

Operating Rules
for
Southfield Youth
Soccer League
(SYSL)



Adopted by SYSL Board
August 7, 2006

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Definitions

FIFA: Fédération Internationale de Football Association, www.fifa.com

USYSA: United States Youth Soccer Association, www.usyouthsoccer.org

MSYSA: Michigan State Youth Soccer Association, www.msusa.net

SYSL: Southfield Youth Soccer League, www.southfieldsoccer.org

MSPSP: Michigan State Premier Soccer Program

MYSL: Michigan Youth Soccer League

League: Southfield Youth Soccer League

Board: Southfield Youth Soccer League Board of Directors, its governing body consisting of its duly elected officers, directors and managers.

Executive Board: Southfield Youth Soccer League Board of Directors, its governing body consisting of its duly elected / MSYSA registered officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar.

Player: An individual whose birth date falls within the guidelines of the USYSA, MSYSA and SYSL, has met all League registration requirements and has officially registered with the League Registrar.

Coach: An individual who has officially volunteered to coach a team by completing a “Coaching Resume” and submitting a “Risk Management Application” to MSYSA.

Soccer Year: For the purposes of the Operating Rules, the soccer seasonal year begins in September and ends in June of the following calendar year. There are two seasons (periods in which games are scheduled) in each soccer year: fall season & spring season. The fall season runs from early September to early November. The spring season runs from mid April to mid June. A season represents one (1) registration period.

ARTICLE 1

REGISTRATION

Section 1

The Board will determine all modifications to registration fees and registration procedures.

Section 2

Registration Procedures:

An individual will be considered a Registered Player when the following criteria is met:

1. Registration form has been completed in entirety with appropriate signatures and initialed by a SYSL registration representative.
2. A copy of the individual's birth certificate has been presented to a SYSL registration representative or submitted to the registrar. Returning players need not show a birth certificate, if recorded as "already on file."
3. Required registration fees have been paid in full and cleared by the SYSL Treasurer. (If checks are returned for insufficient funds, the individual will be required to submit a money order for required registration fees that includes an additional \$25 fee)

Section 3

Each season, (Fall & Spring) regular registration deadlines will be published. Each season there will be a late registration period that includes a late fee. Individual's registering late will be placed on a waiting list to be placed on a team, if spots are available.

Once the late registration period has expired, additional players will be accepted under the following conditions: Players may be added to the roster, with the registrar's approval, either to replace players no longer on the team or to increase the size of the team within the prescribed limits.

The following registration procedure will be implemented after the late registration period has ended or season has started:

- a. Player must produce all required registration materials (Completed form, birth certificate and registration fee).
- b. Player must order/purchase his/her own uniform from the league supplier. (Necessary contact/uniform information will be provided)
- c. Player must submit with registration materials, a separate money order payable to MSYSA to cover State registration fees (Exact amount will be provided).
- d. The player's Late Fee will be waived.

Section 4

There will be absolutely no refund of registration fees except under extremely unusual circumstances as determined by the Board or program cancellation.

Section 5

In cases of financial hardship, scholarship information shall be provided. Scholarships are awarded through Southfield Parent-Youth Guidance Commission. Applications are available from the City of Southfield. It is the responsibility of the individual to apply for the scholarship. Payment at the time of registration will be required in order to reserve a spot for the individual. When scholarship monies are received the individual's paid registration fee will be returned.

Section 6

Coach's children must follow required registration procedures. Coaches shall receive a \$25.00 discount on registration fees for the child that is on the team in which they coach. The \$25.00 coach's discount does not apply to multiple children in the league unless the coach is in addition, coaching those respective teams. The coach's discount does not extend to assistant coaches. Each team is allowed one coach's discount. Multiple discounts will not be allowed in co-coaching situations.

Section 7

Board Member's children must follow required registration procedures. Executive Board Members shall receive a \$25.00 discount on registration fees for one child. Other Board Members shall receive a \$25.00 discount on registration fees for one child in their 2nd season of active service.

Section 8

No unregistered player will be allowed on a team nor will an unregistered player be allowed to practice with any team or SYSL sanctioned group.

Section 9

All returning players must re-register each season, as a Release of Liability is required to be signed by a parent/guardian each season.

Section 10

Any player or parent/guardian who willfully falsifies his or her registration shall be suspended for the current season.

ARTICLE 2

TEAM FORMATION

Section 1

SYSL will be responsible for team formation.

Section 2

Each team will be regarded as an individual unit.

Section 3

The Board reserves the right to approve or disapprove of any team requesting entrance into SYSL.

Section 4

A new player is defined as any player who did not play the previous season, even if he or she played with SYSL in the past. The League Registrar shall place all new players on teams. He/She shall use the following criteria for placing players:

1. Honor requests, if deemed reasonable & possible. If necessary, the final decision will rest with the Board and its decision is final.
2. Place players according to which core teams need players.

Section 5

For the purposes of determining Core Teams for the coming season, all previously registered players will be segregated according to their team from the previous season.

1. A determination as to the number of core teams shall be made based on the number of players in an age group.
2. The following classification of players shall constitute core teams and shall have priority from (a) to (d) as follows:
 - a. A team already existing in a division with a coach and a minimum of 3 players.
 - b. A team moving up from a younger division with a coach and a minimum of 3 players.
 - c. A team already existing in a division without a coach and 50% of its roster.
 - d. A team moving up from a younger age division without a coach and 50% of its roster.
 - e. A core team will be disbanded if a coach cannot be found.

3. Registered players on a core team may not switch to another team unless:
 - a. A relative plays or coaches another team
 - b. The player requests a transfer to another team and the Board deems it is a reasonable request.

Note: Players may not transfer to another team solely to go to a team with a better record. The Board will guard against coaches attempting to guild a powerhouse team by enticing players to request their teams.

Section 6

The number of players assigned to a team is mandated by MSYSA as follows:

Division ~ Age Group	Roster Maximum	Playing Format
Kiddie Kickers – U6	8	4 v 4
U7 – U8	10	5 v 5
U9 – U10	11	6 v 6
U11 – U12	14	8 v 8
U14 – U19	18	11 v 11

Section 7

Team names must be approved by the Board.

Section 8

Age groupings shall follow USYSA/MSYSA guidelines. The age for the players shall be determined by the player's age as of July 31st of each year. Players will be allowed to “play up” one (1) age group/division. Parent must submit a written request to move up, which will be kept on file with the registrar. Another request must be written to return to the original age group.

ARTICLE 3

PREMIER TEAMS

Section 1

The Board shall have the power to form teams for the purpose of representing SYSL in Premier or Select leagues or programs, (MYSL) or (MSPSP).

Section 2

All premier teams formed under SYSL must be sponsored, approved and affiliated with SYSL. These teams must follow all applicable SYSL rules and regulations as determined by the SYSL Board and all rules and regulations of their affiliated premier league.

Section 3

Premier teams shall be formed through 2 or more open try-outs. Team selection is determined by the Premier Coach. All players are given an equal and fair opportunity to demonstrate their skills. No team has selected openings; each player is expected to try-out and earn his/her place each season.

Section 4

All players must meet and complete SYSL registration requirements.

Section 5

Premier coaches are expected to continue their learning by earning licenses, attending coaching development seminars, etc. The Board will reimburse any coaches for educational fees upon successful completion of Coaching Licensing Clinics offered by associations approved by MSYSA. SYSL will reimburse coaches (100%) of the registration fee upon the successful award of a MSYSA sanctioned F, E or D Coaching License. (Licenses, certificates, or documentation of successful completion must be submitted for reimbursement)

Trainers are encouraged to work with premier teams to promote high-level skill development. The Board will contribute (\$500) per season towards the cost of training fees. Trainers must be Board approved.

ARTICLE 4

EQUIPMENT

Section 1

The League will provide each player with a uniform. Uniforms consist of a jersey, shorts, and socks. The Board must approve any advertising or sponsorship on uniforms or any other equipment.

Section 2

The League will furnish each team, U9 and above, with one (1) game ball.

The League will provide each team, U6 and above, with one (1) practice ball per every two (2) players on the roster.

Section 3

The League will provide each team with a first-aid kit.

Section 4

The League will provide each team, U9 and above, with Corner Flags.

Section 5

The League will provide each team, U9 and above, with a goalkeeper's jersey.

Section 6

All equipment issued by the League (listed in Sections 2 – 5) shall be returned at the end of each season. The League Equipment Manager will notify Coaches and Team Managers of the date and time that equipment is to be returned. If coaches do not return equipment on time, it will be their responsibility to contact the Equipment Manager and make arrangements to return equipment.

During the off-season, the Equipment Manager will make necessary repairs and/or submit a request for replacement of equipment.

Section 7

It is each Coach's responsibility to make sure that League issued equipment is kept in the best possible condition. The League will not replace lost practice balls during any given year. The Board reserves the right to deduct the cost of lost balls from the Coach's Child -\$25.00 Registration Discount, if it deems this necessary.

ARTICLE 5

ASSOCIATION RULES – TEAMS

Section 1

- a. No team may compete as a SYSL team in competition outside the League without prior approval of the Board, President, or Vice President.
- b. For the purposes of these Operating Rules, when a team has been independently organized and is comprised wholly or partially of SYSL players outside of SYSL's fall and spring seasons (for example, to compete in an indoor soccer league), such a team is not a SYSL team.
- c. SYSL does not sanction and/or participate in the organization of indoor soccer teams, which play outside of the fall and spring seasons. Players and Coaches do so, outside of SYSL operating guidelines and control.

Section 2

The Board will decide if a team is to be terminated during the season. In that event, the Board shall determine the disposition of the players.

ARTICLE 6

ASSOCIATION RULES – PLAYERS

Section 1

A coach or manager, with board approval, may remove a player from the team for misconduct. The coach or manager must submit in writing to the Board a request for disciplinary action on a player.

Section 2

Any player who is competing, or plans to compete in league play in any other soccer league may not play in SYSL unless the player has obtained permission of the Board is dual registered with the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association.

Section 3

Players must play in their appropriate age group. Although “playing up” is not encouraged, players are permitted to “play up” only one (1) age group/division. A written parental request to “play up” must be submitted to the League Registrar.

Section 4

Premier players must follow the Premier Division Guidelines for age group placement of their affiliated league.

ARTICLE 7

ASSOCIATION RULES – COACHES AND MANAGERS

Section 1

The Board reserves the right to approve or disapprove coaches, assistant coaches, team managers and trainers of any team playing in SYSL. The Board’s decision is final.

Section 2

All coaches and managers must be at least eighteen (18) years of age. All coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and managers must submit a “Risk Management” application to MSYSA prior to practicing with his/her team. A valid Risk Management card must be in the coaches’, managers’ or trainers’ possession at all games and practices.

Section 3

Coaches and managers may establish team rules governing practices and individual team policy, as long as they do not conflict with SYSL operating rules.

Section 4

Coaches must attend the ‘Coaches Meeting’ held prior to the fall & spring seasons. Any coach unable to attend must send a representative.

Section 5

1. All coaches and managers must participate in all League fundraisers to the extent determined by the Board.
2. No individual team may participate in a fundraiser without SYSL Board approval.

Section 6

A coach is expected/encouraged to keep his/her team for at least one (1) seasonal year, (fall & spring).

Section 7

Coaches are expected to take proper care of League issued equipment. Equipment must be returned on time unless previous arrangements have been made with the League Equipment Manager. Coaches in divisions U9 & above may keep equipment for training purposes in the off-season, provided that they have made arrangements with the Equipment Manager.

Section 8

Smoking while at practices or games is not permitted.

Section 9

All coaches should obtain and be familiar with the FIFA Laws of the Game, which are the official rules of soccer. All coaches need to be aware of rules/laws that SYSL has modified for younger players.

Section 10

Coaching is allowed from the touchlines, but only by the coach and assistant coaches (limit 3). Where provided coaches shall remain in the technical areas. Coaches and non-playing players must remain between the front edges of the penalty boxes and on their own side of the field.

Section 11

It is the coaches' responsibility to control their team's fans. The referee may ask the coach to do so. Spectators are to remain between the front edges of the penalty boxes and at least 3 yards from the sideline.

Section 12

Sporting Behavior

1. Coaches should at all times set good examples and be a positive role model their players. Coaches should at all times adhere to the "Parent Code of Conduct." Conduct that is deemed to be detrimental to the best interests of the players or SYSL is subject to reprimand and/or suspension by the Board.

2. "Playing to win" should be stressed more than winning itself. Leading a team to victory should not be foremost in the mind of any coach. If it is done in such a manner as to deny any child the right to play, the League will not sanction this type of behavior. SYSL rules concerning playing time for all players are covered in Article 8, Section 1, Law 3.
3. Teams should not "run up" the score against weaker opponents. Coaches should implement changes in strategy and player positions to keep the difference in scores reasonable.
4. Referees are vital to the game. They should be treated with respect at all times. Referees are human and they will make mistakes. They will, however, call a better game if they are not under pressure from the sidelines. Honor their decisions and teach your team to do likewise. Harassment of officials by coaches, players or spectators will not be tolerated. Please report any problems with referees to the League Division Manager (U9 & above) or to the Referee Director (U8 & below).
5. Soccer games are for friendly competition, and the players and coaches should regard their counterparts on the opposing teams as colleagues. Spirited play is encouraged but taunting the opponents is not in the best interest of the game or SYSL. Swearing, encouraging unsportsman-like play, harassing players on either side are examples of the kind of behavior that will not be tolerated. This applies to players, coaches and spectators.
6. Before a game, coaches should introduce themselves to the referee and each other. After the game, opposing teams and coaches should line up at mid-field to shake hands and congratulate each other. This procedure should be emphasized to the players.

Section 11

All coaches may make proposals to the Board at regularly scheduled Board Meetings. Coaches and managers are welcome and encouraged to attend Board Meetings.

Section 12

All coaches and teams must show up for scheduled games unless notified in advance by a League official that the game has been postponed or cancelled.

Section 13

Prior to the start of the season, the League Treasurer will provide coaches with funds to cover referee fees for every home game on the teams' schedule. Checks will be distributed by the Division Manager or Treasurer. Any money left at the end of the season due to cancelled games or missing referees must be returned to the Division Manager who will forward it to the Treasurer.

Coaches may also elect to use any left over funds to provide goods for the team as a whole. (i.e. End of the Season Party, Team Equipment, etc) Coaches should notify the Treasurer of their intentions / plans for unused funds at the end of the season.

ARTICLE 8

LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

Section 1

The FIFA Laws of the Game and the decisions of the International Board will govern play and be the official playing rules of SYSL with the following modifications, recommendations and notations:

Law I: The Field of Play

1. The referee shall determine if a field is unplayable. SYSL officials or the City of Southfield may also determine if a field is unplayable. If they do so, then the teams and referees involved will be notified as to any game cancellations or changes, if time permits.
2. Hazardous playing conditions are defined as follows and determined by Referees (U9 & above) or Division Managers and/or Referee Director (U8 & below):
 - a. Tornado warning or watch in effect at game time: Game is cancelled
 - b. Thunder/Lightning: Game is delayed 30 minutes from last occurrence.
 - c. Heavy rain or hail
 - d. Severe wind conditions
 - e. Extreme heat or humidity
 - f. Icy field conditions
 - g. Extremely wet or muddy field

Any of the above conditions might serve as a cause for the delay and/or postponement of the game. The safety of the players must take top priority.

3. Field dimensions for the various age groups will be per MSYSA guidelines:

Age Group/Division	Length	Width
U6 – U8	25 – 35 yards	20 – 30 yards
U9 – U10	45 – 60 yards	35 – 45 yards
U11 – U12	70 – 78 yards	45 – 55 yards
U13 – U19	100 – 130 yards	50 – 100 yards

Law II: The Ball

The ball size per Age Group/Division will be as follows:

Age Group/Division	Ball Size
(KK) U5 – U8	Size 3
U9 – U12	Size 4
U13 – U19	Size 5

Law III: Number of Players

1. Substitutions are unlimited in number and are allowed at the following times provided that the referee is notified and approves the substitution:
 - a. On a goal kick by either team.
 - b. On a throw-in by the team in possession. Substitutions in the U8 and U10 divisions are allowed for both teams on a throw-in regardless of possession. In U12 if the team in possession of the throw-in is substituting, the other team may substitute as well, provided it can be done in a timely manner.
 - c. After a goal by either team.
 - d. When play is stopped following an injury (for the injured player only).
 - e. At the start of a half or overtime period.
 - f. A player receiving a caution may be substituted.
 - g. Substitutions in the U6 age division and below are allowed at any stoppage in play.
2. Substitutions should take place in an organized and rapid manner. The referee must be notified and must approve any substitution prior to the substitute entering the field of play. The referee may ask any player to identify himself at any time
3. Where required, complete line-ups must be presented to the referee before each game. No other players may be used.
4. At the end of the game, the completed game sheet must be verified and signed by the referee and both coaches. Home Team Coach must send the game sheet to the proper authority, within 24 hours.
5. If it is determined that a team has played an ineligible player, the game(s) in which the player appeared shall be considered as forfeited and the points derived there from will be awarded to the other team(s).
6. All players in attendance at a game are to play at least approximately 1/2 of each game. Because of limitations on when substitutions can be made, it may not be possible for all players to play exactly 1/2 of each game, but coaches *must* try to adhere to this guideline as closely as possible. Players may play more than 1/2 of each game, but not less.

Coaches may reduce the playing time of a player for disciplinary reasons, such as unsporting conduct or consistently missing practice for no valid reason. The reasons for reduced playing time *must* be explained to the player and his parents before such actions are taken. Playing time may be reduced due to illness or injury. Lack of playing ability is not a valid reason to restrict playing time.

7. The number of players on the playing field, including the goalkeeper, for the various age groups are:

Age Group	Minimum	Maximum
KK-U6 (No Goal Keeper)	3	4
U7-U8	4	5
U9-U10	5	6
U11-U12	7	8
U13 & Above	7	11

Law IV: Player's Equipment

1. Uniform shirts and shorts should be matching and should be distinguishable from other teams. In cold weather sweatshirts may be worn under the team jersey. Jackets may be worn under team jerseys subject to the referee's approval that the jacket is not potentially dangerous. Sweatpants may be worn in cold weather.
2. Goalkeepers shall wear colors that distinguish them from the other players and the referee.
3. Shin guards must be worn by all players.

Law V: Referees

1. After each game, where required, the referee should file his game report with the proper authority. The referee should report any incident, protests or disputes and should indicate all players and coaches that were cautioned and/or ejected with the reason for that action.
2. The referee should report any cautions or ejections to the division manager on the game sheet, who will then continue further disciplinary action if necessary, per Law XII.
3. In case the assigned referee fails to appear, or becomes incapacitated, a referee may be appointed by mutual agreement by both teams prior to the start of the game. Once appointed, that person becomes the official referee for that game. As such, his decisions are final. If the assigned referee arrives late, after play has begun with a substitute referee, he may take over when there is a convenient stoppage in play. If a substitute referee is used, the reason should be noted on the score sheet, where required. If no satisfactory substitute referee can be found, the game will be postponed and this should be reported to the Division Manager.

4. The home team shall pay the referee prior to the start of the game.
5. If the game cannot be played, scheduled referees who show up at the field are entitled to the full game fee, unless informed in advance by the referee assignor that the game is cancelled.
6. The following guidelines are followed concerning referees per each age group:

Division	Referees
KK (U5)	No Referees – Parents help officiate
U6	No Referees – Coaches officiate
U7 – U8	Young Referees (Grade 9 Certification Recommended)
U9 & Above	Certified Referees

Law VI: Assistant Referees

1. Assistant Referees are not required for age groups below U9.
2. U9 & above, each team shall supply an individual to serve as a club linesman for each game, except where neutral assistant referees have been assigned. This individual must report to the referee before the game for his approval and instructions. The referee must approve of linesmen and may remove and replace them at any time.
3. The referee may over-rule a linesman and the referee's decision is final. If the referee does confer with the linesman, the linesman should give a fair and impartial account of the action in question. In general, linesmen are limited to calling when the ball has gone out of play.
4. Coaching by the linesman is not permitted.
5. Any linesman change should be reported to and approved by the referee before the change is made.

Law VII: Duration of the Game

The duration of the game will consist of equal periods which will be as follows for various age groups:

Age Group / Division	Number of Periods	Duration
Kiddie Kickers – U6	4	8 minutes
U7 – U8	4	12 minutes
U9 – U10	2	25 minutes
U11 – U12	2	30 minutes
U13 – U14	2	35 minutes
U15 – U16	2	40 minutes
U17 – U19	2	45 minutes

Law VIII: Start of Play

Conform to FIFA - No Modification

Law IX: Ball In and Out of Play

Conform to FIFA - No Modification

Law X: Method of Scoring

Conform to FIFA - No Modification

Law XI: Offside

1. There will be no offside in the Kiddie Kicker, U6, U7-U8, U9-U10 age groups.
2. No modifications for all other age groups, but this law should be studied well including the decisions of the International Board. This is one of the most misunderstood laws. Two points are worth mentioning:
 - a. It is the position of the player when the ball is played, not where he is when he receives the ball. If a player is not in an offside position when the ball is played to him by a member of his own team, he does not become offside if he goes forward during the flight of the ball.
 - b. The player in the offside position shall not be penalized unless in the opinion of the referee the player is participating in the play or in some manner gains an advantage by being in an offside position.

Law XII: Fouls and Misconduct

Conform to FIFA with the following modifications:

1. No caution or send off shall be issued to Kiddie Kicker – U8 players. If a child is being too rambunctious, then the game official will ask the coach to make a substitution of that player to give the player a chance to calm down and the coach an opportunity to instruct the player before he/she returns to play.
2. Attempting to kick a ball that is in the possession of the goalkeeper shall be considered a dangerous play, and an indirect free kick will be awarded. Repeated offenses of this type are to be cautioned. Possession is defined as having a ball within the goalkeeper's hands and is also a finger, hand or arm on a stationary ball brought under control by the goalkeeper. If in the opinion of the referee this is viewed as kicking or attempting to kick the goalkeeper, the infraction is a foul with a direct free kick restart. It could also be immediately sanctioned by a caution or send-off.
3. Upon receiving an ejection or receiving a third caution during a season, the player or coach will receive an automatic one game suspension which is to be served in the next following game, unless the Board waives the suspension, or imposes another penalty in addition to or in place of the suspension. Decisions of the Board shall be final.
4. Assault of a referee, assistant referee, linesman, coach, player or spectator will be considered a very serious offense and will result in suspension of the remainder of the season or longer. Such offenses can also be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Law XIII: Free Kicks

1. For age groups Kiddie Kickers - U6, there will be no free kicks.
2. For age groups U7 – U8, all free kicks shall be Indirect.

Law XIV: Penalty Kicks

There will be no penalty kicks awarded in the Kiddie Kicker – U8 age groups.

Law XV: Throw In

1. Kiddie Kickers – U6 will not throw-in the ball; they will kick-in from the sideline.
2. U7 – U8 will be allowed one (1) foul throw. The referee will explain the error to the player and then allow a second throw-in by the same player. If the second throw is foul the ball will be turned over to the opponents for a throw-in.

Law XVI: Goal Kicks

1. No goal kicks for Kiddie Kickers – U6.
2. U7 – U10, the goal kick may be brought out to the edge of the penalty area and taken from anywhere in the penalty area.
3. U12 & above, conform to FIFA – no modifications.

Law XVII: Corner Kicks

1. Kiddie Kickers – U6, there will be no corner kicks; the ball will be kicked in by the defending team from the touch line.
2. U7 and above, conform to FIFA – no modifications.

ARTICLE 9

PLAYER PASS CARDS

Section 1

SYSL does not issue player pass cards for recreational teams.

Section 2

If a recreational team needs pass cards for a tournament, the League can issue them. Coaches should contact the Registrar.

Section 3

Premier Teams are bound by their respective league's rules pertaining to player pass cards.

Section 4

If a coach desires to "challenge" he shall notify the referee and the opposing coach that the player is under "challenge" (not to be confused with protest) prior to the start of the game.

Section 5

The player(s) being challenged shall give their name, signature and birth date to the referee, who shall note this information on his game report. The referee shall make this information available to the coach making the challenge at the conclusion of the game.

Section 6

The division manager shall then contact the SYSL Registrar for verification that the challenged player(s) is properly registered. If the registrar's records show that the player is properly registered, the matter is finished.

Section 7

If the player is not properly registered, his team shall automatically forfeit the game and may face further disciplinary action by the Board depending on the nature of the violation.

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ARTICLE 10

MISCELANEOUS

Section 1

In the absence of the full Board at regularly scheduled Board Meetings, the complete Executive Board (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar) may make any/all decisions placed before it.

Section 2

If occasions arise that are not fully covered by these Operating Rules, the Board has absolute authority to decide such matters.

Section 3

Where required, all game sheets must be turned in within 48 hours after the game to the proper Division Manager.

Section 4

1. All games are to start on time.
2. U9 & above will be allowed up to a 15 minute delay. After 15 minutes, the tardy team will be considered the loser and the opposing team will receive the points. This may be waived with mutual agreement of both coaches and the referee. Games that start late may need to be shortened to keep the following games on schedule.
3. U6 – U8 divisions will be allowed a 5 minute delay. After 5 minutes the game must begin. Games may begin with at least 3 players on each team. Coaches and referees are encouraged to “loan” a player or two to the team that is lacking players so that the game can begin. Players “lent” can return to their proper team at any time to rotate another “loaned” player or remain there once the tardy player has arrived.

Section 5

When the colors of opposing teams are similar, it is the responsibility of the home team to change.

Section 6

Upon receiving an ejection (Red Card) by a referee or upon receiving their third caution (Yellow Card) during a season, the player or coach will receive an automatic one (1) game suspension which is to be served in the next scheduled game, unless the Board waives the suspension, or imposes another penalty in addition to or in place of the suspension. Decisions of the Board are final.

In cases of serious player misconduct (Fighting, profane language, threats) a minimum two (2) game suspension shall be imposed.

The striking of a referee or other game official will be considered a very serious offense and may result in suspension for the remainder of the season or longer and/or any other action deemed appropriate by the Board or the Michigan Referee Association.

Section 7

All adult league members are required to agree to abide by SYSL Parent Code of Conduct at all League related functions, practices, games and tournaments.

Section 8

A plea of ignorance to these Operating Rules is not sufficient or acceptable and violators may expect appropriate actions by the Board of Directors.

APPENDIX A



SOUTHFIELD YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Our ultimate goal is that your child's soccer experience be safe & fun. Often times, parents, fans and coaches don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting emotional effect on children. To ensure that our goal is met, it is required that all adult participants agree to abide by this Parent Code of Conduct.

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these 'six pillars of character'.

I therefore agree:

1. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
2. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
3. I will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
4. I will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
5. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
6. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
7. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
8. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
9. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
10. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
11. I will emphasize skill development and practice and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
12. I will promote the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
13. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
14. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

1. Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization.
2. Written warning
3. Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by SYSL
4. Parental season suspension