



IOWA SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC. MEMBERSHIP RULES

GENERAL

PURPOSE

The rules contained herein shall govern all classifications of youth and adult members of the Iowa Soccer Association, Inc. (hereinafter Association, ISA, Iowa Soccer or State Association) in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Iowa Soccer Constitution and Bylaws. All competitions shall be governed by the rules stated herein, unless the rules of a specific competition state otherwise. The rules of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), the US Youth Soccer Association (US Youth Soccer) and the United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA) supersede these rules. Member Organizations, including youth leagues, may adopt rules and policies that are more restrictive than those contained herein.

These Membership rules are intended to provide a uniform set of guidelines governing player eligibility and registration, team formation and player assignments, playing rules and standards of sportsmanship and conduct for use by Organizational and Individual Members.

SCOPE

All Member Organizations are directed to distribute these rules to every youth player, every coach, team manager, administrator, and referee. It is intended that the player and/or coach will make known the contents of this rule to his/her parents and spectators.

All members and participants in soccer within the jurisdiction of the ISA have requested to participate in our programs. Therefore, these participants have agreed to abide by the Bylaws, Policies, and Rules of ISA, their local playing organization, as well as those of the USSF and its youth and adult councils. The ISA Constitution and Bylaws provide that it has jurisdiction over all Member Organizations, players, coaches, team managers, administrators, and team representatives who choose to affiliate. Any member or participant within the jurisdiction of ISA found in violation of its Constitution, Bylaws, Policies or Rules, and/or those of the USSF and its youth and adult councils, may be subject to disciplinary action.

DEFINITIONS

- A. **Member Organizations** mean youth affiliates and adult leagues.
- B. **Seasonal Year** means September 1 to August 31 of the following year.
- C. **Registration** means the signing of an intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of a fee to become a member of the Association.
- D. **Team** means a recognized entity organized for the purpose of playing the sport of soccer.
- E. **Rostering** means assignment of a registered player to a team.
- F. **Eligible to play** means registered and not under suspension or other punitive action or status.
- G. **Suspension/Bad Standing** means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges such as but not limited to the right to play, coach or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in the game of soccer sanctioned by the State Association. Any person or group (team, club, league, player, coach, etc.) that has been suspended shall be in less than good standing for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.
- H. **Add** means the addition of a player to a team's roster.

- I. **Drop** means to remove a player from a team roster.
- J. **Release** means the withdrawal of a player from a roster during the current seasonal year.
- K. **Transfer** means the movement of a currently or previously-rostered player onto another roster or; the movement of a player who returns to the same roster within the current seasonal year.
- L. **Ejection** means the send-off of any player during a game, the dismissal of a coach during a game or the dismissal of a player before or after a game.
- M. **Multiple Registration** means having a player rostered to 2 teams during a seasonal year.
- N. **Tournament Team** is a team composed of players from more than one registered team. This team can only enter tournaments and competitions that allow Tournament Teams. Tournament Teams at the U10 age division and below are prohibited.

SECTION 1 YOUTH LEVELS OF COMPETITION

Iowa Soccer Association U11 through U19 teams are required to be self-designated as “Level 1”, “Level 2” or “Level 3”. All U10 and below teams will be classified Level 3.

Level 3 is intended to provide the opportunity for all players to participate in and enjoy the game of soccer without regard for ability or soccer skills. Level 3 teams may participate in Level 3, Level 2 or Level 1 in-state tournaments. These stipulations do not apply to out-of-state tournaments.

Level 3 Team Formation Rules

- The team formation process will be random in nature.
- Criteria for player assignment will NOT include consideration for the ability of the player or the relative strength of the team.
- All forms of recruiting, invitations and tryouts are specifically prohibited. Coaches will have no direct input to or involvement with the assignment of players to their teams.
- If a Member Organization permits teams to remain together from season to season, the player has the option to stay on the team.
- New teams and returning teams that need players are formed by one of the following methods:
 - a. Players are assigned (rostered) to a team by age groups on a territorial basis (neighborhood, schools, precincts, zip codes, etc.)
 - b. Players are assigned (rostered) to a team by a random draw from a single player pool on a territorial basis as stated in (a) above.
- Players’ names shall not be identified to the coach until the player is placed on the team. Only the head coach may request his/her child be rostered to the team that he/she is coaching.

Level 2 is intended to provide players a higher level of competition than Level 3. Level 2 teams may participate in Level 2 or Level 1 in-state tournaments but not in Level 3 events. These stipulations do not apply to out-of-state tournaments.

Level 2 Team Formation Rules

Member Organizations and playing leagues may establish their own criteria for player selection and team assignment provided there is no conflict with Iowa Soccer Association Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Policies.

Level 1 is intended to provide players with a higher level of competition than Level 2. Level 1 teams may participate only in Level 1 in-state tournaments. These stipulations do not apply to out-of-state tournaments.

Level 1 Team Formation Rules

Member Organizations and playing leagues may establish their own criteria for player selection and team assignment provided there is no conflict with Iowa Soccer Association Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and Policies.

SECTION 2 MEMBER ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION, RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Organizations seeking ISA affiliation must provide a copy of their current governing documents (bylaws, rules of play, articles of incorporation) for review by the Association
- B. Member Organizations and playing leagues may elect to adopt the same or stricter rules within its own organization provided those rules do not conflict with Association Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, or Rules.
- C. All Member Organizations must have a written Discipline and Appeals Procedures section in their constitution, bylaws, rules or other appropriate document. Written notification of subsequent changes to the organization's governing documents must be made to the Association within thirty (30) days of the adoption of such changes. The Association will notify in writing the Member Organization in the event an organization rule or rules appear to be in conflict with ISA governing documents to the extent such changes may:
 - 1. Preclude teams of the Member Organization from participating in competitions sponsored by the ISA, US Youth Soccer or USASA, or
 - 2. Jeopardize continued membership in the ISA.
- D. Each Member Organization shall be responsible for ensuring proper registration of its players and teams, proper accounting for fiscal transactions and accurate and timely reporting as required to the ISA.
- E. Each Member Organization will plan and conduct player registration prior to each playing season.

SECTION 3 PLAYER REGISTRATION AND AGES

- A. All youth and adult players must register annually and re-register prior to each season, Youth registration of soccer players under these rules shall include all those registrants defined as youth by the USSF, which are all male and female registrants under the age of 19 years as defined in these rules under Section 3.D.. Adult registration of soccer players will be all male and female registrants over the age of 19 years.
 - 1. Registration - The player is registered to the State Association the moment the player or the player's parent or guardian signs the registration form and pays the appropriate fees.
 - 2. A youth player and parent are committed to the full term of the obligation as specified in writing by the Member Organization unless the Member Organization agrees to a request for a player transfer. In any case the player/parent must fulfill their financial obligation stipulated by the signing of the commitment.
 - 3. Rostering - Rostering means assignment of a registered player to a team. Initial rostering shall commence no later than the player's first participation in any competition sanctioned by the ISA. Rosters may change but only with the approval of the club registrar and in accordance with Member Organization, adult playing league, ISA, US Youth Soccer, USASA, and USSF rules and regulations.

- C. Age grouping for youth play will be:

Under 06 (minimum age is 4)	Under 14
Under 08	Under 15
Under 10	Under 16
Under 11	Under 17
Under 12	Under 18
Under 13	Under 19

- D. The age of the player for purpose of play shall be the player's age on July 31st of the immediately preceding seasonal year. The current seasonal year begins on September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year.
- E. Member Organizations will require all players to present proof of age when they register to play.
 - 1. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, Board of Health records, passport, valid driver's license, alien registration card issued by the United States Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card issued by the Uniformed Services of the United States or a certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.
 - 2. International Clearance must be followed for players outside the United States as per United States Soccer Federation Policy 601-6.
 - 3. Member Organizations may keep a copy of proof of age of each player.
- F. U06, U08 and U10 teams may not play up in higher age divisions. U11 and U12 teams may not play up in higher age divisions (U13 and above) unless approved by their playing league.

Players may play up on higher age division teams. The determination of a player's ability and eligibility for play up rests with the affiliate and/or the affiliate's playing league. U12 and U14 teams cannot be created to subvert this rule. Teams in the U11/U12 age division cannot have a roster that has more than forty (40) percent of their players who are U10 or younger. Teams in the U13/U14 age division cannot have a roster that has more than sixty (60) percent of their players who are U12 or younger.

SECTION 4 PLAYER REGISTRATION AND TRANSFERS

YOUTH

- A. All youth and adult players must register annually and re-register prior to each season.
- B. Youth players not residing in Iowa must request written permission from the ISA for the player to be allowed to register and roster on an ISA team. Such requests must be sent to the ISA for processing and consideration.
- C. Basic to these rules is that a youth player must register through, or be released from, the state association of the player's residence. If the player wishes to play on a team in another state association, the player may be required to obtain and complete an Interstate Transfer form. The form, along with the appropriate fee, must be submitted to the Member Organization with which the player would register. The form and the fee then are submitted to the State Association for approval.
- D. Youth players may only be registered to two ISA sanctioned teams at any given time during the seasonal year; this is considered multiple rostering. One team must be designated as the primary team. The other team will be designated as the secondary team.
 - 1. Multiple rostered players will be charged a registration fee for each designated team.
 - 2. Each team is limited to three (3) secondary rostered players.
 - 3. Players multiple rostered to a Level 3 team and a Level 1 or Level 2 team will have the Level 1/2 team designated as their primary team.
 - 4. A multiple rostered player will have a player pass issued for each team. . The roster will designate the primary and secondary teams.
- E. Those players wishing to play in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Iowa State Cup must be primary rostered to their Cup team.

- F. All registrants, with the exception of those noted in Section 6 below, must register with the State Association through a Member of the State Association.
- G. The exceptions to Section D above are: unaffiliated Olympic Development players and college players.
- H. Youth players may change teams during the seasonal year in the following manner:
 - 1. Member Organizations reserve the right to reassign players and re-register the new teams by filing the appropriate forms (i.e. transfer forms, adds, deletes) with the ISA.
 - 2. Rostered players may be transferred within their club, from team to team, by that club's registrar.
 - 3. Rostered players may transfer from club to club during the seasonal year only by completing and submitting a Transfer form. With the exception of transfers of Level 2 or Level 3 players, a transfer will be assessed to the receiving team as per the National Championship Series rules.
 - 4. Member Organizations may form Tournament teams in U11 through U19 age divisions from players who are rostered with Member Organization teams. These teams are registered for one event only and will be so designated on the roster. The Association will charge a fee for each Tournament roster. The roster must be completed and submitted by the Member Organization from which the Head Coach of the team is registered.
 - 5. Youth players may register and play on adult teams without losing youth eligibility. Youth teams may play in adult leagues.

ADULT

- A. Adults must register with the State Association through leagues.
- B. Adult players may register on one or more teams during the same seasonal year and will be charged a fee for each additional team.
- C. Adults may transfer to another team with notification to the leagues. The league must notify the State Association of the change.
- D. Roster sizes for adults will be determined by league rules.

SECTION 5 REGISTRATION AND CHANGE OF A PLAYER'S RESIDENCE

- A. A player changing residence outside the State of Iowa must immediately notify the Member Organization with whom the player is registered and surrender his/her player pass to the Member Organization's Registrar.

SECTION 6 MEMBER ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES

Each Member Organization shall be obligated to register its players with the ISA in accordance with USSF Policy 212-1. This includes participants in any of the Member Organization's Programs such as camps, clinics and other organized activities. The exceptions to this rule are: (1) tryouts for Level 1/Level 2 teams and (2) Member Organization sponsored summer day camps. These exceptions allow Member Organizations the ability to showcase their service offerings and extend "goodwill" service to nonmembers of the community.

SECTION 7 GUEST PLAYERS AND PLAYER LOANS

- A. When playing outside Iowa for friendly or tournament matches, ISA shall allow the use of the number of guest players that is allowed by the tournament or hosting organization, provided that the request for guest player inclusion is made to the ISA through the Guest Player agreement process.
- B. When playing in Iowa, unless required by the hosting organization, guest player requests do not have to be submitted for ISA players wishing to guest play on ISA teams playing in ISA sanctioned events.

- C. For ISA registered players wishing to guest play on teams from other State Associations, a Player Loan Agreement request must be submitted to Iowa Soccer.

SECTION 8 ROSTER SIZES

<u>Age Division</u>	<u>Maximum Roster Size</u>
U06	6
U08	8
U10	10
U11	14
U12	14
U13-U15	18
U16-U19	22

SECTION 9 TRYOUTS

Tryouts in the U06 through the U10 age divisions are strictly prohibited. For tryouts in the U11 and above age divisions, Member Organizations are governed by their respective league rules/policies and by the ISA Coaches Code of Ethics/Conduct.

SECTION 10 COACHES

- A. All teams must have coaches on the sideline during practices and competitions.
- B. In order to be on the sideline during practices and competitions, all coaches must complete a volunteer disclosure form and be cleared by a background check before being considered registered and able assume any coaching duties.
- C. Head coaches coaching youth teams must not be younger than 18 years of age.

SECTION 11 SPORTSMANSHIP, MISCONDUCT AND ABUSE

All Member Organizations are directed to monitor, investigate and act as may be appropriate to ensure any and all problems regarding unsporting conduct and ethical breeches are not permitted. Any and all such activity may in some cases preclude action by a league or ISA, but will not in all cases eliminate such action by a league or ISA.

Any misconduct justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the Member Organization with which the player, coach or team official is affiliated. The Member Organization shall promptly (within 10 days after the receipt of the report) rule on the report and take appropriate action. If dissatisfied with the decision, the charged party has the right to appeal the decision to the Member Organization. If that appeal is denied, the appellant has the right to appeal the decision to the State Association.

Verbal or physical abuse by a coach or player upon a referee is governed by USSF Bylaws. In matters of verbal or physical abuse by a coach, player or other team official upon all others, the Member Organization is expected to act promptly (within 5 days of the incident) and in a manner appropriate for the violation. A full report of the incident and the Member Organization's subsequent action is to be submitted to ISA immediately after action is determined. ISA will determine the extent of action to take, if any, in addition to that taken by the Member Organization.

Spectator misconduct must be acted upon by the club with whom the spectator is associated.

At a minimum, all Member Organizations are required to adopt the Alliance 4 All Codes of Conduct for coaches, players, parents and in-house referees. Organization Members may adopt their own codes if they wish to enhance the Alliance 4 All codes, or to make the items more restrictive.

SECTION 12 SANCTIONING OF LEAGUES

All leagues within the ISA must be approved by the State Association prior to the commencement of competitions. The Association will review all requests from Member Organizations.

In order to be an approved and sanctioned league with ISA, the following conditions must be met:

- A. All players must be registered with a State Association and be in good standing with their respective State Association.
- B. The sponsoring Member Organization must submit or have league rules accessible for inspection (website).
- C. The sponsoring Member Organization is in good standing with the ISA and adheres to all ISA, US Youth Soccer, USASA, and USSF rules and policies.

SECTION 13 SANCTIONING OF TOURNAMENTS

The Association has the sole right to sanction Member Organization tournaments, and will only sanction those tournaments hosted by Member Organizations. The Member Organization must request to have a sponsored tournament sanctioned by submitting:

- A. a completed Request to Host a Tournament or Game application
- B. a Host Agreement
- C. a copy of the tournament rules and regulations
- D. the appropriate fee

Matches in the U06 through U12 age divisions must be played as per the ISA Small Sided Game, Tournament and League Policy.

The State Association will sanction tournaments with U06 through U10 divisions ONLY if those matches are played in a festival format:

- No formal scorekeeping
- No advancement
- Presentation of participation awards

SECTION 14 RULE REVISIONS

Any proposed revisions to these Rules may be made by an Organizational Member, the Board of Directors, a member of the Board of Directors, or a member of the staff of the State Association.

Any proposed revision to these Rules must be submitted in writing to the State Association at least 30 days in advance of a Board of Director's Meeting. Each proposed revision received in compliance as stated above, and/or by the staff or Board of Directors, shall be submitted in writing to each member of the Board of Directors at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the next scheduled Board of Director's meeting.

Any revision to these rules requires a simple majority of those in attendance at the Board of Director's meeting in which the revision is considered. In the event of a conflict between the proposed revision and the Iowa Soccer Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, or policies, and/or requirements of US Youth Soccer, USASA, or USSF, the articles, bylaws, policies, and requirements of US Youth Soccer, USASA, and USSF govern.

Unless otherwise provided, any revision to these rules is effective immediately upon approval.

Board Approved (3/31/01)
Revised (8/2/03)
Revised (5/24/04)
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Revised (11/20/04)
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