



## LEAGUE RULES & POLICIES

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# RINEYVILLE COMMUNITY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE



## LEAGUE RULES & POLICIES

### RULE 1000 GENERAL

#### Section 1 Purpose

It is the mission of the Rineyville Community Youth Soccer League (RCYSL) to provide the best possible soccer experience for all players in the League. The Association will meet this mission by:

- A. Providing the opportunity for all players to participate in recreational play.
- B. Promoting player development by fostering an atmosphere that allows each player to develop their skills to their desired level of play in a fun and fulfilling environment.
- C. Providing, as available, financial aid to those players that need assistance.
- D. Promoting the development of coaches by offering instructional courses and resources that will allow them to further improve their skills as coaches.
- E. Promoting the development of youth referees by offering instructional courses and resources that will allow them to further improve their skills as referees.
- F. Promoting a respect for the game of soccer through fair play and sportsmanship.

#### Section 2 Organization

RCYSL is a nonprofit organization that hosts the recreational soccer program in Rineyville, Kentucky. RCYSL board meetings are open to all and are held at the Rineyville Community Park, Rineyville, KY at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of each month.

#### Section 3 Executive Committee

- A. The Board of Directors (herein after referred to as “Board” or “RCYSL Board”) may impose such other policies, rules, and regulatory measures as it deems necessary for the promotion and development of soccer and the efficient administration of the Club & League and/or the playing structure of the game within the jurisdiction of the Club & League. Such policies, rules, and regulatory measures (herein after referred to as policies) shall be recorded, numbered, and dated by the Secretary in the “Rineyville Community Youth Soccer League Rules & Policies” document.
- B. Such policies may be imposed or amended by the RCYSL Board at any Board Meeting by a simple majority. The policy becomes effective at the conclusion of the meeting unless the motion specifies otherwise. The adopted policy may not be revised for a period of six (6) months unless by unanimous consent of the RCYSL Board.

### RULE 1010 CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY

#### Section 1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a good faith effort to protect the safety and well-being of the children who participate in RCYSL programs and activities.

- A. Any person wishing to volunteer in RCYSL shall be subject to a criminal background check, with a strong focus on the following:
  - a. Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Managers of sports teams
  - b. Officers, board members, and staff who lead or organize children's activities
  - c. Referees

#### Section 2 Compliance

- A. Any person wishing to volunteer or provide contracted services to RCYSL as a coach, assistant coach, manager, officer, board member or staff must submit a complete and signed Background Check Release Form or Kentucky Youth Leader Request AOC-PT-66 Rev 11-09 Form for any League activities affiliated with RCYSL.
- B. They must also complete Criminal Background Check Release Form or Kentucky Youth Leader Request AOC-PT-66 Rev 11-09 Form each year and submit a paper copy to the President RCYSL.
- C. All requested information must be provided by the applicant, including Social Security number, driver license number (or other state issued photo I.D. if the applicant does not drive) and date of birth. Should RCYSL adopt a wholly electronic application process, then the application must be wholly completed per RCYSL’s application instructions. A current risk management assessment and clearance is required to participate in activities affiliated with RCYSL.



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### Section 3 Administration

- A. RCYSL has designated the holders of the offices of President and Registrars the RCYSL Child and Volunteer Protection Committee (CVPC). These are the only individuals responsible with the administration of this policy.
- B. To ensure compliance with all applicable laws, the RCYSL President and Registrar are the only persons authorized to initiate, review, or have access to criminal background reports. In all cases, the results of any criminal background check must be kept strictly confidential. These reports must be kept in a locked, secure location, for a period as indicated by applicable law or until the person is no longer a volunteer, whichever is later.
- C. RCYSL shall process the criminal background checks in a timely fashion such that the most sensitive criminal background checks can be completed prior to the start of any playing season.
- D. Individuals not cleared through the RCYSL Risk Management Programs for participation in activities affiliated with these respective organizations shall not be permitted to participate in League activities.

### Section 4 Clearance Requirements

- A. If a conviction is disclosed or discovered, the RCYSL Child and Volunteer Protection Committee (CVPC), must decide on whether the applicant may be used based on the following guidelines and partial Table of Convictions. As used in this policy, the term conviction refers to a conviction entered after a trial, after a guilty plea or after a plea of no contest/nolo contendere.
- B. Any application form that does not contain honest answers or that misrepresents the number, type, or gravity of any such conviction(s) will not be approved irrespective of the nature of the offense or the time that has transpired since the conviction.
- C. Any individual on probation or required to complete a court ordered rehabilitation or other such program following a conviction for a crime appearing on the Table of Convictions will not be considered to serve as a volunteer or independent contractor until all terms and conditions established by the court have been satisfied and proof of completion submitted to RCYSL.
- D. Any person convicted of a crime against or otherwise involving a minor at any time will not be approved to be a volunteer.
- E. Most felony convictions will result in a negative determination. Evidence of multiple convictions, either felony or misdemeanor, are likely to also result in a negative determination. Where a conviction is remote in time or where the applicant's conduct since the conviction(s) indicates rehabilitation or lack of risk to the membership and the league, some leeway may be provided, but only with the concurrence of the CVPC.
- F. Persons convicted of a crime of violence or other serious crime against a person (including major sex offenses) within the prior 20 years should be disqualified from any position listed in policy paragraph #1 above.
- G. Persons convicted of a theft related crime or fraud within the prior 15 years should be disqualified from any position involving the handling of funds or property.
- H. Persons convicted of a serious substance abuse crime within the past 10 years should be disqualified from any coaching position or any position that leads children's activities.
- I. Persons convicted of less serious crimes of violence, substance abuse or one of the listed miscellaneous crimes within the past 5 years should be disqualified from any coaching position or any position that leads children's activities.
- J. Persons convicted of possession of less than one ounce of marijuana within the preceding 3 years will be disqualified from holding the position of team coach or assistant coach. Persons convicted of possession of less than one ounce of marijuana within the preceding 3 years may be accepted for other volunteer or independent contractor positions with the understanding that they are prohibited from driving any child or RCYSL volunteer other than immediate family members to or from any RCYSL activity.
- K. DUI: Persons convicted of driving while under the influence within the preceding 3 years will be disqualified from holding the position of team coach or assistant coach. Persons convicted of driving under the influence within the preceding 3 years may be accepted for other volunteer or independent contractor positions with the understanding that they are prohibited from driving any child or RCYSL volunteer other than immediate family members to or from any RCYSL activity.
- L. If any discretion is exercised in the application of this policy, it must be exercised in a uniform manner, so that substantially similar convictions and circumstances result in substantially similar treatment of potential volunteers. The specific results leading to a negative determination must remain confidential unless the applicant is willing to reveal the results to the CVPC.
- M. Situations where discretion is exercised must be disclosed to the parents of the team(s) associated with the individual for whom the application of the policy is being modified. Written consent from the subject coach, volunteer, contractor, or board member must be made before such disclosure is made. If consent to disclosure is not granted, then the individual is disqualified from service.



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- N. Because of the serious implications to the entire RCYSL organization must comply with the decisions made by the RCYSL Child and Volunteer Protection Committee under this policy.

### RULE 1020 CONDUCT

#### Section 1 General

RCYSL has a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY. This policy applies to all coaches, players, parents and other supporters and referees effective immediately. Abusive and obscene language, violent play, violent conduct, fighting and other behavior (including but not limited to sarcasm, taunting, etc.) deemed detrimental to the game play will not be tolerated. It is the responsibility of the Coaches to provide Referee support and spectator control. This policy will apply to all times prior to, during and after the game at the soccer field and its immediate surrounding areas.

#### Section 2 Parents/Spectators

- A. Parents/Spectators at games must remain behind the spectator control line, (three yards from the sideline), and between the penalty areas (never behind the goals), and their vocal efforts should be limited to positive compliments to the participants. Under no circumstances should they attempt to coach or address remarks derogatory to players, coaches, or the referee. The use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products in the vicinity of the playing field during practices or games is strictly prohibited.
- B. No parent or other spectator shall address the Referee or Assistants at any time this includes but is not limited to:
  - a. Spectators making derogatory comments to players of either team
  - b. Disputing calls during or after the game
  - c. Remarks to the referee to watch certain players or attend to rough play
  - d. Yelling at the referee, EVER, including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, or feedback of any kind before, during or after the game.
- C. The only allowable exceptions to the above are:
  - a. Responding to a referee who has initiated a conversation with a parent or spectator.
  - b. Pointing out an emergency or safety issues.

#### Section 3 Offensive Language

Offensive and vulgar language is always unacceptable. All RCYSL officials should model good communication skills. Language that is denigrating in nature, content or tone or refers to one's gender, race, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or religion is unacceptable. Inappropriate language, including language targeting officials, opponents, players, or spectators may be grounds for disciplinary actions.

#### Section 4 Penalties (Parents/ Spectators)

In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:

- A. The Referee will issue a verbal warning to the offending party.
- B. The Referee will stop the game and instruct the parent / spectator to leave the field.
- C. The Referee will stop the game and instruct the Coaches to direct the parent / spectator to leave the field.
- D. The Referee should abandon the game if the spectator does not leave the field.

#### Section 5 Players

Communications between players and referees are governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game. Penalties associated with violating the Laws of the Game will be governed by the Laws themselves.

#### Section 6 Coaches and Assistants

- A. It is the responsibility of all Coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players, and supporters in all matches. Failure to do so undermines the Referee's authority and the integrity of the game resulting in a hostile environment for players, the referee, coaches, assistant coaches, and spectators. As role models for all the participants and spectators, coaches participating in RCYSL are expected to be supportive of, and to applaud the effort, good play, and sportsmanship on the part of ALL players from either team in a contest. By example, RCYSL coaches are expected to show that although we are competing in a game, we, always have respect for our opponent. RCYSL will not tolerate negative behavior exhibited either by demonstrative actions and gestures, or by ill-intentioned remarks, including those addressed



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toward the players or coaches of an opposing team. Coaches exhibiting hostile, negative, sarcastic, or otherwise ill-intended behavior toward opposing players or coaches will be subject to sanction by the match official and subsequent sanctions as may be imposed by the RCYSL Board after a review of the match report.

- B. Coaches may not interact directly or indirectly with the coaches or players of the opposing team during the game in any manner that may be construed as negative, hostile, or sarcastic either by way of demonstrative actions and gestures or by ill-intentioned remarks
- C. Coaches may not offer dissent to any call made by the officials
- D. Coaches are not to address the Referee during the game except to:
  - a. Respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation.
  - b. Point out emergency or safety issues.
  - c. Make substitutions.
  - d. Ask the referee to repeat a call.
  - e. Ask for the time remaining in the half.
- E. Coaches are allowed to ask a referee after a game, in a polite and constructive way, to explain a law or foul but not judgment calls made in the game:
  - a. a. Polite and friendly concern can be exchanged with the referee. If the polite tone of the conversation changes, the Referee may abandon the exchange at any time.
  - b. b. Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment or intimidation is allowed.

### Section 7 Penalties (Coaches/Assistants)

- A. In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:
  - a. The referee may issue a verbal warning to the offending Coach or Assistant Coach.
  - b. The Referee may eject the offending Coach or Assistant Coach. The Coach or Assistant Coach will be required to leave the field.
  - c. The Referee should abandon the game if the Coach or Assistant Coach does not leave the field.
  - d. Any additional penalties associated with the ejection of a coach will be governed by RCYSL Bylaws and KYSA Bylaws.

## RULE 1030 SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

### Section 1 General

- A. RCYSL opposes sexual and physical abuse. Any form of harassment, sexual or otherwise, is prohibited. It is unlawful and against RCYSL policy. RCYSL is legally responsible to take action against harassing conduct to the extent permissible under applicable law and the Board of Directors. Members shall adopt procedures consistent with this policy and consistent with criteria established by KYSA, USYA and USSF.
- B. Harassment is verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of that person's race, skin color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability. Harassment can also occur if conduct is directed towards a person's relatives, friends, or associates. Harassment does one or more of the following:
  - a. Has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment
  - b. Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance
  - c. Otherwise adversely affects an individual's opportunities within RCYSL
- C. If you are a RCYSL member and feel that you are being harassed while engaged in RCYSL activities or if you are not a RCYSL member but are being harassed by an RCYSL member while they are engaged in RCYSL activities, then report the behavior to the RCYSL President or RCYSL Vice President. Allegations of harassment will be promptly investigated and treated with the strictest confidence.

### Section 2 Inappropriate Player Interaction

- A. All coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, and team officials are required to abide by this requirement. Inappropriate physical contact with players is strictly prohibited.
- B. Social interactions with players less than 18 years of age (such as dating, parties without parental involvement and private one-on-one situations) are prohibited.



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- C. Violations of these rules may result in immediate suspension from all RCYSL activities and initiation of disciplinary proceedings.
- D. Physical contact should be limited to that necessary and appropriate to teach a skill, treat an injury, console, or congratulate a player. In the instance of teaching a skill, minimal contact should be involved and none which places the adult in a position of power or intimidation.
- E. A participant (other than a parent or legal guardian) being alone in a one-on-one situation with a player is inappropriate. If an adult is alone with a player, then the adult should do so in a visibly public site.
- F. There are those participants who are expressive by using their hands to give a pat on the back, a rub of the head, or other acts of touching to show appreciation or indicate a job well done. In a public setting those acts, when not done in an overly familiar manner, are understood.
- G. There should never be such touching in a one-on-one situation. Even the hint of inappropriate contact with a player may be enough to create an impression of inappropriate contact with children. Participants should act in a defensive mode so that there is no air of impropriety.

## RULE 1100 LEAGUE AND TEAM FORMATION

### Section 1 Age Groups

Teams are made up of both boys and girls, 4- 19 years of age. RCYSL shall follow the USYS and KYSA year of birth age rules.

- A. RCYSL will be aligned into the following age groups:
  - a. U4 (Tots Program)
  - b. U6
  - c. U8
  - d. U10
  - e. U12
  - f. U14

### Section 2 Placement

- A. Teams will be formed on the basis of an equal mix of boys and girls and an even percentage of each age.
- B. League Balance. Insofar as possible, attempts will be made to balance the teams by spreading new players on the basis of sex and then age. Commissioners will attempt to avoid assigning all inexperienced players of one age group to the same team.
- C. Returning players (those who played in the RCYSL during the prior playing season) may be assigned to the same team on which he/she played in the immediately preceding season.
- D. Every effort will be made to keep the team together when the team is returning to the same age group regardless of if the coach or assistant coach is returning in an attempt to keep cohesion.
- E. If a player elects not to return to the same team, he/she must be placed in "open" registration.
- F. New players and players electing not to return to the same team will be placed in open draw and assigned to teams on a random basis without regard to the ability of the player.
- G. Players will be automatically moved up to the next age group on the basis of birth year only.
- H. Move-up of underage players will be permitted upon the written request of a parent or guardian and RCYSL board concurrence.
- I. All players moving up to the next age group must be placed in an open draw and not moved up as a team.
- J. Underage players will not be permitted to move down to their original age group once he/she has played a game at the older age group.
- K. Deliberate creation of a single birth year team is not permitted. Procedures should be taken to ensure that no more than two-thirds (2/3) of the players assigned to a team have the same birth-year.
- L. Tryouts are not permitted as part of the player assignment process. Other forms of player evaluation for the purpose of balancing the level of talent and ability among teams and resulting in a random assignment is otherwise random in nature.
- M. Players may not be assigned to teams on the basis of geographic location of residence provided such assignment is otherwise random in nature.
- N. Children of the head coach and not more than one (1) assistant coach may be assigned to that coach's team regardless of the method of team formation, so long as the age requirements stated above are met.



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- O. Players. Any recreational player registered to a team is bound to that team for that playing season unless he/she transfers. All transfers shall be submitted to the Member Organization in writing on the appropriate form, stating the reason for the request for transfer. All transfer players must be placed in an "open draw".
- P. Team Rostering. A player rostered on a team in the fall season will stay with that team in the spring season. Players returning for the following fall season should be assigned to the same team for which they played during the spring season so as long as it is the same age group.

### Section 3 Team Formation

- A. U4 (Tots Program). There is no maximum number of players to be rostered for the Tots Program. There are NO goalkeepers.
- B. U6. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed eight (8). Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is four (4). There are NO goalkeepers.
- C. U8. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed ten (10). Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is five (5) including the goalkeeper.
- D. U10. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed fourteen (14). Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is seven (7) including the goalkeeper.
- E. U12. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed eighteen (18). Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is nine (9) including the goalkeeper.
- F. U14. Maximum number of players on the roster will not exceed eighteen (18). Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is eleven (11) including the goalkeeper.
- G. U16. Maximum number of players on the roster will not exceed eighteen (18). Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is eleven (11) including the goalkeeper.
- H. U19. Maximum number of players on the roster will not exceed eighteen (18). Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is eleven (11) including the goalkeeper.

### Section 4 Coaching Staff

Once the team is formed coaches may recruit from their parents to form a volunteer coaching staff that will not exceed the head coach, two (2) assistant coaches and one (1) team manager. Volunteers will have to adhere to the background investigation procedures. Placement rules will apply in that only the head coach and one (1) assistant coach will be assigned to the team during placement.

## RULE 1200 SCHEDULING (PRACTICES AND GAMES)

### Section 1 Practice

Practice will be on weekdays and for U4 through U10 will not exceed two (2) days per week and one hour per day. U12 and above will practice on weekdays and will not exceed two (2) days per week and 1 ½ hours per day.

- A. Specific practice times and sites for each team will be determined by the coaches and concurred with by the Director of Coaching.
- B. No team may initiate practice until the approved start date issued by the RCYSL Board.
- C. Teams may assemble prior to the approved start date for organizational or educational purposes.
- D. There will be at least two full weeks of practice before the first games of each season.

### Section 2 Games

- A. Games will be scheduled by the Scheduler.
- B. Games which have been postponed due to inclement weather may be made up by rescheduling through the Scheduler.
- C. No teams should play more than 2 regular season games in a calendar week.
- D. All teams will participate during RCYSL hosted tournaments and will not have to pay an entry fee.
- E. Team entries into recreational tournaments outside of RCYSL are at the discretion of the Coach and do not need Board approval, however the team will be responsible for all entry fees.

### Section 3 Delay or Cancellation

- A. RCYSL may delay a game up to one hour beyond the start of a game provided there are not any games scheduled for the same field at a later time. RCYSL Director of Risk Management has primary responsibility for making decisions delay





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or cancel games based upon weather and field conditions and will attempt to make decisions at least 2 hours prior to the scheduled start time. If this occurs, the referees and coaches will be notified.

- B. During game time, decision to delay or cancel a game due to weather, darkness, condition of a field, lack of players or lack of communication, will be made by the referee.
- C. If a game is stopped by the referee for any of the aforementioned reasons, it shall be considered an official game if one half has been completed. Otherwise, the game may be rescheduled.
- D. RCYSL may cancel games when the fields have not been prepared (i.e., lined) or if the field conditions are not safe for the players.
- E. Coaches have the discretion to cancel or delay their scheduled practices based upon the safety of their players.

### RULE 1300 PLAYER PARTICIPATION

#### Section 1 General

Every eligible player will play at least two quarters or one half of every game. In age groups in which free substitution is allowed, the coach is responsible that the total playing time per player is at least one half of the total match minutes.

#### Section 2 Specifics

- A. A recreational player must be provided the opportunity to play at least on half of a game unless he or she is being disciplined for:
  - a. Late arrival to the game,
  - b. Misbehaving at practice, or
  - c. Not attending practice without a valid reason.
- B. Coaches must notify the referee and the opposing coach of the child's name and reason for discipline.
- C. Any coach who does not play a player at least one half of a game due to disciplinary action must issue a written notice to the appropriate coaching commissioner within five (5) days with an explanation.
- D. Any coach who does not play a player at least one half of a game due to disciplinary action will contact the player's parents and inform them of the action.

### RULE 1400 RULES

The FIFA Laws of the Game will be followed in all matches with the exceptions of written modifications by KYSA and/or RCYSL. Any RCYSL modification must not be in contradiction of KYSA acceptability.

#### Section 1 RCYSL Specific Rules

Players will be given three (3) opportunities to put the ball in play. Slide tackling is strongly discouraged. Teams will alternate kickoffs after each quarter. Teams will change sides of the field to begin the third quarter. If a team has fewer than the required number of players, the opponent shall use the "Common Courtesy" rule and play the equal number until more players arrive. The courtesy rule shall apply only within RCYSL. This rule is null and void during tournaments.

- A. U6.
  - a. Thirty-Two (32) minutes played in four (4) equal, eight (8) minute quarters, two (2) minutes break between quarters, five (5) minute halftime break.
  - b. No direct kicks, penalty kicks, throw-in, goal kick, corner kicks, or off-sides. The throw-in, goal kick, and corner kick has been replaced with a Kick-in (an indirect free kick, with opponents three (3) yards away. The goal kick has been replaced by a kick-in from where the ball crossed the end line. All kicks will be indirect, and opponents and opponents must be three (3) yards away.
- B. U8.
  - a. Forty (40) minutes played in four (4) ten (10) minute quarters, five (5) minutes between quarters, ten (10) minute halftime break.
  - b. No direct kicks, penalty kicks, or off-sides.
- C. U10.
  - a. Fifty (50) minutes played in two (2) twenty-five (25) minute halves, five (5) minutes half-time break.



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- D. U12.
  - a. Sixty (60) minutes played in two (2) thirty (30) minute halves, ten (10) minute half-time break.
- E. U14.
  - a. Seventy (70) minutes played in two (2) thirty-five (35) minutes halves, ten (10) minute half-time break.
- F. U16.
  - a. Eighty (80) minutes played in two (2) forty (40) minute halves, ten (10) minute half-time break.
- G. U19.
  - a. Ninety (90) minutes played in two (2) forty-five (45) minutes halves, ten (10) minute half-time break.

### RULE 1500 DISCIPLINE

#### Section 1 General

All coaches, players, spectators, and parents will abide by the KYSA rules and RCYSL policies and procedures or be held accountable.

#### Section 2 Specifics

- A. Players or coaches who are ejected from a game become ineligible to participate in the next game.
- B. Coaches who are ejected from a game must leave the soccer fields immediately.
- C. Any player or coach ejected twice in one season will be suspended for the remainder of that season.
- D. All red card reports of coaches or players will be reviewed by the RCYSL Board which may take further action if warranted.

### Rule 1600 Arbitration

#### Section 1 General

The Arbitration Committee will have a RCYSL's final judgment on all grievances concerning:

- A. Violations or misinterpretations of FIFA Laws of the Game.
- B. Discipline of coaches, players, fans, referees, and commissioners.
- C. Placement and registration.

#### Section 2 Specifics.

- A. The President and Vice President will be notified within 48 hours of the incident.
- B. All grievances must be addressed by the Arbitration Committee within 48 hours of receipt of grievance in writing. No grievance will be acted on until it is received in writing.
- C. A minimum of two-thirds of the Arbitration Committee must rule on the grievance.
- D. A written formal response must be given to the grieving party and copy retained by RCYSL.
- E. Members of the Arbitration Committee are:
  - a. Vice President (Chairperson)
  - b. President
  - c. Director of Coaching
  - d. Director of Officiating
  - e. Parent Representative

### RULE 1700 REFEREEING

- A. The Director of Officiating will maintain a list of all certified referees willing to assist in RCYSL games of all levels.
- B. The Director of Officiating is responsible to schedule the referees for all RCYSL games from the schedules provided him/her by Director of Scheduling.
- C. RCYSL shall locate the nearest site for USSF certification and re-certification each year and publish the information for all certified and potential referees. When possible, RCYSL will host the clinic. New referees will have their USSF certification paid for by RCYSL when eight (8) games have been officiated in the RCYSL program as a Club Referee.



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- D. Fees paid to referees are recommended to RCYSL Board by the Director of Officiating and must be approved by the RCYSL Board.
- E. RCYSL may provide training and internal certification of referees for use in matches using modified rules. Payment is allowed but must be less than the approved amount established for USSF certified referees. USSF certified officials will have preference for game assignments.

### RULE 1800 GUIDELINES FOR WEATHER CONDITIONS

#### Section 1 General

The protection of RCYSL members and participants is of paramount importance. Every member should recognize the danger presented by lightning, tornados, and other hazardous weather. The following items represent generally accepted principles regarding the dangers involved with lightning and tornados.

#### Section 2 Lightning

- A. All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous.
- B. Lightning often strikes as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall. You are in danger from lightning if you can hear thunder. You are in danger if you can see lightning.
- C. Lightning injuries can lead to permanent disabilities or death. Look for dark cloud bases and increasing wind.
- D. Lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles and strike when skies are blue.
- E. Soccer fields are a dangerous place to be during a lightning storm. When lightning is seen or thunder is heard, or when dark threatening clouds are observed, quickly suspend the match and/or practice and move to a safe location.
- F. Avoid standing in an open area, near soccer goals, under a tent, near trees or in water. The safest place during a thunderstorm with or without visible lightning is in a car, but not a convertible.

#### Section 3 Tornados

- A. Watch for rapidly darkening skies.
- B. The sound of an approaching tornado is often described as that of an approaching train.
- C. The funnel of a tornado does not have to touch down to cause extensive damage and injuries.
- D. Tornados can produce winds of 300 miles per hour or more.
- E. Most people who are hurt during a tornado are hurt when they are struck by flying debris.
- F. Seek safety in a solid structure, preferably in a basement or in an interior room. If no building is available, lay down in a ditch.

#### Section 4 Match Suspension

- A. In any of the circumstances outlined below occurs, the referee should immediately suspend the match.
  - a. If thunder is heard, the match should be suspended, and the fields cleared. Everyone should immediately go to a safe shelter.
  - b. If lightning is seen, the match should be suspended, and the fields cleared. Everyone should immediately go to a safe shelter.
  - c. If a thunderstorm is heard or seen coming or your hair stands on end, the match should be suspended, and the fields cleared. Everyone should immediately go to a safe shelter. Do not wait until it rains.
- B. If the match official does not immediately suspend the match when any one of the points above have occurred, the head coach from each team can agree that one of the four criteria listed above have occurred they are to withdraw their teams from the field. If this action is taken, then both coaches must submit a written report to their league outlining the circumstances, the facts concerning the weather conditions at that time, the fact that the two coaches agreed and the name of the officials at the match.
- C. If an official and one of the coaches do not reach the conclusion to suspend the match and any one of the four points listed above are believed to have occurred, the coach that supported the suspension of the match is to send a written report to their league outlining the facts and the names of the officials.
- D. No one should retake the field or re-start the match until all the lightning and thunder or other hazardous weather has left the area. Specifically, no one should retake the field for a minimum of 30 minutes after the last lightning is seen or thunder is heard, or the dangerously high winds have passed.



## LEAGUE RULES & POLICIES

### Section 5 Practice Suspension

- A. In any of the circumstances outlined below occurs, the Coach should immediately suspend the Practice:
  - a. If thunder is heard, practice should be suspended, and the fields cleared. Everyone should immediately go to a safe shelter.
  - b. If lightning is seen, practice should be suspended, and the fields cleared. Everyone should immediately go to a safe shelter.
  - c. If a thunderstorm is heard or seen coming or your hair stands on end, practice should be suspended, and the fields cleared. Everyone should immediately go to a safe shelter. Do not wait until it rains.
- B. If the head coach does not immediately suspend practice when any one of the points above have occurred, the assistant coach or a parent can withdraw their player/team from the field. If this action is taken, then the assistant coach or parent must submit a written report to their league outlining the circumstances, the facts concerning the weather conditions at that time, and the name of the head coach.
- C. No one should retake the field or re-start the match until all the lightning and thunder or other hazardous weather has left the area. Specifically, no one should retake the field for a minimum of 30 minutes after the last lightning is seen or thunder is heard, or the dangerously high winds have passed.

### RULE 1900 AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES

The Board may propose and approve, with two-thirds majority of the appointed board members, amendments to the Rules & Policies.