

PART 2 – CUSL BYLAWS

SECTION 1: CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Fields

1. Each Club is responsible for providing sufficient home fields to permit scheduling of all games. The League boys/Girls Directors shall determine what number of fields is sufficient. All home fields must be of appropriate size for the age group assigned to play on that field. In the event the Club cannot provide sufficient appropriate sized fields or fields, the Boys/Girls Directors are to limit the number of teams from that Club that will be allowed to play in the league that season.
2. Each Club is responsible for maintaining their home fields in a playable condition and properly marked with marble dust or paint (no lime is to be used).
3. Each Club is responsible for insuring that nets and corner flags are available for all their home games.
4. Each Club (or group of Clubs) is to have a field coordinator who is responsible for closing the fields in the event of inclement weather. This Field Coordinator's name must be posted on the CUSL website to benefit all members of CUSL. In addition, each Club will provide a hotline number or a telephone number that can be called by visiting teams to find out field status during inclement weather.
5. Each home team is responsible for notifying their opponents as soon as possible if their fields are closed due to inclement weather. An effort should be made to notify the visiting team at least 1 1/2 hours before match time.

B. Referees

1. Each Club (or group of Clubs in one area) is responsible for providing a referee coordinator/assignor for all games. Each Club is responsible for assigning referees to all games on their home field(s).

C. Registration

2. All teams participating in CUSL must be member of the CUSL Club that enters them into CUSL. CUSL Clubs are not to provide an entry into CUSL for teams that are not full members of their Club (be from their general area, play games on the fields normally used by the Club).
3. Each Club is responsible for purchasing the number US Youth Soccer registration player / coaches passes printed based on the registration of these players / coaches in the Cincinnati United Soccer League. Payment for registration player / coaches passes is to be made by the Club upon the CUSL billing.
4. Each Club is responsible for insuring that all registration material and player passes are properly filled out and completed before they are submitted for validation
5. CUSL players cannot be registered and as a player on an OSYSA sanctioned Recreational league team and a CUSL team during the same season. Player who are officially registered on a OSYSA sanctioned Recreational League Team must be transferred in the same manner as a players between two CUSL teams when they are officially registered on there team.
6. Players from OSYSA Recreational teams may become members of CUSL teams without a transfer after the close of the Sanctioned Recreational member Leagues season and

before the start of the next season of the Sanctioned Recreational Member Official registration of that player

D. Training

1. Each Club is responsible for encouraging their members to attend referee/coaches clinics held in their area.

E. Committees

2. Each Club shall provide personnel to serve in various association capacities such as Division Coordinator, Newsletter Editor and various committees.

SECTION II: FINANCIAL

A. League

3. The Operations Committee will prepare, for Governing Body approval, an annual budget. The Governing Body may authorize expenditures in accordance with the approved budget. In addition, the Governing Body may authorize, with a 2/3rds vote additional expenditures needed for the operation of CUSL.

4. All team registration fees must be sent to the CUSL Treasurer by the deadline for entry of teams as documented on the Website.

5. As needed, annual reviews of CUSL's accounting records may be performed by a committee established by the Governing Body.

6. The members of the Operating Committee and the Governing Body shall be bonded for an appropriate amount to be established by the Governing Body.

SECTION III: PLAYER REGISTRATION

A. Requirements - Individual

1. A player must be within the age specified by the US Youth Soccer. Proof of birth consists of any of the following: Birth certificate; Board of Health Records; Passport or Alien Registration Card issued by the United States Government; Certificate of Naturalization issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service; a valid driver's license; or last year's validated registration card, if the picture is attached.

2. Each player must be registered with the US Youth Soccer, must have a Player Pass (to be held by the coach during the season), and be listed on the team's roster which must include the player's birthdate. The Player Pass will be issued only upon presentation of proof of age and a current (within the past 12 months) picture of the player.

3. To participate in a match, a player must have a valid and current registration card and be listed on the official team roster. Any player who does not conform to this rule will be considered ineligible. Any match in which an ineligible player participates shall be forfeited.

4. Players cannot be registered and playing with any other soccer team during a Cincinnati United Soccer League season. (Exception, the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. ODP team.). However, a team may play in two different programs and the team's players passes can be doubled stamped for their other program.

5. No roster changes will be permitted after October 15 (for participation in the balance of the fall season). No roster changes will be permitted after May 15 (for participation in the balance of the spring season).

B. Requirements - Team

1. 11 v 11 team rosters may have a maximum of 18 players, unless a larger number is specifically authorized for that Division by the League Playing Rules. 8 v 8 team rosters may have a maximum of 14 players.
2. Each team must bring their US Youth Soccer player passes and a copy of their CUSL Team Roster to every match. These must be made available, upon request, to the referee or the opposing coach for checking. In the event that a team arrives at the field without their player passes and roster, all team members shall be required on a sheet of paper to sign their names, list their birth dates, street address and telephone number. The opposing coach will submit the temporary roster to the CUSL Registrar for confirmation of the players on the temporary roster. If the Registrar determines that there were issues with players who played in the game, the match will be forfeited.
3. The composition of teams must comply with the League rules. However, the method of selection and makeup of the team is solely the responsibility of the individual Club. Within the restrictions of B-1 and A-5 (above) and the three-player transfer rule, (see Part IV, Section 1) players may be added to a team's roster within the authorized time period for each season. Such players must be registered through the CUSL Registrar and on the CUSL website. The player must obtain a valid US Youth Soccer player passes. Revised CUSL Rosters will be issued.

SECTION IV: REFEREES

A. Rules

1. US Soccer/US Youth Soccer/FIFA rules will be followed in all games except for small sided games as specified in the League Playing Rules.

B. Refereeing System

2. The three-person FIFA/USSF/US Youth Soccer referee system will be used in all matches except in small sized matches as established in the Playing Rules.
3. Each team subject to the referee's approval will appoint one Club linesman in the event the assigned assistant referees are not available, and the match will proceed using one referee and two Club linesmen. If only one assistant referee is available, the home team will provide a Club linesman. In no event is the two-person referee system to be used. Penalty for use of the two-person referee system shall be forfeiture of the match by both teams. NOTE: A referee cannot refuse to use Club linemen

C. Qualification and Assignment

1. Each Club will only assign USSF licensed referees and assistant referee to all CUSL games. Under no circumstance shall the assigned referee be of the same age or younger than the age of the players in the assigned match. In the event that the Club cannot provide licensed referees to officiate all of the Club's matches, the Operations Committee shall limit the number of teams the Club can enter into CUSL.
2. In case the assigned referee fails to appear (within 10 minutes of match time), a referee may be appointed by mutual agreement of the two teams. This agreement will be confirmed in writing and signed by both coaches. The signed agreement will be presented to the appointed referee prior to the start of the game.

After the game, the appointed referee will mail the signed agreement to the CUSL Referee Coordinator. If a written agreement is not reached, the game shall be rescheduled in accordance with Section V, E, 2. However, if a Club fails to assign a referee(s), the home team shall forfeit the match.

3. CUSL may appoint the referee for any match or matches. When this is done, the local Referee Assignor shall be notified in advance and the CUSL-appointed referee will officiate the match.

D. Payment

1. Before the start of each match, both teams shall pay referee fees for the match. The referee fees shall be established in the League Playing Rules.

2. Referees and linesmen appointed under the provisions of B or C above, (including Club linesmen) shall be entitled to the fee specified.

SECTION V: LEAGUES

A. Number of Leagues and Season

1. The Cincinnati United Soccer League shall establish two leagues:

a. Cincinnati United Soccer League Fall league.

b. Cincinnati United Soccer League Spring league.

2. The Cincinnati United Soccer League Spring league's season will begin no earlier than the last Sunday in March and end no later than the third Sunday in June.

3. The Cincinnati United Soccer League Fall League's season will begin no earlier than the last Sunday in August and end no later than the third Sunday in November.

4. The Operations Committee shall establish the exact dates of play at least two months prior to the beginning of the season with the concurrence of the Governing Body.

5. The Operations Committee may allow teams to play more than one week after the end of the season, if, in its discretion, circumstances justify such an extension such as rain outs in the final two weeks of the season.

6. Prior to each season, the Operations Committee shall establish the final date for team registration.

B. League Structure

1. Each league will operate both boys and girls divisions. Boys cannot be rostered on girl's teams and girls cannot be rostered on boy's teams.

2. If sufficient a number of teams enter, the league shall operate different playing levels of competition divisions within each age group. They shall be Premier, Competitive 1, Competitive 2, Competitive 3, etc. CUSL will operate as many divisions as necessary to support the number of teams entered by the member Clubs.

3. Leagues will operate in single year age groups. In the event that insufficient teams are available to form a single year league, then teams may be grouped in two-year brackets (which will follow US Youth Soccer practice of under 14, under 16, etc. if at all possible).

4. In all age groups, eight (8) teams will be placed in each division. If necessary, the bottom two divisions can be adjusted to be equal in number (if possible) so that no division has more than eight (8) teams or fewer than four (4) teams. The Boys or Girls Director may accept a team(s) after the entry deadline if necessary to complete the number of teams for any level or to replace a team that has dropped out.

5. League play will be each team playing each other team in their division once during the regular season for a total of at least 7 games.
6. Teams will be placed in a division within their proper age (unless approved for playing up) based on their team ability, their league results from their previous season and information provided by their member Club. New teams will be placed based on their team ability. Before any new teams are placed, all existing teams will be slotted based on team ability. New teams will be placed based on their team ability (based on documentation provided to the Boys/Girls Director(s) and reviewed by the Operations Committee). However, no team will be moved down to make room in that bracket. Instead, that division will be expanded to include all of the teams assigned based on team ability and the following season, this division will return to 8 teams.
7. Teams who wish to move up to an older age group can be moved up based on a determination of the team's ability as outlined above. Teams that request to be moved up will be treated as new teams in regard to placement position in brackets of the older age group.
8. Once a team elects the play up option and is placed in the older age group, future placement (if the team elects to remain in higher age group) will be based on the appropriate rules and the results the team achieved in higher age group.
9. In the fall season, the Boys and Girls Directors are to establish playing levels in these U14 and above age groups based on the team ability and team results principles. However, due to the OHSAA season, the Boys/Girls Directors may adjust teams between age groups and playing levels as necessary. Placement of teams for the following spring season shall only use the records of the teams from spring (U-13) season.
10. Clubs will be provided via email team assignment within age groups and playing levels six (6) weeks prior to the start of the season. Clubs may appeal any placement that does not conform with the rules contained in this section. Appeals must be filed in writing to the CUSL Boys/Girls Directors within one week of the receipt of the bracket information.
11. The CUSL Operations Committee shall hold a Board of Trustees meeting at least three weeks prior to the start of the season for the express purpose of reviewing and approving the brackets. All Clubs will be notified of the date of the meeting in writing and all Clubs will have the right to appeal the decision of the Boys and Girls Director to the Operations Committee. Clubs may elect to be involved in any appeal from another Club and challenge this appeal as it relates to any teams from their Club who are impacted by that decision. Since this is a Board of Trustee meeting, temporary (single season, non precedent setting) changes to the bracketing rules may be made with a simple majority approval of the Operations Committee. Bracketing decisions made at this meeting for the upcoming season are final; there can be no further appeal within the organization. Teams may not trade their position within a division. If a team demonstrates that it's ability has changed and wants to be placed based on it ability, they may not trade its position. If a team wishes to be moved based on its change in ability to a higher or lower division (or changes in age groups), the Operations Committee will approve the move of the teams the move up/down and the replacement team that takes it place.

12. Teams cannot play in an age group when any single player is older than that age group. For a team to play in U-11 and younger age group, the team must have at least half of it's rostered players whose birth date is within each respective age group.
13. US Youth Soccer standard age groups will be used to determine age of players.

C. Computer Records

1. All Clubs will be assigned a two-digit Club number.
2. All teams will assigned a team number based on its age group (i.e. G8901 is a girls team in the 1989 age group, B9101 is a boys team playing in the 91 age group). All teams in each age will initially be numbered in sequence starting with the two digits 01. Each team will retain this distinctive number for all subsequent seasons.

D. Scheduling

1. All matches must be played on the date scheduled (except as noted below). However, the coaches of both teams may change the date of a match if this new date is before the originally scheduled date except as specified below. If the match is not played on or before the original scheduled date, the match will be forfeited to the team that shows up at the scheduled field at the scheduled time (or double forfeited if neither team shows up). For any change in matches, the responsible referee coordinator for that match, must be informed, or the teams are responsible for the referee fees for the scheduled match. For any change in matches, the referee coordinator responsible for that match must be informed by the home team 5 days in advance (Tuesday night for Sunday match) or the home team is responsible for the referee fees for the scheduled match.
2. Except as provided for in By-Law V.A.5 and V.E.3 matches may be rescheduled to be played up to three playing weeks after the scheduled date only if required due to:
 - a. For games not played due to inclement weather, the teams involved are mutually responsible for rescheduling. The home team must notify the Boys or Girls Director by email of the rain out on the day it occurs or the home team will be charged with a forfeit. If the teams involved have not notified the appropriate Director of the rescheduled time and location within seven days of the rain out, the appropriate Director shall, without regard to the preferences from either team, establish a time and location for the match (a neutral field may be utilized). The match shall then be played within the following fourteen days. For any change in matches, the referee coordinator responsible for that match must be informed by the home team 5 days in advance (Tuesday night for Sunday match) or the home team is responsible for the referee fees for the scheduled match.
 - b) Snickers State Cup Team competition (not Olympic Development Team) sponsored by the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. Should a team be eliminated from OSYSA Snickers State Cup competition prior to four days a game is scheduled, the league match must be played. If a team is involved in a State Cup match that may infer with a CUSL league match, the coach is to give his/her opponent at least 4 days notice of the potential conflict. The teams may cancel the match or make arrangements to play the game in the event that the team with the State Cup responsibility loses prior to the scheduled league match. Rules regarding league notification and rescheduling for item "a" above shall apply.

- c) Sanctioned Tournament Matches * (* matches that conflict with CUSL matches).
During the first three playing weeks of the season, league matches conflicting with sanctioned tournaments may be reschedule to a later date, but must be played by the end of the first week of May (spring) for the first week of October (fall).
League matches conflicting with sanctioned tournament matches after the first three playing weeks of the season, must be played prior to the scheduled date. It shall be the responsibility of the tournament team to notify the Boys or Girls Director of the rescheduled match. If a rescheduled date cannot be agreed upon, the tournament team shall notify the appropriate Director at least two weeks prior to the tournament conflict and the appropriate Director shall reschedule the game.
3. Games scheduled during the first three playing weeks of the spring season may be rescheduled to a later date if teams experience a shortage of players resulting from spring breaks. Such games must be played by the end of the first week of May.

E. Control and Conduct

1. The *coach is responsible* for the actions of players and spectators associated with the team and is required to take all precautions to prevent spectators from threatening, assaulting, or harassing the officials or opposing players before, during, or at the conclusion of the match.
2. The Executive Director shall appoint all standing committees including the Conduct Committee.
3. The Conduct Committee shall be responsible for reviewing breaches of conduct by players, coaches, or spectators. The committee shall have the authority to levy such penalties as may be prescribed by the League Playing Rules, except that serious charges involving coaches and/or spectators, which are substantiated, shall be referred to the CUSL Operations Committee for action.

F. Protests

1. Coaches wishing to file a protest must notify the referee of this intention. The notification shall be made in a courteous manner, on the field, at the conclusion of the match. The referee shall then notify the opposing coach.
2. A formal protest must be in writing, accompanied by a one hundred dollar fee (refundable if the protest is honored). The protest shall be postmarked or delivered to the Chair of the CUSL Protest Committee no later than 48 hours after the conclusion of the match. The Chair of the Protest Committee shall send a copy of the protest to the Boys or Girls Director.
3. A formal protest cannot be withdrawn.
4. All protests must be based on the application of a rule of the game, and not a referee's judgment.
5. The Protest Committee shall render a decision within 10 days of the receipt of the protest.

SECTION VI: REGISTRAR

A. The League Registrar

1. The Registrar shall be responsible for the registration and rostering of all players, coaches and teams.

B. Registration

1. The Registrar shall, with Operations Committee approval, appoint suitable qualified Assistant Registrars to assist in the validation of US Youth Soccer player passes at the beginning of each season. The Assistant Registrars shall be distributed geographically to simplify access by member Clubs.
2. The Registrar shall review the team entered by the Clubs on the website. The Registrar shall also receive and retain all Team Rosters, US Youth Soccer Membership forms and all other related to rosters and roster changes.

C. Records

1. The Registrar shall, by suitable means, insure that there is a US Youth Soccer Membership form and a validated US Youth Soccer Player Pass for all players on the roster of each team that will play in the league. US Youth Soccer Membership forms and team rosters shall be filed and retained for at least one year.
2. With Operations Committee approval, the Registrar may appoint an Assistant Registrar to assist in the above tasks.
3. The Registrar shall verify player signatures when necessary under Section III-B, 2.

SECTION VII: OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

A. Authority

1. The authority of the Operations Committee is to enforce the provisions of the Cincinnati United Soccer League, including, but not limited to, suspension of any team, and/or coach, and/or players for a fixed period of time.

B. Hearings

2. Teams, coaches, or players are entitled to a hearing before the Operations Committee for any action taken under these provisions of the By-laws, with the exception of automatic suspensions as listed in the League Playing Rules.

SECTION VIII: OPERATIONS COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The Secretary of CUSL shall by email, send a copy of the minutes of all Operations

Committee meetings to each member of the Governing Body, each member of the Operations Committee and each member Club of CUSL. The minutes shall be sent within one week after the Operations Committee approves them. In addition, the preceding shall also receive a summary of all reports provided to the Operations Committee by all special or standing committees (except reports on personnel) if so voted by the Operations Committee. Such vote on personnel is to be noted in the minutes of the Operations Committee of the meeting.

Section IX CUSL ETHICS AND CONDUCT STANDARDS - COACHES

This clarifies and establishes the approved, accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior for coaches. The purpose is to prevent anything that is detrimental to the enjoyment and development of those individuals involved in the game and of the sport of

soccer. (The term "Coach" shall include, but is not limited to Head Coach, Assistant Coach(s), Manager/Trainer and/or Team Representative.) All coaches (as defined) are required to hold themselves to these standards of behavior.

A. COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES TO PLAYERS

1. The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players. Winning should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
2. Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
3. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
4. Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.
5. Demands on players' time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress. Motivation for excellence should include academics as well as athletics.
6. Coaches must never encourage players to violate recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.
7. Under no circumstances should coaches authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.

B. COACHES RESPONSIBILITY TO CUSL

1. Adherence to all rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, and guest players are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of every coach to know and understand these rules.
2. Player development and the growth of the player through participation is essential to the growth of the sport. Additionally, the coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity, and dignity of the sport are maintained.
3. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the appropriate CUSL Representative immediately.

C. COACHES RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

1. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer. Coaches are also responsible to ensure that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws.
2. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the laws of the game. Those coaches who circumvent the rules to gain advantage have no place in soccer.
3. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.
4. If coaches permit, encourage, or condone performance which is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, they are derelict in their responsibility to players, CUSL and the sport worldwide. The coach must strive constantly to teach good sporting behavior.

D. COACHES RESPONSIBILITY TO OFFICIALS

1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players, and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players or during a game from the sidelines.
2. Coaches should strive to develop a line of communication with officials, giving each an opportunity to better understand the problems relating to their specific area. This section shall not be taken as an encouragement to debate referee decisions during the match, but a basis to have a better understanding of the rules.
3. On game day, officials should be treated with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as "Referee" or "Mr./Ms. Referee" and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach, or player. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.
4. The coach during the course of the game is to support all actions and requests of the referee.
5. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.
6. Coaches are not to touch officials, bump, push nor throw anything at or towards an official.
7. Coaches are not to verbally abuse any official.
8. Coaches are not to assault any official.
9. Coaches are to treat official under the age of 21 with due care.

E. COACHES RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

1. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents, or the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.
2. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their team, CUSL and OSYSA.
3. Publicly predicting a win is folly and serves no useful place in a coach's public image.
4. Comments stressing injuries, team, personnel conflicts, or disciplinary problems as an excuse for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and should be avoided.

F. COACHES GAME DAY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. A coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to himself, his organization, and the sport of soccer. This is never more evident than on the day of the contest.
2. Rival coaches should meet prior to the game and exchange friendly or professional greetings. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary professional conduct.
3. During play, coaches have a responsibility to be as inconspicuous as possible. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude towards players. The coach must confine him/herself to the coaching area. The attitude of the coach towards officials, spectators, opposing players and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.

4. It shall be unethical for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench during the game. Hostile physical contact with a player is considered highly unethical and is unacceptable.
5. The coaches foremost post game responsibility is his/her team.
6. Coaches should use their influence on unfriendly spectators that demonstrate intimidating behavior towards officials and opposing teams.

Section X CUSL ETHICS AND CONDUCT STANDARDS - PLAYERS

This clarifies and establishes the approved, accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior for players. The purpose is to prevent anything that is detrimental to the enjoyment and development of those individuals involved in the game and of the sport of soccer. All players are required to hold them selves to these standards of behavior.

A. PLAYERS RESPONSIBILITY

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at all times.
2. I will remember that soccer is an opportunity to learn and have fun.
3. I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol; and expect everyone to refrain from their use at all soccer games.
4. I will do the best I can each day, remembering that all players have talents and weaknesses the same as I do.
5. I will treat my coaches, other players and coaches, game officials, other administrators, and fans with respect at all times; regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
6. I will concentrate on playing soccer. Always giving my best effort.
7. I will play by the rules at all times.
8. I will at all times control my temper, resisting the temptation of retaliation.
9. I will always exercise self-control.
10. My Conduct during competition towards play of the game and all officials shall be in accordance with appropriate behavior and in accordance with FIFA's "Laws of the Game", and in adherence to all CUSL and OSYSA rules and regulations.
11. While traveling, I shall conduct myself so as to bring credit to myself and my team.
12. Alcohol, illegal drugs and unauthorized prescription drugs shall not be possessed, consumed or distributed before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex.

SECTION XI CUSL ETHICS AND CONDUCT STANDARDS - PARENTS

This clarifies and establishes the approved, accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior for parents. The purpose is to prevent anything that is detrimental to the enjoyment and development of those players involved in the game and of the sport of soccer. All parents are required to hold them selves to these standards of behavior.

A. Parents Responsibility

1. Children have more need for example than for criticism.

2. Attempt to relieve the pressure of the competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences.
3. Be kind to your child's coach and officials. The coach is a volunteer, giving of personal time and money to provide a recreational activity for your child.
4. The opponents are necessary friends. Without them your child could not participate.
5. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
6. Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship.
7. Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.
8. Remember your child is involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, NOT YOURS!
9. Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
10. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
11. After the game do not tell you son or daughter that the game was lost (or won) due to the actions or lack of actions by the officials.

Section XII CUSL ETHICS AND CONDUCT STANDARDS - REFEREES

This clarifies and establishes the approved, accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior for Referees and Referee Assignors. The purpose is to prevent anything that is detrimental to the enjoyment and development of those individuals involved in the game and of the sport of soccer. All Officials and Assignors are required to hold them selves to these standards of behavior.

A. Referees

1. I pledge that I will faithfully enforce the Laws of the Game and any special Rule of the Competition of the League(s) I am officiating for without prejudice or favoritism to any player, team or coach.
2. I recognize that it is my professional duty to constantly keep abreast of any changes in the Laws or Rules of Play and to keep myself physically fit and my training refreshed.
3. I will constantly strive to improve my own refereeing techniques and always accept sincere, constructive criticism from fellow referees or official assessors without malice.
4. I pledge that I will make myself available, whenever possible, for game assignments for which I am qualified.
5. If I am a State or National USSF referee, I acknowledge that my first responsibility is to State or USSF assigned games and that I will make myself available for these assignments regardless of conflicts with local playing associations or with leagues that I may be active in as a player or as a coach.
6. I do hereby acknowledge my fellow referees' total authority over any matches over which they are duly assigned to officiate, and I pledge that I will never interfere with the carrying out of their prescribed duties, before, during, or after a match.

7. I understand that any criticism of fellow referees should be limited to constructive criticism in quiet, private referee-to-referee discussions, and then never within hearing distance of players, coaches, or spectators.
8. As a registered USSF/OSYSA referee, I will always strive to conduct myself in the highest professional manner possible, including refraining from indulging in arguments or name-calling with coaches and/or spectators.
9. I also acknowledge that if I am also a coach, player, or spectator, that my conduct towards, and my respect for, my fellow referee doing my game is more closely noticed by all concerned. I will, therefore, strive to set a very high standard of personal conduct under these circumstances to serve as an example to all.
10. I understand that I should wear only the approved USSF referee uniform with the current badge of the highest grade I am qualified for, and that my uniform be clean, neat, and in a good state of repair. I also understand that if I am a coach, that I will not to wear my uniform while coaching my team.
11. I further understand that I should not partake of any type of alcoholic beverage before any game assignment, and that I should never smoke, eat, or drink while actually officiating.
12. I hereby pledge that I will always faithfully carry out my duties and obligations as a USSF referee and accept the jurisdiction of the local OSYSA affiliated playing association I may be refereeing for and their respective Referee Committees.
13. I furthermore understand that I may be disciplined, to include being placed on probation, suspended, or refused referee registration for significant or repetitive breaches of this Code of Conduct or any of its articles or provisions.

B. USSF CODE OF ETHICS FOR REFEREES (as established per USSF Policy 531-11)

1. I will always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.
2. I will conduct myself honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of my position.
3. I will always honor an assignment or any other contractual obligation.
4. I will attend training meetings and clinics so as to know the Laws of the Game, their proper interpretation and their application.
5. I will always strive to achieve maximum teamwork with my fellow officials.
6. I will be loyal to my fellow officials and never knowingly promote criticism of them.
7. I will be in good physical condition.
8. I will control the players effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing fairness.
9. I will do my utmost to assist my fellow officials to better themselves and their work.
10. I will not make statements about any games except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
11. I will not discriminate against nor take undue advantage of any individual group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
12. I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization and its affiliates.

C. USSF CODE OF ETHICS FOR ASSIGNORS (as established per USSF Policy 531-11)

1. I will maintain the utmost respect for referees and other officials of the game and I will conduct myself honorably at all times.
2. I will make the assignments based on what is good for the game and what is good for the referee.
3. As a member of the United States Soccer Federation, my actions will reflect credit upon the organization.
4. I will contribute to the continuous development of referees in the National Referee Development Program.
5. I will conduct myself ethically and professionally in the assignment process.
6. I will respect the rights and dignity of all the referees and I will not criticize them unless it is in private, constructive, and for their benefit.
7. I will offer equal opportunity to all qualify referees and I will not discriminate against or take undue advantage of any individual or group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
8. I will cooperate fully in the timely resolution of any grievance hearing or complaint. I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization or its affiliates.

Section XIII CUSL CONDUCT COMMITTEE - OFFICIALS REPORTS

Based on the report of the Official(s), the coaches or players receive the penalty established in by CUSL in Section XIV for the reported offense.

The CUSL Conduct Committee will hold hearings -- WITH THE PARTIES HAVING THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT - when requested by the party being penalized on any alleged violations of these Ethics and Conduct Standards. Written reports must be submitted to document the issue with the coach's/players/referees conduct and penalties will be automatically assessed and applied based on the standards established below. Upon notice within 7 days of the game where the report was issued, the coach, player or referee may seek a hearing with the Conduct Committee on the issue in question. If notice is given within the required 7 days, the Conduct Committee will promptly hear (within 21 to 25 days of notice) the circumstances of the assigned penalty. If the individual does not submit a written request for a hearing the established penalties will be applied against that individual.

Upon review of the circumstances, CUSL will hold a Conduct Hearing on any reported issue. If that option is elected, the Conduct Committee can increase, decrease or wave the penalty to time already served versus the established penalties. As with any Conduct Committee hearing all parties have the right to appear, bring witnesses and question any Official(s).

However, until the Conduct Committee meets on the Coaches and/or players request for a hearing, the penalty established in section XIV for the reported offense will served by the individual. At the hearing, the Conduct Committee may reduce the assigned penalty to time already served, confirm the assigned penalty or increase the assigned penalty if the circumstances call for an increased penalty.

Any ruling of the Conduct Committee can be appealed to Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc, and the US Youth Soccer Association as outlined in their rules and regulations.

A. Discipline Procedures

1. The Conduct Committee will have no less than three members. The Conduct Committee will review and rule on all reports of unacceptable conduct by players, managers, coaches, referees, spectators, etc.
2. All players and managers/coaches shall be subject to the suspensions specified in this Section XIV for unacceptable conduct in accordance with CUSL discipline procedures.
3. A player or manager/coach/representative ejected will serve at minimum of a one-game suspension. The suspension will be served in the next scheduled game. A player/coach will receive more than a one game suspension based on the severity of the actions as established in Section XIV below and be required to serve that penalty until any ruling by the Conduct Committee.
4. Coaches are responsible for the action of their parents. The Head Coach will serve the established suspension(s) for the unacceptable actions of the team's supporters (most likely Parents, but any supporter of the team).
5. Depending on the severity of the unacceptable conduct, the Conduct Committee may increase any suspension beyond the duration established under the CUSL Bylaws.
6. Depending on the lack of severity of the acceptable conduct, the Conduct Committee may decrease any suspension below the duration established under the CUSL Bylaws.
7. Any unacceptable conduct towards any Official who is under the age of 18 will be more severe than the same unacceptable conduct towards any Official who is an adult (18 and older)
8. The coach shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual(s) at any match, that in the opinion of the Official(s), is a supporter of that team. The coach will serve the penalties created by the action of his/her team's supporter.

SECTION XIV CUSL ESTABLISHED PENALTIES

Penalties shown below will be automatically imposed, based on the Officials report, following the established policies as outlined below. Anyone can appeal and request a Conduct hearing on the assigned penalties. Any request for a hearing must be submitted in writing within 7 days of the game where the issue occurred. If a hearing is requested, the Conduct Committee shall evaluate the incident as to intent, severity and past misconduct of the individual to determine if the established penalties are sufficient, need to be increased, reduced, or waved to time served. More severe disciplines/sanctions shall be imposed for (1) multiple red cards / yellow cards during a season, (2) misconduct / abuse / assault directed towards officials or administrators, (3) player, coach or team representative does not immediately, promptly respond to the Officials directions (e.g., leave the field after receipt of red card, not address parents when requested, after receipt of red card returns to field after the game and enters into discussions with the Officials), (4) pushing, bumping, spitting at or towards, touching or hitting Official(s), (5) any of the actions outlined when the Official is a youth (under 18 years of age).

A. Established Penalties

1. The following are offenses that would receive an **automatic one (1) game suspension** from CUSL.
 - a. A red card for dissent with any referee.
 - b. A second caution, misconduct that is neither violent or with intent to harm or injure, persistent infringement, stopping an imminent goal, verbal dissent, non-directed foul language etc.
 - c. Coach / Manager who removes team from the field (the suspension does not apply if the teams are removed from the field in compliance with the CUSL lightning policy).
2. The following are offenses that would receive an **automatic three (3) game suspension** from CUSL.
 - a. Second red card in the same season for dissent with any referee.
 - b. Serious foul play, violent conduct, threatening gestures, fighting, spitting or foul language which is directed at someone, obscene gestures made with any part of the body which implies visual profanity, any exposure of the anatomy considered lewd or lascivious
 - c. Use of racial comments directed at any individual.
 - d. Failure to promptly and immediately follow directions of referee - i.e., leave field after red card, failure to address parents as requested
 - e. Returning to the field after rejection and entering into any discussion with the Official and/or entering into a discussion in the parking lot with referee
3. The following are offenses that would receive an **automatic ten (10) game suspension with a mandatory review of the governing body for reinstatement** prior to returning to CUSL.
 - a. Second violent conduct with intent to harm in same season, threatening gestures, fighting, spitting
 - b. Second use of racial comments directed at any individual.
 - c. Referee abuse or referee assault, will be referred to Ohio South as well for further action

- d. Coach /Manager who sends a player onto the playing field with the intent to participate in the game who is not registered, is suspended, or is not a rostered member of the teams playing
- e. Player who knowingly enters a game that is not registered/rostered to either of the teams

Red Cards/ejections/sendoffs issued must be served as follows (1) suspensions can only be served in games played by their team, (2) Issued during league game must be worked off during next scheduled league, Cup or tournament game(s), Issued during Cup, the suspension must be worked off during remainder of the that competition unless the team loses, then suspension is then carried over to CUSL league play. Issued during Tournament game, it must be served during the tournament, however, if the CUSL establish penalties are more than those assigned by the tournament, the coach or player must serve the balance of the CUSL suspension during League game(s). Red cards issued during "friendly games" will receive the CUSL established penalties. Red cards issued in games against teams who are affiliate members of US Soccer will receive the CUSL established penalties.

Section XV CUSL CONDUCT COMMITTEE - PARENT, COACH, PLAYER COMPLAINT

Any parent, coach, player or club official can submit a written complaint concerning violation of the CUSL Ethics and Conduct Standards by any team, parent(s), player(s), coaches, or club officials. The written complaint is to be submitted to the Chairman of the Conduct Committee.

The Chairman may elect to hold a Conduct Committee hearing on any complaint or may refer the issue to the appropriate Club(s) for resolution. Under either course, the Chairman is to keep records of the complaints to be able to determine if any issues submitted are a continuing problem. In the event that a continuing issue is determined, the Chairman of the Conduct Committee may elect to hold hearings on the serial nature of the issue.

If the complaint is found to be true, the Conduct Committee may assess the appropriate penalty following (but not limited too) the penalties established in Section XIV.