

RVYSA Recreational Plus Academy League

RULES

1. GENERAL

A. Exceptions to RVYSA Rules. Except as otherwise noted in these rules, RVYSA constitutional rules and regulations are applicable to all participating teams, players and coaches. Moreover, 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** “Recreational Plus ” means a higher level of training and development compared to recreational league play. Participating Recreational Plus teams must participate in a STYSA approved and RVYSA monitored curriculum to help bridge the gap from recreational to select league play.
- 2** “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).
- 3** “Seasonal Year” means one calendar year, as defined by STYSA, including one Fall season and the following Spring season.
- 4** “Satellite Team” means a team participating outside RVYSA affiliated club organization.

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. At the end of each seasonal year, teams must re-petition participation into recreational plus league play. Teams shall be comprised of players who are, as of midnight on July 31 of the previous Seasonal Year;

1. Under 10 years of age
2. Under 9 years of age

B. Team Formation – Recreational Plus Teams. Recreational plus teams may be formed by one of the following methods:

1. Club Sponsored Team, wherein all qualified players, as determined by the club, are selected to participate on behalf of the reciprocal club. Each club may have only one “Club Sponsored Team” per gender, per age division.
2. Established Recreational Team – A team comprised of core or established players assigned to the team by the affiliated club under recreational team formation rules the petitioning team participated prior to the current seasonal year. If applicable, new players will be assigned by the affiliated club to an established recreational team. Clubs may assign up to three players per seasonal year.
3. Established Satellite Recreational Team – Recreational teams participating outside affiliated club formation rules and regulations. Satellite teams are composed of players that have not been previously registered with an affiliated club.
4. Teams petitioning to play in the recreational plus league must submit a commitment to play form and the appropriate team fee to a RVYSA affiliated club by September 1st or two (2) weeks prior to the close of registration, which ever comes first.
5. All petitioning recreational plus teams must register through an affiliated club of RVYSA. Participation in the recreational plus league is contingent upon approval by the affiliated club and RVYSA.
6. Recreational plus team participation expires at the end of each seasonal year and must re-petition an affiliated club prior to the start of the next seasonal year.
7. If the formation of any Division IV recreational plus team violates any of the above ruling criteria (whether in the current season, or any previous season), such team shall not be eligible for play. 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.
8. Any violation of rule (6), 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.

C. Team Fees – Recreational Plus Teams - Recreational Plus Teams will be responsible for a \$125.00 team fee to RVYSA by September 1st or two (2) weeks prior to the close of registration, which ever comes first.

1. **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.
2. **TRANSFERS and ADDS.** With the exception of a “Club Sponsored Team” No Recreational plus team may have more than three (3) players transferred or added onto that team during the Seasonal Year. All requests for transfer or adds shall be submitted to an affiliated club from which the team is rostered.
3. **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.** If applicable, 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. Player participation on a recreation plus team and a recreational team is not permitted unless he/she is a guest player on a tournament team.

- 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 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. **PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE.** The recreational plus player registration fee shall be established by each affiliated club. All player registration fees must be paid in full prior to the start of the current seasonal year or team shall not be in good standing and not allowed to participate.
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.
- 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.
11. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE** Each affiliated CLUB (member organizations) must submit a complete registration of all players by the deadline prior to the start of the seasonal year. 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.** Any Recreational Plus Team of a member organization, playing seven (7) players on the field per side, shall be allowed no more than ten (10) nor less than eight (8) registered players.

B. **Team Scheduling**

1. Participating recreational plus teams may participate in seasonal play with equal or other affiliated approved recreational plus teams only. With exception to tournament play or a non-affiliated club event, a recreational plus team may not compete against club recreational teams that count toward seasonal standings or any other official capacity.
2. Recreational Plus teams compete on a home/away basis with other affiliated club recreational plus teams in their respective age/gender divisions. Home field status will be assigned according to the jurisdiction of the affiliated club fields under which the commitment to play form was submitted and approved.
3. Travel league rules govern and apply.

- C. **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-9, U10	70 – 80 long x 40 – 50 wide	6' – 7' H x 8'- 21' W

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.

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-10 Division = Size 4 ball

D. Players on Field.
U-9 through U-10 Divisions = Seven (7) with minimum of Five (5)

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. 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 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 Recreational Plus Play.

1. In order to participate in Recreational Plus Play, an approved affiliated club team must comply with the following:
 - a. Attend a monthly COACHES MEETING held by the Recreational Plus Academy Staff, on the fourth (4th) Thursday each month. Each team playing Recreational Plus must have a representative present. Time and location of each meeting will be distributed to all affiliated club registrars and coaches. At this meeting, the Recreational Plus Staff will discuss player development progress and distribute monthly training schedules for the subsequent month. Any team not present will be fined \$50. If a team is not represented and misses more than two meetings per season, they will forfeit the remaining scheduled games. All fines are to be paid to RVYSA in full thirty (30) days from the previous meeting date. If after thirty (30) days the fee is not paid, Scheduled games will be suspended until such fees are paid.
 - b. Recreational plus teams will be evaluated by RVYSA/STYSA approved Recreational Plus Academy staff prior to the start of the season and prior to the conclusion of each season to evaluate developmental progress and effectiveness. Each coach will be given a copy of player and team evaluations.

c. Head coaches and assistant coaches will be required to have player safe pass and U10/12 module license prior to the start of seasonal play. Any coach not in possession of both before the start of seasonal play will not be allowed to coach until such time that they possess them. U6/8 coaching module license is not acceptable.

d. **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 Sign.

Players without proper USYSA identification cards are ineligible to play at any inter-association game. The Recreational Plus Academy Director, RVYSA President, or Recreational 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.** 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 Recreational Plus 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 plays 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) An appropriate minimum number of games shall be scheduled for each season depending upon accepted club affiliated teams, in good standing, in each age/gender division.

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 Recreational Plus Directors 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. The Recreational Plus Director 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 Recreational Plus League play will not be allowed to participate in invitational tournament play when it conflicts with regularly scheduled games.

M. Recreational Plus League Standings Determination.

1. All RVYSA Recreational Plus 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 RVYSA and 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 Recreational Plus 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 Recreational Plus league 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) Recreational Plus league play 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 retain the USYSA Identification card of any player or coach ejected from a game and provide the card to the Recreational Plus Academy Director.
- a) Player I. D. Cards will be furnished to the referee prior to the start of any Recreational Plus league 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