

**US CLUB SOCCER RULES**  
**of**  
**GREAT BASIN YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE**

*as created October, 2006*

**SECTION I**  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**1.01 Authorities.** These Rules of the League are promulgated and are subject to change by the Board of Directors of the League. These rules are the operational rules of the league relating to the game of soccer and constitute the operational policies of the League. The Board of Directors may from time to time issue policy statements and letters which have the same power as these Rules. The rules and regulations regarding the governance of the League (i.e. voting rights, membership rights, election of officers and directors, corporate and tax matters) are found in the Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws of the League. These Rules are subject to the Rules duly adopted by the United States Club Soccer (hereafter referred to as "US Club"). Any provision in these rules which is less strict or directly contrary to a US Club rule is unenforceable to the extent of the conflict.

**1.02 Purpose and Boundaries.**

a. The purpose of the league is to develop, promote and administer competition in the sport of Soccer. This League is intended to be a competitive team league as opposed to recreational or developmental oriented programs existing in the area. It is expected that member teams will select players and coaches with the experience and grit suitable for intense competition.

**1.03 NonDiscrimination.**

a. General Rule. Players and team officials will be selected and teams will be organized and the administration of the League will be accomplished without regard to an individual's race, color, national origin, or religion.

b. Players and team officials will be selected without regard to sex. When possible, however, teams will be organized by gender in order to promote competition. However, if a player desires to play on a team which primarily includes players of another gender, his or her wish shall be granted.

c. However, teams will be divided by age, and players must not play below their age division, but may play in a higher division.

**1.04 Colors.** The League shall have no colors. Teams and Clubs are encouraged to choose and display their own colors.

**SECTION II**

## **SEASONAL YEAR AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

**2.01 Terms of Registration.** The seasonal year for this League shall begin on September 1 of each calendar year, and shall conclude on August 31 of the following calendar year. Players and teams must be registered at least 14 days before the commencement of the first league game in which they participate, however specific registration dates for each season will be determined by the board in consultation with the league registrar.

### **SECTION III ORGANIZATION OF TEAMS AND REGISTRATION OR TRANSFER OF PLAYERS**

#### **3.01 Team Organization.**

- a. Teams shall be organized into the following age divisions:
  - (1) Under Age 10, 11, 12, 13,14,15,16,17,18,19
  - (2) Groups may be combined – Example U17-19 or U13-14
- b. Where possible, teams shall also be organized by gender within each age division.

#### **3.02 Player Age; Proof of Age; False Documents.**

- a. The Board of Directors will publish tables for each age division and when a player's birthday must occur in order to play in that age division. If a player's birthday falls within the range set forth in the table, he or she may play in the designated age group for the entire seasonal year. Players may play in a senior age division if they choose, but may not play in a junior age division. Players playing in a senior age division may not play up more than a one year age difference unless the player in question is in a U16 (or above) age division. Under no circumstances may a U8 player (or younger) be allowed to register with the League unless an appropriate age division has been duly formed.
- b. Each player must satisfactorily prove his or her birth date to the Registrar. A photocopy of a birth certificate is the best form of proof and shall be conclusive. If a birth certificate is in a foreign language, the player will\_

### **3.03 Player Registration.**

- a. Players must be registered with the League Registrar and must have been issued Player Cards in order to play in any League game. Failure to do so may impact insurance coverage, and team officials who play players during sanctioned League play who are not properly registered shall be suspended from the League for a minimum period of one year and may be further disciplined by the Board of Directors.
- b. Forms and procedures are to comply with US Club rules and regulations. Players must furnish one small pictures (wallet size), one to affix to the player pass.
- c. Registration fee refunds can be awarded to individual players ONLY under the following circumstances:
  1. 100% refund: The registrar has processed no registration paperwork
  2. 50% refund: Paperwork has been processed but the team has played **no** games.

**Procedure:** A written request from the player or parent/guardian must be submitted to the team coach and forwarded to the League registrar with the coach's endorsement of the refund. The date the paperwork is received by the Registrar is considered the date of the request for a refund. The League Treasurer will issue a refund check to the player/parent/guardian as soon as possible.

**3.04 Player Disqualification and Temporary Suspensions.** players who are defendants in "litigation detrimental to the welfare of Youth Players, or litigation based on activities detrimental to the welfare of Youth Soccer" must be suspended from participating in League play pending that litigation

### **3.05 Team Official Registration.**

Under the By-Laws, each member team must have at least two team officials registered with the League Registrar, one of whom must be designated as the "coach." Additional team officials may be registered at any time, but no team may have more than three (3) team officials on the sideline during match play. Team Officials must be at least 18 years of age. Registration must be on forms and using procedures prescribed by the League Registrar.

### **3.06 Team Registration.**

- a. Teams must be registered with the League Registrar in order to play. Teams with seven qualified and registered players may be members of the League under the By-Laws.

### **3.07 Transfer of Players from One Team to Another.**

- a. A player who is registered during a season with one team, may not transfer to another League team during the seasonal year unless:

- (1) special circumstances (such as moving to another area, disciplinary problems or dissolution of a team) exist, and
- (2) the transfer is requested in writing on forms furnished by the League Registrar and which are filled out correctly and signed by the player and a parent or guardian, and
- (3) both coaches and the Division Commissioner approve the transfer and sign the form, in which case, the League Registrar shall also approve the transfer and sign the form and process it.

### **3.08 Recruiting Practices and Poaching.**

- a. Team officials are free to select their teams as they wish. There is no League requirement to hold try outs or offer team berths to the general public, except that no person shall be discouraged from applying to play with a team or shall be selected or overlooked on a discriminatory basis in violation of Rule 1.03.
- b. Once a player is registered with a team in this League, he or she may not be approached or solicited by either a coach, team official or parent to transfer nor attend a team's tryouts during the current registration year.
- c. No recruitment or solicitation shall be accompanied by an offer or promise or even the hint of any material consideration such as money, property, scholarships, free trips, waiver of fees, or the like. The only exception is that a team official may explain to a prospective player that clubs may waive certain registration fees for disadvantaged players. League fees may be paid by participating club.
- d. Team/club tryout dates for the next season cannot be announced during the current season. It is permitted for clubs/teams to meet and discuss recruitment plans but they cannot advertise outside of their club/team.
- e. All team officials are responsible for enforcing this policy. Any team official who causes, permits or fails to stop improper solicitation or recruiting practice shall be disciplined (including parents of registered players). Further, if the Board of Directors reasonably believes that a pattern or practice of improper solicitation is occurring for the benefit of a team (including questionable fundraising practices), the team official shall be suspended from the League for a minimum of one year, and may be further disciplined by the Board of Directors.

### **3.09 Team Tryouts.**

- a. Competitive team tryouts can only be held for teams that are U11 and above.
- b. The League will regulate the dates for each year's tryout periods;
- c. Advertising for Club or Team tryouts may not be made public until thirty (30) days before each year's tryout dates as specified in Items b.1 and b.2 above. Such advertising MUST carry the disclaimer under Item c. above with a minimum font size of 8.
  1. The Great Basin Youth Soccer League (GBYSL) will publish and advertise at least seven (7)

days in advance of the stated tryout periods as specified in Items b.1 and b.2 a full list of tryout dates and times for all participating and duly recognized Clubs within the GBYSL. The GBYSL may, upon the direction of its Board of Directors, require participating Clubs to absorb all costs associated with this publication/advertisement.

- a. After tryout dates have finished and teams have been selected, any competitive players that are new to town should receive from the League office a list of all of the competitive teams in their age group along with coach names and phone numbers.

**SECTION IV  
RULES OF PLAY**

**4.01 General.** The Rules of Play shall be "The Laws of the Game" as published and changed from time to time by FIFA subject to the modifications and variations set forth in these Rules of the League, and the rules and policies of US Club Soccer.

**4.02 Duration of Games & Overtimes.** Overtime play shall be authorized only in tournament games. Game length and overtime length (when authorized) shall be as follows:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Overtime Periods*</u>
U 19	Two 45 min halves	Two 15 min halves
U 17	Two 45 min halves	Two 15 min halves
U 16	Two 40 min halves	Two 15 min halves
U 14	Two 35 min halves	Two 10 min halves
U 12	Two 30 min halves	Two 10 min halves
U 11	Two 30 min halves	Two 10 min halves

**4.03 Tie Breakers.** Ties during normal league games will be allowed to stand, unless other procedures have been put into place.

**4.04 Substitution of Players.**

- a. May be unlimited in number, but shall be allowed only when:

- (1) A throw in by the team desiring to substitute
- (2) prior to a goal kick (either team may sub)
- (3) after a goal (either team)
- (4) if the referee stops play due to an injury, the injured player must be substituted, and the other team may also substitute.
- (5) at half time.

**4.05 Coaching from the Sideline.** Coaching from the sidelines is permitted provided that (1) all persons

who coach must stand within five yards of the centerline while coaching or giving instructions, (2) voice amplification devices may not be used, (3) sportsmanlike language and tone of voice must be used (4) derogatory remarks or gestures towards game officials may not be used. Failure to observe the foregoing is grounds for caution or ejection.

**4.06 Canceling and Rescheduling Games.**

- a. As a general policy, rain, cold weather, wet or muddy fields are not sufficient grounds for cancellation of a game. However, if any condition renders a field unplayable, or creates an unsafe playing condition, the game may be canceled by either the referee, head referee, League President, or any member of the Board of Directors. If a game is canceled after play has already started, the game will be rescheduled and will start all over again as if it had never started.
- b. If a team has less than seven players, the game shall be canceled and not rescheduled. The short sided team will forfeit the game.
- c. If a game is not canceled, teams that refuse to play will forfeit the game.
- d. The Division Commissioner shall, if possible, reschedule games that were canceled (except due to shortage of players) and will notify the teams.

**4.07 Conduct from Sidelines During Play.** Spectators and equipment must remain two (2) yards away from the touchline during play. Except when permitted by the referee, substitutes and coaches may not walk upon the field. In no event shall anyone stand on the touchline or interfere with the view of linesmen, and all requests of the linesmen to move back shall be honored.

**4.08 Forfeit scores.** When a team forfeits a game, it will be deemed to have lost the game by one point. If the game had never started, the score will be entered as 1 - 0. If a score had been made during the game, points will be added to the score of the nonforfeiting team to create a 1 point victory.

**SECTION V  
FIELDS AND EQUIPMENT**

**5.01 Field Size.** FIFA Law # 1 regarding field size may be adjusted by the Board of Directors for fields for younger players.

**5.02 Player Equipment Restrictions and Rules.**

- a. Orthopedic casts are not allowed unless covered on all exterior surfaces with no less than ½ inch thick, high density, closed-cell polyurethane, or an alternative material
- b. Goalies must wear uniforms distinctive in color from both teams.
- c. Shirt numbers must be at least four (4) inches tall.

**5.03 Maintenance of Fields.** This League shall aid in the maintenance of league practice and game fields. The Board of Directors may allocate funds towards this end, provided, however, that no funds may be expended on privately owned fields in which any director, officer or employee of the League has an interest.

**5.04 Purchase of Equipment.** This League may purchase equipment such as goal posts, nets, field flags, linesman flags and referee equipment, provided that the equipment is made available to all members, and further provided that any purchase from a director, officer or employee or any team official or any company which is owned in part by any such person must be competitive.

## **SECTION VI STARTING TIME, LINE UP CARDS AND PLAYER CARDS**

**6.01 Delays.** Upon the request by a coach, starting time for a game shall be extended for up to fifteen minutes. Any team which causes a delay in the game in excess of fifteen minutes shall forfeit the game.

**6.02 Line Up Cards.** Each coach shall be responsible for properly completing and delivering to the referee the team line up card before play begins.

**6.03 Player and Team Official Cards.** To participate in any league game, each team official and player must present a valid card to the referee or other game official prior to the game. The card must be on a form supplied by the US Club Soccer and must bear the player's picture, name, team affiliation, date of birth, signature, and the League Registrar's signature. Players without such cards shall not be permitted to play unless exempted in writing by the League Registrar.

**6.04 Holding of Player Cards.** During play, the referee shall hold all player and team official cards, which shall be returned to the coach at the end of the game, except the cards for persons who were ejected from the game. Cards for those who were ejected from the game shall be turned over to the district commissioner or any other league official, except that they can never be turned over to the coach of the offending player or team official.

## **SECTION VII PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS FOR MISCONDUCT**

**7.01 General; Definitions.**

a. General Rule: Any offender who violates these Rules, the Rules of the Game, or otherwise commits unsportsmanlike or disorderly conduct) may or shall (in the case of automatic sanctions) be disciplined by the appropriate authority as follows.

b. Definitions: Throughout these Rules, the following words have the following meanings:

- (1) "Offender" means any member team, any player, any coach or team official, any game official, or any team parent who commits misconduct or a violation of these Rules.
- (2) "League Game" means any game sponsored by the League, including games during any league sponsored tournament. It does not matter if the game is scheduled or played during a current season.
- (3) "Appropriate Authority" for disciplinary measures means either the Disciplinary Committee or the Board of Directors of the League. It does not include League Officers or Division Commissioners (except that they have the authority to warn or reprimand).

#### **7.02 Automatic Penalties for Ejectments.**

- a. When an offender is ejected from a league game he or she shall be automatically suspended from participating in the next scheduled league game, except for coaches as provided in Rule 7.05d below.
- b. In addition to the foregoing, if an offender is ejected from a league game for the offenses of Violent Conduct or Serious Foul Play, or if the offender spit on or struck another person, he or she shall be automatically suspended from participating in the second next scheduled league game.
- c. When an offender is ejected from any three league games during any 365 calendar day period (regardless of seasonal years), he or she shall be automatically suspended from participating in any League game or tournament game for a period of 365 calendar days from the date of the last ejection, except for coaches as provided in Rule 7.05d below.

#### **7.03 Automatic Penalties for Cautions.**

- a. If, after being cautioned or ejected, an offender refuses to give his or her name to the referee, or if he or she commits violent conduct following the caution or ejection, he or she shall be automatically suspended from participating in the next scheduled league game.
- b. If an offender is cautioned (receives a yellow card which is noted on the game card during league games more than three times in a 365 calendar day period, he or she shall be automatically suspended from participating in the next league game following the game where he or she received the third caution, except as provided in Rule 7.05d below for coaches.

#### **7.04 Discretionary Penalties for Other Infractions or Misconduct.**

- a. Any verbal threat to a game official or any physical attack on a game official either before, during or after any league game shall be grounds for mandatory discipline to be determined by the appropriate authority, even if the player was not cautioned or ejected.

- b. Any violent conduct which occurs before or after league games may be treated as if the offender was ejected from the game for violent conduct.
- c. If other offender misconduct is reported, the offender may be disciplined even if he or she was not cautioned or ejected from the game.

**7.05 Responsibilities and Disciplining of Coaches and Team Officials.**

- a. Coaches and team officials (registered or not) are responsible for upholding and complying with all rules of the game (as enforced by the referee) and this League. Any coach or team official who encourages or wilfully allows infractions to occur may be disciplined.
- b. Any coach or team official who knowingly allows a suspended player to play may be disciplined.
- c. Any coach who removes a team from the field during play may be disciplined.
- d. Further, coaches, in the discretion of the referee, may be held responsible disorderly conduct by team parents or supporters and may be cautioned or ejected from the game if disruptive conduct continues unabated by the coach. If, however, a coach is ejected or cautioned because of the sideline conduct of others and if the coach attempted to control such conduct, the coach will not be subject to automatic penalties, but may be subject to discretionary penalties.

**7.06 Additional Penalties; Forms of Discretionary Penalties.** In addition to any automatic penalty, the appropriate authority may further discipline an offender. Possible forms of discretionary penalties include, but are not limited to, any one or combination of the following measures:

- (1) Warnings or letters of reprimand;
- (2) Probation and if any terms of probation are violated, then offenders may be suspended from further play for any period of time determined by the appropriate authority;
- (3) Temporary suspension from participating in League games for a period of time determined by the Board or Committee (but suspension of a member team does not affect voting or other membership rights);
- (4) Removal of team officials;
- (5) Monetary fines;
- (6) Expulsion from the League (but if a member team is being expelled, it must be accomplished by the Board of Directors in accordance with the By-Laws).

**SECTION VIII  
RESPONSIBILITIES AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

### **8.01 Reports by Game Officials.**

- a. Game Officials must report on the referee's game report the names of all players who commit an offense warranting a caution (where a yellow card is issued) or are ejected from each game. Referees are encouraged to report other offenses which they feel may warrant warning or disciplinary action by the League. All such reports (together with the player card for all players who were ejected from the game) are to be turned over to the division commissioner or any other League official, but never to any coach or team official of either of the playing teams.
- b. Whether or not an ejection occurred, game officials must report the following within 48 hours of the infraction:
  - (1) Persisting misconduct after receiving a caution,
  - (2) Serious foul play or spitting on or striking any person,
  - (3) Threats or physical attacks to any game official at any time.

**8.02 Special Tournament Rules.** If members participate in a tournament not sponsored by this League or in a tournament sponsored by this League which (1) involves teams outside this League and (2) has its own rules and authorities, then in either event, the rules of the tournament shall apply and the disciplinary procedures for that tournament shall control. After the tournament, further disciplinary actions may be taken in accordance with the procedures set out below.

**8.03 Appeals of Ejections and Cautions.** Ejections and cautions may be appealed to either the Disciplinary Committee or the Board of Directors who may, at a meeting where a quorum is present, waive the automatic penalties set out above if a majority of those present determine that the referee committed an abuse of discretion. If a meeting cannot be held before the next scheduled league game, any automatic penalty stands, but appeal may still be taken in order to have the League review the conduct of game officials and advise the proper authorities, or to remove the ejection or caution from an offender's record so it will not count towards the three ejection or caution rules.

### **8.04 Open Meetings, Right to Hearing on Discretionary Penalties.**

- a. All meetings by the Disciplinary Committee and all Board of Directors Meetings shall be open to members, although notice for such meetings is not required to be given unless otherwise provided for in the By-Laws.
- b. If it is known in advance that a particular individual will be considered for discipline, reasonable efforts will be made to contact a team official for the offender's team to invite all interested persons to attend the meeting.
- c. If an appropriate authority determines, without the presence of the offender at the meeting to take any discretionary penalty other than a warning, the individual will be notified and asked to attend the next meeting of the appropriate authority and be heard.

- d. Other than the right to appeal cautions or ejections, an individual does not have a right to be heard before the imposition of automatic penalties.

**8.05 Powers and Duties of the Disciplinary Committee.**

- a. The Disciplinary Committee shall review and discuss all game reports which report cautions or ejections and all other reports of misconduct from whatever source, and shall report its findings or thoughts to the Board of Directors.
- b. If a quorum is present, and if a majority of those present votes in favor, the Disciplinary Committee may hear appeals and waive penalties as provided in Rule 8.03 above, and may take any other disciplinary action as an "appropriate authority" and its decisions may not be appealed. The Disciplinary Committee may also abstain from any action and refer any disciplinary action to the Board of Directors. If the Disciplinary Committee fails to reach a decision by a majority vote, the matter shall be referred to the Board of Directors and any discretionary penalties shall be deferred.

**8.06 Actions by the Board of Directors.** The Board of Directors is the final authority over disciplinary matters and at any meeting duly noticed and where a quorum is present in accordance with the By-Laws of the League may take any disciplinary action it deems appropriate.

**8.07 Disciplinary Actions by League Officers.** League Officers (The President, any Vice President, the Registrar, the Secretary or Treasurer, the Division Commissioner)

- a. shall enforce automatic penalties unless they are under appeal under Rule 8.03 above;
- b. may not hear appeals under Rule 8.03 above, and may not impose discretionary penalties, other than warnings, but shall enforce them;
- c. may, if on site and faced with a situation where the he or she reasonably believes that there is an emergency or a clear and present danger to a player or to the safety of the game, take any action to alleviate the danger, including suspension or termination of play or removal of any offender (subject to the right to substitute unless the referee also ejects the offender).
- d. may not overrule a referee except to suspend play to alleviate danger as specified above.

**8.08 Referees.**

- a. The game referee shall have the authority to stop or suspend play in any game when the referee deems it necessary for safety of the players or to abate disorderly or dangerous conduct by players, team officials or spectators. The decision to reschedule the game shall be made by the Division Commissioner.
- b. The game referee may eject any offender or spectator and may require the offender to move to and remain at least 100 yards from the edge of the playing field. If, however, such removal would

leave a team without first aid support, the referee should allow the offender to be reasonably closer.

- c. If any offender does not comply with the instructions of the referee within two minutes, the game may be terminated, in which case, the referee must report the incident to a League Officer within 24 hours.

## **SECTION IX GAME PROTESTS**

**9.01 Responsibility of Protester.** Should a member team wish to protest a game, a team official must inform the opposing team and the game official at the conclusion of the game. Any team official may protest the game by delivering a written protest (indicating the reason for the protest) to the Division Commissioner, or if there is no Division Commissioner, to any League Officer.

**9.02 Responsibility of District Commissioner or League Officer.** The Division Commissioner or League Officer shall investigate the protest, and shall interview the game officials and team officials on both sides. If the Division Commissioner feels the protest is unwarranted, he or she shall inform the protesting party and try to work things out. But if the protesting party still wishes to continue, the Division Commissioner shall call a meeting of the Board of Directors or schedule the protest for a regular meeting, and will notify both teams of the date and time of the meeting. The Division Commissioner will report the protest and his or her investigation to the Board.

**9.03 Conduct of Meeting.** If either team is not represented by a team official at the meeting, the protest will be denied. Otherwise, the Board shall hear the protest and decide whether or not to change the results of the game or issue any disciplinary measures. Any person may appear as a witness, but only registered players or team officials may argue the protest.

## **SECTION X APPEALS**

**10.01 Board Decisions.** Decisions or actions of the Board of Directors may be appealed to the US Club Soccer in accordance with its Rules and By-Laws.

## **SECTION XI INSURANCE CLAIMS**

**12.1 Coverage and Submission.** Insurance for players is obtained through an US Club group policy.

**SECTION XIII  
TEAM SELECTION FOR PLAY IN  
US CLUB LEAGUE**

13.1 **Teams desiring to play.** The purpose of this league is for the highest level teams to play each other in a round robin format. The top four (4) teams from the previous GBYSL league standing, state rankings or through board approval will be available to play.

13.2 **Us Club teams participation in GBYSL.** Those teams participation in the US Club league, will be allowed to play a minimum of three (3) league or USYSA matches in order for them to be qualified for State Cup. These games will be scheduled by the league to accommodate all teams involved.

13.3 **FEES.** There will be the cost of joining US CLUB by each individual player within the guidelines set forth by US CLUB. There might be additional fees for field usage, equipment and referees, to be determined by the board at the start of every year.