will be determined each season by the RVYSA Governing Board. If a Round Robin

format is approved, the final tournament standings will be determined by the points system described below:

- All RVYSA Tournament standings shall be determined by points; 6 points for a win, three 3 points for a tie and 0 points for a loss.
- A point will be awarded for each goal up to 3 goals.
- A point will be awarded for a shut out.
- A win by forfeit results in 10 points for the winning team (scored 3 – 0)

If the rankings are tied at the end of tournament play, the following hierarchy will be used to determine final season standings:

1. winner in head to head competition among all tied teams, then,
 2. the difference between goals scored minus goals allowed, with the maximum difference of three goals per game, totaled for all scheduled tournament games. (A score of 7 – 3 would be scored as + 3 for the winning team and – 3 for the losing team). The team with the highest goal differential (greatest number) wins. Then,
 3. total goals allowed for all scheduled tournament games. The team with the lowest total wins. Then,
 4. the FIFA method of taking penalty kicks for determining the winner in Knock – Out Play.
3. **Awards.** First and second place awards shall be awarded by RVYSA, in RVYSA tournaments and RVYSA leagues, in Fall and Spring seasons.
4. **Playing Eligibility.** If a player has a valid ID card, and is listed on the home association roster, then the player will be allowed to compete in all games. If the player is not listed on the RVYSA roster, then the hosting association will automatically file a cost – free protest of all games in which such player has participated.
5. **Penalties.** A team which accepts an assignment to participate in a postseason competition must complete all eligible games in that competition. If the team abandons any or all of the games, the team will be subject to a fine of \$ 50.00 per game (3 games maximum). The team's home association will be responsible for paying the fine. The Executive Board shall be empowered to waive such fines, at their discretion, in case of extenuating circumstances.

O. Referees.

1. **Number of Referees.** Two qualified referees, or one qualified referee and two qualified assistant referees, are required for all Inter-Association play. This requirement may be relaxed, for Inter-Association Recreational Division play, to

only one qualified referee. Select Division Inter-Association play requires a center referee and two qualified assistant referees, however, this may be relaxed with the mutual consent of both coaches. If only two qualified referees are available, the two men system of refereeing should be utilized. In this case, both referees would be on the field of play with each one covering half of the field.

a) **Referee Responsibility:** The referees must check player identification cards prior to the start of all scheduled Inter-Association play. All players must have a valid identification card to participate.

2. **Game Cards.** A game card shall be completed by the referee for all Inter-Association play.

a) At the completion of the match, the referee shall have each coach sign the game report, and then he shall submit the game report to the field representative of the coach of the winning team.

b) This card will, at minimum, contain the following:

- league, age group, division game
- location, date, game time
- team names and final score
- cautions (yellow cards) or ejections (red cards) issued, by team with player's/coach's name and the reason for punishment
- protest noted and brief basis
- the names of the center referee and assistant referees

Also, if the referee rules that the field is not playable, or that the uniforms are inappropriate, this should be noted on the game report and each coach should sign it.

c) The game cards are to be retained through the end of the seasonal year, including post season play (including RVYSA, STYSA, or USYSA).

d) For play within a member organization, these cards are to be retained by the member organization. For RVYSA Inter-Association play, the game cards are to be forwarded to the league's Scorer within 72 hours of the game.

e) All cards must be available to the RVYSA Discipline and Protest Committee, or other valid RVYSA Committee or Governing Board, when requested.

f) The team identified as the home team on the schedule will provide the official RVYSA Score Card.

3. **Identification Cards.** Referees shall not retain the USYSA Identification card of any player or coach ejected from a game and provide the card to the appropriate RVYSA Vice – President.

- a) Player I. D. Cards will be furnished to the referee prior to the start of any Inter-Association play. A player that does not have the proper I.D. Card for the teams which are playing cannot participate.

16. **AMENDMENTS.**

Any proposals or motions to amend these Rules must be made in writing to the RVYSA Secretary, for distribution to RVYSA Governing Board members. In addition, the Secretary shall provide then (10) days written notice to each Governing Board member of a meeting to amend these Rules. Such notice shall contain the amendments proposed, as well as the date, time and place of the meeting. Amendments to these Rules may be approved, at any duly constituted meeting, by a simple majority vote of the eligible Governing Board members in attendance.

APPENDIX A

RIO VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION DIVISION I & II RECRUITING CODE OF ETHICS

I. PURPOSE.

To provide for a standard code of conduct in the recruiting of youth players for Division I & II, to be used by Coaches, Team Officials, Team Managers, Parents, Players, and League Officials who are members of the Rio Valley Youth Soccer Association.

II. DEFINITIONS.

a) Passive Recruiting:

A handshake type of introduction by a member of a Club or Team, or a general type of mail out and advertising. Further contact would become active recruiting.

b) Active Recruiting:

Is the unsolicited contact of a player or a player's parent for the purpose of recruiting that player while that player is registered and rostered to a team?

III. RECRUITING PROCEDURES.

Active recruiting would be done preferably by one Club / Association individual (The Team / Club Representative) who would be consistent with information. Active recruiting would cease once a player was both registered and rostered to a team

(as defined by USYSA), but not later than two weeks prior to the start of the RVYSA Fall or Spring season.

Prior to actively recruiting a player, common courtesy should be extended by contacting the player's coach. Permission to recruit a player is not required of the player's coach.

Recruiting (Active and Passive) is permitted only after the competition (game or tournament) is completed in which the player's is participating.

IV. ACKNOWLEDMENT.

Club / Association Name _____

Signed by Club / Association President _____

Club / Association Recruiter Contact _____