

Standing Rules

(As approved November 16, 2009)

A. Introduction

- 1. These rules are an adjunct to the Dillsburg Area Soccer Club (DASC) Constitution and Bylaws.**
- 2. DASC is a private club. As an affiliated player, parent, guardian or coach, all are expected to follow the rules and policies of the club.**
- 3. The goal of the club is to provide a top quality athletic program for the youth of our community at both the recreational and travel team level.**
- 4. The philosophy and fundamental principle of the club is to provide an opportunity for as many youth to play the game of soccer as possible. Playing a team sport allows youth to gain good habits for physical fitness, learn to work as a team, gain self confidence and hopefully have some fun. One of the benefits of playing club soccer is that it gives youth who may aspire to play at higher levels such as high school or college the opportunity to gain skills and experience helpful to them at those higher levels.**
- 5. All decisions of the club and those affiliated with it must be guided by what is best for the youth involved.**
- 6. DASC is a member of the Central Pennsylvania Youth Soccer League (CPYSL), which is part of the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association (EPYSL), which is affiliated with the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA).**

B. Selection of Coaches and Coaching

- 1. The policy of DASC is to have volunteer coaches. Their time and effort are essential to achieving the club's goals and are greatly appreciated.**
- 2. Head coaches for under 9 (U9) and above teams will be recommended by the coaches representative and for under 8 (U8) and below teams by the (U8) program coordinator. Criteria for selection will be experience as a coach, including any coaching licenses; experience as a soccer player; willingness to learn by taking coaching courses and other educational measures; and demeanor. This is not to say that experience is required, especially for coaching younger age group and secondary teams.**
- 3. Assistant coaches for U9 and above teams will be selected by the applicable head coach. Assistant coaches for U8 and below teams will be assigned by the U8 coordinator when volunteers are available. If no volunteers express interest to the U8 coordinator, the head coach may select an assistant or assistants.**

- 4. Coaches for U9 and above teams will be submitted to the executive board for approval. A parent or guardian may question the selection of a coach to the executive board.**
- 5. Coaches are expected to act responsibly in all circumstances.**
- 6. Proper development of our youth as individuals and soccer players is more important than winning.**
- 7. Good sportsmanship should be demonstrated and taught at all times.**
- 8. The amount of time players play during games is within the discretion of the head coach. In younger age groups, coaches should give players equal playing time, considering attendance, conduct at practices and other applicable circumstances. In all age groups, coaches should attempt to play all players in attendance at least one-half of each game, considering attendance, conduct at practices and other applicable circumstances. Recognition is given to the difficulty of doing this with large teams and in competitive situations at the older age groups.**
- 9. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of parents and others attending games for players on their teams. This is why CPYSL policy is to have parents and others stand or sit on the same side of the field as the team for which they are cheering.**
- 10. Coaches receiving misconduct cards from referees may be requested to address the executive board.**
- 11. Fines assessed against the club for forfeits and other avoidable conduct of a coach may, but need not, be assessed against the coach by majority vote of the executive board.**
- 12. Coaches may not recruit players from teams outside or inside DASC. Requesting or suggesting that players do not attend skill assessments is a form of recruiting that is prohibited.**
- 13. The DASC Board approves a standard primary uniform for teams each year. Teams may also purchase secondary uniforms at their own expense and are permitted to seek outside sponsorship from businesses and corporations and develop a team logo if desired. No advertising or team logo is permitted on the primary uniform; however, advertising or a team logo as approved by the Board is permitted on secondary uniforms. No approval is required to place advertising or a team logo on items not worn on the field during play.**
- 14. As set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the Constitution and Bylaws, a coach may be removed by a majority vote of those in attendance at a meeting of the combined executive board and coaches' council.**

15. Coaches may be rewarded on an equal basis in some measure within the discretion of the executive board.

16. The coaches' representative shall schedule coaches' meetings for U9 and above coaches, and the U8 coordinator for U8 and below coaches, when appropriate.

C. Team Composition and Levels of Play

1. CPYSL is a travel league because it is composed of teams from different towns or areas. There are currently six levels of play within CPYSL, with the first listed being the most competitive - Premier, Division 1, Division 2, Division 3, Division 4 and Division 5. CPYSL teams start at the under 9 (U9) age group. DASC's U6 and U8 programs are recreational /intramural within the Dillsburg area and do not travel to play games. Within U9 and above age groups DASC may have a primary team and a secondary team, with the primary team playing at a higher division within CPYSL. [The use of these terms is not to be confused with primary and secondary teams in relation to players who roster on two teams. See Rule F below.]

2. It is the policy of DASC that players must play on a team of their own gender, with the exception of the U6 program which may be comprised of teams with mixed genders.

3. All U9 and above teams will be dissolved at the end of each spring season. This provides youth who have improved their skills from the previous year an opportunity to make a higher level team. U8 and below teams will be dissolved after the spring season and may be dissolved after the fall season in the discretion of the U8 coordinator. The number and composition of U8 and below teams is decided by the U8 coordinator each season in accordance with section D16 below. Players must be at least five years of age by August 31 to be eligible for play during the fall season and at least five years of age by March 31 to be eligible for play during the spring season.

4. In conformity with CPYSL rules, age groupings for both fall and spring teams are based on the player's age as of July 31 of the playing year. Limited exceptions are set forth in section E below.

5. The number and age groupings of teams will be determined by the vice-president, coaches' representative and the appropriate registrar based on the number of players registered at all age groups.

6. The determination of what division a team should play will be made by consensus agreement of the head coach of the team, the vice-president, the coaches' representative and the appropriate registrar. If there is disagreement, the executive board will act to resolve the dispute.

7. Where the number and quality of players warrant, a second team can be formed for an age group. These determinations will be made by the age group coaches, the vice-president, the coaches' representative and the appropriate registrar. If there is disagreement, the executive board will act to resolve the dispute.

8. Secondary teams often include two age groups, e.g. U9s and U10s often play on combined U10 teams.

9. For primary teams, the general rule is for a player to play in their applicable single-year age group. Limited exceptions are set forth in section E below.

10. In limited circumstances, a player may be rostered on more than one team (having a primary and a secondary team) as set forth in section F below.

11. Fall teams will be selected as set forth in section D below.

12. Fall teams may remain as a team for the spring season. When necessary, spring teams will be formed by combining players from various fall teams within the judgment of the vice-president, the appropriate registrar, the coaches' representative and the coaches of the spring teams in question. If there is disagreement, the executive board will act to resolve the dispute.

13. All U9 and U10 teams should have a minimum of eleven (11) players and may have a maximum of fourteen (14). All older age groups should have a minimum of fifteen (15) players and may have a maximum of eighteen (18). The number of players on a team will be determined by the number of players registered in the applicable age group(s) and the consensus of the age group coaches, the vice-president, the coaches' representative and the appropriate registrar. If there is disagreement, the executive board will act to resolve the dispute.

D. Selection of Teams and Skill Assessments

1. The general philosophy of team selection is to form teams based on skill level. The theory is that youth will progress better and enjoy the experience better if playing with and against children of similar skills, speed, agility and age.

2. Skill assessments for the fall season will be held in the spring following fall registration. The dates for skill assessment will be posted at the fall registration and if possible published in a newsletter prior to or after registration.

3. All players of the applicable age group are invited to skill assessments.

4. For U9 and above teams the skill assessment/training coordinator will coordinate skill assessments for each age group and gender. Evaluations

will be conducted by assessors from outside DASC if possible. An assessor is from outside DASC when she or he is not a coach or board member in DASC and does not have a child or children playing in DASC on a U9 or above team. There must be at least two assessors. If the required number of outside assessors cannot be secured, the skill assessment/training coordinator will recruit other board members to be assessors. Board members may otherwise be invited to assist in an assessment, but not to evaluate the players. A summary of how the assessment will be conducted must be prepared by or for the skill assessment/training coordinator and presented to the coaches' representative and coaches' council at least one month before the first assessment date to allow time for review and input. Assessment sheets will be submitted to the skill assessment/training coordinator, who shall compile the scores. In the alternative, the assessors may compile the scores with the approval of the skill assessment/training coordinator. In either event, the skill assessment/training coordinator shall provide the results to the coaches' representative, the vice-president and the appropriate registrar. After a head coach of a primary team is approved by the executive board, the results for that age group and gender will be supplied to the head coach. The head coach will select the primary team in accordance with section D10 below. This will be done at a meeting attended by the head coach, the coaches' representative, the vice-president and the appropriate registrar. (An exception to this rule is that the U9 teams will be selected by the coaches' representative, the vice-president and the appropriate registrar in accordance with section D10 below).

5. A player must be assessed to be placed on a primary team unless the player is injured such that she/he cannot participate in a skill assessment. If the coaches' representative or appropriate registrar is contacted about such a circumstance prior to the date of the applicable skill assessment, the player will by necessity be assessed on the basis of observations from prior coaches and prior experience, if any, of the player by the assessors or coordinating coach or board member.

6. If a player cannot attend any of the scheduled assessments, an alternate assessment may be offered within the discretion of the coaches' representative and appropriate registrar if either the coaches' representative or appropriate registrar is contacted prior to the scheduled date of the assessment. A very good excuse for not attending the assessment must be offered. Not attending skill assessments in the hopes of being placed on a particular team is strictly prohibited. If the contact is not made until after the scheduled date of the assessment, an individual assessment will not be permitted and the player cannot be placed on a primary team. If a coach is notified that an individual cannot attend her/his scheduled skill assessment, the coach must so notify the coaches' representative or appropriate registrar in a timely manner.

7. If a player wishes to play up an age group under section E2 below, the player must attend the skill assessment for his/her appropriate age group as well as the one for the older age group to be considered for the primary team in his/her age group. If a player elects to play up an age group under section E3 below, the player should only attend the skill assessment for the

older age group. See section E below on the limited circumstances under which a player can play up an age group.

8. All assessments for the Fall season should be completed by the middle of May. Additional assessment sessions may be scheduled at the discretion of the board if situations warrant. This may include: new players move into the area after assessment; not enough players are available for a particular age group to field a team (such as for the Spring season when teams may need to be combined or a new age group team formed); etc.

9. The selection of players will be made in accordance with these rules, subject to section 15 below.

10. The following major areas should be considered in the selection of players for primary teams: assessments; individual skills; physical endurance; team tactics; motivation and emotional maturity; parental willingness to meet expectations for team participation, e.g. attendance, acceptance of applicable policies and conduct; and the need for a goalkeeper. Observations from prior coaches and the existence of injuries to a player at the time of the skill assessment may also be considered. A paramount concern of the coaches should be the proper development of the player under consideration. Each coach may select one player out of the assessment order based on these criteria without approval if a justification is provided in writing to the coaches' representative. Further selections out of the assessment order must be based on these criteria, justified in writing to the coaches' representative, and approved by the coaches' representative, the vice-president and the appropriate registrar. These specifications apply to players who have elected to try out up an age group as well as those trying out in their natural age group.

12. After the primary teams are selected and unless otherwise agreed by the coaches involved, the secondary teams should be selected by the secondary team coaches of the applicable age group on an alternating basis. The order of selecting should be decided by a coin flip or the drawing of straws. Where applicable, ages should be evenly distributed unless otherwise agreed by the coaches involved.

13. In selecting secondary teams, same household (e.g. siblings) and travel arrangement considerations are allowed within the discretion of the coaches involved. Where a secondary team is composed of predominantly a single age group, a player may not play up an age group without the approval of the coaches' representative, the vice-president and the appropriate registrar.

14. A player registering after the selection of teams may be placed on a primary team within the discretion of the executive board based on the circumstances, including the experience of the player and the impact on other players, with the consent of the applicable coach. This rule typically applies to players who move into the area after assessments are held. This rule should not be applied if the player could have attended assessment but

did not.

15. A parent or guardian or the coaches representative may question the placement of a player to the executive board. If they desire an executive board review of such a placement, the parent or guardian or the coaches representative shall notify the president of the executive board at least one week prior to the next board meeting. The head coach or coaches' representative must explain the selection if a question is raised. The selection or non-selection of a player may be overridden by a majority of the executive board and coaches' council if it is determined the decision was not properly made on the basis of the criteria set forth in paragraph 10 above.

16. U8 and below teams will be selected for the fall season by evenly distributing players based on their date of birth. Exceptions to this method will be made for children of coaches and assistant coaches, and siblings falling within the same age grouping. Players from fall teams will be placed on the same team for the spring season if the coach of that team returns for the spring. Players not returning to the same team in the spring will be evenly distributed based on their date of birth within the judgment of the U8 coordinator. A parent or guardian may question the placement of their player to the executive board by notifying the president of the executive board at least one week prior to the next board meeting. The U8 coordinator must explain the placement of the player. The placement of a player may be overridden by a majority vote of the executive board and coaches' council if it is determined the decision was not properly made on the basis of the criteria set forth herein.

E. Playing in an older age group

1. A U8 player may be placed on an older age group team during the spring season when deemed exceptional compared with her or his peers by the under 8-program coordinator, with the approval of the player's parent(s) or guardian and the executive board. A U8 player may try out for the U9 team and can be selected to that team for the fall season if the player is sufficiently skilled (as determined by assessments) to be in the top half of the players selected for the older team.

2. A player eligible to play in a U9 or above age group may play on a team in the age group one year above that for which she or he is qualified to play with the consent of the player's parent(s) or guardian under the following limited circumstances:

a) There are not enough registered players to create a team at the older age group. In these circumstances, the ages of the players will be considered in determining the level of play at which the team should compete. The coaches' representative or registrar will typically initiate this exception.

b) A head coach is needed for the older age group, the player's parent is willing to be head coach, and the player is sufficiently skilled to play in the older age group. This exception will typically be initiated by the coaches'

representative and may apply to primary or secondary teams.

c) The team to which the player would move up to is the primary team for that age group and the player is sufficiently skilled (as determined by assessments) to be in the top seven assessed players if trying out for a U9 through U11 team or in the top nine assessed players if trying out for a U12 and above team. All players attending assessments for that age group and electing to play in DASC during the fall or spring seasons will be considered assessed players under this rule. The player's parent(s) or guardian typically initiates this exception. A player who tries but fails to qualify under this subsection must play in their true age group subject to Section D13 above.

d) All decisions to allow a player to move up an age group under the above rules must be approved by the executive board. The executive board may not allow a player to move up for the fall season unless one of the three above subsections applies.

3. A parent or guardian of a player eligible to play in a U9 or above age group may elect to register the player in the next older age group if the player is in the school class with most of the players in the older age group. This election is not subject to the approval of the executive board and none of the criteria set forth in subsection E2 above need apply. The election must be made prior to the start of skill assessments and cannot be withdrawn during the year made. If the player is not selected for a travel team in the older age group, the player will be placed on the appropriate recreational team in the older age group.

4. If required by unusual circumstances, the executive board may allow players to play up during the spring season outside the rules set forth above.

F. Secondary Rostering

1. CPYSL rules:

a) A player must play his/her first game of the season with her/his primary team.

b) A player must play with his/her primary team on any given day if both teams are playing at the same time.

c) Permission to secondarily roster a player may be granted by the registrar or president of the applicable club.

2. DASC guidelines:

The rostering and playing of secondary players and use of guest players for DASC teams is allowed only in accordance with these guidelines:

a. Secondary rostering is not generally encouraged since it will reduce

the playing time for players primarily rostered with a team. Secondary rostering of players not on a DASC team is especially discouraged.

b. Where a U11 or above team has 15 or less primary players on its roster or a U9 or U10 team has 11 or less primary players on its roster, rostering secondary players is appropriate, and indeed, necessary.

c. Where a U11 or above team has 16 or more primary players on its roster or a U9 or U10 team has 12 or more primary players on its roster, rostering secondary players is not necessary.

d. Where a U11 or above team has 15 or less primary players or a U9 or U10 team has 11 or less primary players available to play in a particular league game (due to lack of rostered players, injury, sickness, vacation or any other reason), secondary players are permitted to play in that game. Otherwise secondary players may not play in league games.

e. A player may not play for his/her secondary team earlier in a day that his/her primary team is playing without the approval of the head coach of his/her primary team.

f. In tournaments attended by a team during the pre-season and season (which shall be defined as the first day of practice for the applicable season to the last scheduled game), all primary players on a team must be invited to play. Secondary and/or guest players may play in such tournaments only if there are 15 or less primary players for a U11 or above team or 11 or less primary players for a U9 or U10 team available to play in the tournament. If a primary player is not invited to play in post-season tournament, this must be communicated to the player and parent or guardian at least 30 days prior to the tournament.

g. All secondary rostered players must be registered with DASC for the applicable season and pay full fees for that season. Secondary rostered players within DASC will not incur any additional fees.

h. The use of secondary and/or guest players is especially appropriate in post-season tournaments or games on weekends or days when the player's primary team is not playing.

i. Due to the traditional lack of players in the older age groups, older players on teams that play games on Saturdays are encouraged to be secondarily rostered on older teams that play on Sundays.

G. Refunds, Penalties and Copies of Bylaws and Rules

1. There will be a \$10.00 processing fee for all refund requests made in relation to the fall season following the last date of skill assessments and following February 15 for the spring season. Fall season registration fees will be refunded if the registrar or president is requested to do so in writing (by regular mail or e-mail) on or before June 15 of the year in which the

registration fee is paid for U9 and above players and on or before July 15 for U6 and U8 players. Spring season registration fees will be refunded if the registrar or president is requested to do so in writing by March 15th of the year of the spring season for U9 and above players and on or before April 1 for U6 and U8 players.

2. Refunds will be made in full and automatically in the event there is no team on which to place the player.

3. Except under the above circumstance, registration fees and uniforms are forfeited to DASC whether or not the registered player participates unless the Executive Board approves otherwise.

4. There will be a \$25 late fee for returning U9 and above players registering after May 30 for the fall season and after February 15 for the spring season, and a \$20 late fee for returning U6 and U8 players registering after July 15 for the fall season and after April 1 for the spring season.

5. The above refund and late fee policies will be posted on the DASC website.

6. A copy of the Constitution and Bylaws and the Standing Rules should be in the possession of each executive board member and each team coach.

7. A copy of the Constitution and Bylaws and the Standing Rules are available for any person affiliated with DASC upon request of any executive board member.

H. Interpretation of Rules and Issues Not Addressed

1. The executive board shall resolve any dispute over the interpretation of these Standing Rules.

2. The executive board shall resolve any issue that might arise that is not addressed in these Standing Rules, consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws.