



Missouri Youth Soccer Association Policy on Tournaments, Leagues, and Friendlies

Updated September 2015

The Purpose of this Policy

- 1) To provide a simple and understandable explanation of the tournament/friendlies, league and practice game hosting procedures and the policies & rules which pertain to those procedures.
- 2) To ensure that standardized and uniform practices are followed by all member organizations of the Missouri Youth Soccer Association who are sanctioned to host a tournament, league or friendly so that any team participating in an event in the State of Missouri can know that the event will be conducted openly, fairly, and in accordance with USYSA rules.
- 3) To ensure that all disciplinary actions arising out of tournament, league, or friendly play are referred to the Missouri Youth Soccer Association for appropriate action, where applicable.
- 4) To provide Missouri Youth Soccer and its members with data concerning the operation of a tournament, league, or friendly within the State of Missouri.
- 5) To provide for the safety and well-being of all tournament participants.

Enforcement of Policies

It is the responsibility of Missouri Youth Soccer by granting permission to host a tournament, league, or friendly to ensure that the policies in this statement are followed. Failure of a host organization to follow the policy may result in the imposition of sanctions, including but not limited to, denial of the privilege to host future events.

Only a hosting organization (direct member of Missouri Youth Soccer) that is in "Good Standing" with US Youth Soccer and Missouri Youth Soccer may apply for, and be granted, permission to host a tournament/friendlies.. When a tournament, league, or friendlies are approved to a hosting organization, approval is given to ONLY that hosting organization and NOT a management company or sponsor of the tournament.

A hosting organization that hosts a tournament, league, or friendlies without having approved to host or not otherwise complying with the requirements of this part is subject to penalties by Missouri Youth Soccer and US Youth Soccer, including monetary penalties, denial of permission to host in the future, revocation of any approval given to host a tournament or games that have not yet occurred, and suspension and termination of membership of the parties responsible.

Responsibilities of Hosting Organizations

An organization that is hosting a tournament, league, or friendly games-

1. May authorize the teams playing in the event to use its team roster for that seasonal year, the next seasonal year, or either seasonal year, if the team's club/league does not prohibit the use of the team's roster for the seasonal year that the hosting organization authorized for use during the event; and
2. Shall specify in its invitation and playing rules to the teams which seasonal year roster(s) may be used to participate in the event.

A hosting organization is prohibited from -

1. Requiring a team to use only accommodations approved or provided by the hosting organization or other organization; unless disclosure is made on the event application and clearly in its registration process.
2. Advertising by ANY means the event it is hosting until it has received all approvals required by this policy; unless it is a historical tournament as designated by Missouri Youth Soccer Association.
3. Modifying or marking in any way original rosters or member passes or registering any player, coach, or team official. The one exception shall be for the tournament to place stickers on the back of player cards in order to identify that they have been checked-in.

TOURNAMENTS

1. US Youth Soccer section 304. Hosting only United States Teams - This section of the US Youth Soccer Tournament and Travel policy applies when hosting ONLY United States teams for tournaments or games.
2. US Youth Soccer Section 305. - Hosting Foreign Teams (Teams from outside the United States) - This section of the US Youth Soccer Tournament and Travel Policy applies when hosting one or more foreign teams for a tournament or games, whether that tournament or games include United States teams and foreign teams or foreign teams only.
3. US Soccer Policy 531 - Permission to Host Friendlies / Practice Games. When neutral assistant referees are not assigned or fail to appear for a match as assigned, the match referee may seek the assistance of club assistant referees whose duties shall be as delegated to them by the referee.
4. US Soccer Policy 601-7 Competition Participation - Section 2. (A) Tournament hosted by Organization members of their members shall fall within one of the following two classes: (1) Unrestricted Tournament: A tournament that is open to all Federation affiliated participants. Any tournament that allows international participants must be an Unrestricted Tournament. (2) Restricted Tournament: A tournament that is open only to members of a single Organization Member or a subset thereof.

Service Price

The cost of hosting a tournament is five (5) dollars per team entered into the tournament. The first payment is a deposit to receive your sanctioning is \$400. The first payment must be sent in when submitting the tournament application or the tournament will not be approved. This payment is refundable if the tournament is cancelled in its entirety prior to being played provided that all registrations are returned to the teams. The second payment is the variance between the first payment and the dollar amount equal to five (5) dollars per team entered in the tournament.

For example: Deposit - \$400.00. 100 teams accepted in the tournament x \$5.00 = \$500.00. The second payment would be \$100.00 and must be sent to the MYSO office along with the post-tournament report. Failure to send the second payment will result in a delay in approving future tournaments for that Hosting Organization.

If the host tournament refund policy is not 100% refundable and the tournament is cancelled in whole or part, the second payment must still be submitted with the post-tournament report.

When a host organization hires a management company or individual to manage or administer their tournament, that management company or individual will pay a minimum fee of \$10.00 (ten) per team as a host fee to the member or affiliated member organization that contracts for the service. The management company must also provide a copy of their current Missouri Business License with Addendum B.

Permission to host a Tournament

Any Missouri Youth Soccer member organization desiring to host a tournament shall go online to www.moyouthsoccer.org to register on-line. The MYSO State Office will respond to the member organization request within ten (10) working days provided deposit has been received.

During on-line submission you must include the following or your application will NOT be processed:

- 1) Tournament Rules including cancellation policy – submitted under rules button
- 2) Contract or Notification from certified medical trainer service – submitted under add document #1
- 3) Contract or Notification from certified referee assignor for services – submitted under add document #2

Tournament Game Cards

Missouri Youth Soccer requires the use of games cards for all tournaments. These should be kept for a period of one (1) year with the hosting organization. The important information needed on the tournament game cards must include: Team Names, Coach/Manager Names, List of players with jersey & ID Numbers, Age Division, Field Number, Game Time, Date, Center Referee, AR1, AR2, 4th Official (if applicable).

Procedures for Tournament Applications / Invitations

When a team goes to apply to a tournament, they must have access to the following information on the Hosting Organization's website or within the registration packet provided:

- 1) A digital or hard copy of the approved on-line Application to Host a Tournament or Games (commonly referred to as the 'Sanctioning Form')
- 2) A copy of the rules and regulations governing the tournament of games.
- 3) A statement that all teams MUST have current member passes of US Youth Soccer or other approved organization of which the team is a member and be in good standing with that organization. Any USYS team from outside Missouri must provide a permission to travel form from their home association.
- 4) A statement if the tournament is restricted or unrestricted. If unrestricted the following wording is recommended: This tournament is Unrestricted. Teams registered and in good standing with any U.S. Soccer Federation affiliate are eligible to reply.
- 5) A statement that the teams must follow the applicable procedures of this policy.
- 6) A statement that US Soccer rules, regarding the use of US Soccer registered referees ONLY, will be followed unless US Soccer has granted a waiver to allow the use of authorized referees from another country.
- 7) Any tournament requirements/qualifications for participation.
- 8) The name of the Tournament Director, address and phone number(s).
- 9) If accommodations, transportation or meals being provided, a description of what expenses for which the visiting teams are responsible (i.e. entry fees, referee fees, meals, lodging, transportation, etc.)
- 10) If foreign teams are to be invited, please review the US Soccer Travel and Tournament Manual.
- 11) The dates, times, and places of any coaches meetings and check-in.

Tournament of Eighty (80) Teams or More

There will be no more than one (1) competitive tournament in the State with eighty (80) teams or more on the same date or dates without prior permissions of Missouri Youth Soccer, the Missouri State Youth Referee Administrator and the Missouri Registered Referee Assignor. Pre-existing/Historical tournaments will be given priority over applications for new tournaments.

Tournament Deadlines / Restrictions

TOURNAMENT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 30TH OF THE CURRENT CALENDAR YEAR WILL BE GIVEN PREFERENCE OVER APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED AFTER OCTOBER 30TH. So, for example, if your organization will be hosting a tournament in May of 2016, you will need to submit your tournament application by October 30, 2015 to ensure your tournament's 'Historical Tournament' status.

Tournament submitted after the October 30th deadline will still be considered. However, approval of those applications (and any other new tournament applications) will be at the discretion of Missouri Youth Soccer and the Missouri Referee Development Program (MRDP).

Historical Tournaments are those tournaments that have consecutive years of sanctioned play on comparable dates or holidays with each additional year of play given additional weight. A Historical Tournament retains precedence for their particular weekend over other tournaments within their district. There can be no more than one (1) Historical Tournament in a district any particular weekend.

Post-Tournament Report

The post-tournament report must be sent by the hosting organization to Missouri Youth Soccer within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of the tournament. If the Post Tournament report is not received within thirty (30) days of completion of the tournament, a \$250.00 late fee fine will be assessed. If the post tournament report and late fee fine of \$250 is not received within sixty (60) days completion of the tournament, an additional \$250 late fee fine will be imposed and all pending tournaments sanctioned by the club for the remainder of the year will be revoked and no additional sanctioning will be granted for the next calendar year. If the post-tournament report is more than ninety (90) days late and the late fee fine is sixty (60) days late, the tournament will lose its status as a Historical Tournament. A post-tournament report must be submitted even if the tournament is cancelled.

Any incident of referee assault or abuse by a player, coach, manager, club official, or game official, or other incidents of a serious nature, must be reported to the alleged offender's club or league and home State Association, Affiliate, or other Organization Member immediately, but in no event later than 48 hours after an incident or referee assault of abuse.

Missouri Youth Soccer Obligations

- 1) Missouri Youth Soccer Directors, Employees or Personnel may spot check at check-in and game sites.
- 2) Publish a list of the sanctioned tournaments in Missouri. This list will be available on the Missouri Youth Soccer website through a link to www.the.tournamentcenter.com.
- 3) Historical Tournaments are those tournaments that have consecutive years of sanctioned play on comparable dates or holidays with each additional year of play given additional weight.
- 4) All Missouri Youth Soccer member organizations, its registered players, coaches, administrators, and trainers expect that our sanctioned tournaments, leagues and other events provide a safe venue for youth to play soccer. The ability to play in an environment, which provides fair play, consistent rules, and an adequate number of officials, is key to our growth & success.
- 5) Failure to secure sanctioning of the event also prevents Missouri Youth Soccer from providing oversight of the event and does not ensure that the event is properly run with adequate insurance, consistent rules, and referees.
- 6) Missouri Youth Soccer member organizations found in violation of this policy will be asked to withdraw from said activity immediately if discovered prior to the event, and if discovered after the fact, said Missouri Youth Soccer member organization could be suspended from Missouri Youth Soccer for a period of up to one year after a formal investigation on the matter.

Non-USYS Team Admission to Tournaments

In addition to the regular requirements for permission to host a tournament, tournaments wanting to admit USSF teams who are not entering under affiliation with MISSOURI YOUTH SOCCER or another US YOUTH SOCCER national state association may do so. MISSOURI YOUTH SOCCER will provide liability coverage to the tournament as long as the following are done, prior to the beginning of the tournament:

- 1) Proof of insurance by an authority figure from their member organization comparable to what is provided by MISSOURI YOUTH SOCCER.
- 2) Proof that each player, participating in the tournament, is registered and in good standing and has permission to travel and participate in MISSOURI YOUTH SOCCER sanctioned tournaments.
- 3) For Bench Personnel (Coaches, Team Managers and Trainers): Copy of your identification card
- 4) Medical Release Forms for all players. (Do NOT need to be notarized)
- 5) Verified player passes with pictures and date of birth for the player.
- 6) Valid team roster submitted at registration that does not change during the tournament. The number of players on the roster cannot be more than allowed by MISSOURI YOUTH SOCCER.
- 7) Statements or email as to the level of the team, which corresponds accurately to the levels provided by the tournament.
- 8) If guest players are used, the team may use the MISSOURI YOUTH SOCCER guest player roster and have it validated by their registrar.
- 9) Since no history exists on the insurance claims and liabilities of these other groups, in order to insure the tournament, no more than 20% of the teams, at this time, can come from non-US Youth Soccer state association affiliate teams.
- 10) The tournament must certify that they above were done, and in the case of a liability claim, must prove the above.

Failure for the tournament to do the above is a violation of the contract of the Permission of Host form, and will result in a denial of insurance claims and liability to have future tournament sanctioned.

LEAGUES

Leagues may also be member organizations or separate entities that request to be considered 'sanctioned' by the state for the purposes of qualifying for US Youth Soccer competitions. In order to become a member organization of Missouri Youth Soccer, a league must fill out the 'New Member Application' that is available on the MYSA website. A league that is operated within the state and is a non-profit entity may join as a full member. An out of state league wishing to play games in Missouri or a for-profit corporation may only join as an associate member for league play and has no voting rights within Missouri Youth Soccer Association.

If a league wishes to be recognized as a sanctioned league that is to be considered as a National Championship Series Qualifying league, the following must be submitted to the MYSA office at least 6 months before the league intends to have games recognized (count towards State Cup qualification) by MYSA and US Youth Soccer:

- 1) A copy of rules, bylaws, & policies
Must include: risk management policies, addressing traffic/parking and goal safety/anchoring
- 2) A description of league structure (tiers/divisions)
- 3) Administrative fee of \$500.00
- 4) A description of facilities that will be utilized during the event.
- 5) A count of participating teams and state of origin (MO, IL, KS, etc.)
- 6) Board and Staff contact information.
- 7) Letter of Intent (why starting the league, area of operation, etc.)
- 8) Agree to all rules and policies as applicable to the USYSA National Tournaments Series including all rules and regulations for State Cup and Presidents Cup in Missouri.

The MYSA Board of Directors will consider the league application at the next scheduled meeting of the board and inform the member of its decision.

Post-League Report

Following each season, all leagues are required to send in the following information to the MYSA State office:

- a) League results (divisions, age groups, etc.)
- b) A list of participating teams and state of origin (MO, IL, KS, etc.)
- c) A list of facilities that were used during the league.
- d) Disciplinary records for any red cards or send offs issued during the league, along with any disciplinary action taken against that individual. Confirmation from the league referee assignor(s) confirming the accuracy of the red card records is also required.
- e) Any serious injury reports (i.e., broken bones, ACL tears, etc.)
- f) "Sanctioned" Leagues for Competitive Play Only: Payment of \$1.00 per participating team, per season for direct members or \$3.00 per team participating in Missouri for associate member leagues (out of state or for-profit leagues playing in Missouri).

Practice Games/Friendlies

Practice games are defined as games between teams, which are not set up in a tournament format or league and are used for practice/training purposes with no group winner, trophies, or other awards. No entry fees can be charged for friendlies/practice games. Teams can split field rental costs and referee fees only. Maximum number of teams allowed for organized Friendlies is twenty-five (25) teams combined of all ages and genders to play.