



TO: All Coaches, Parents and Youth Programs Staff

FROM: PAFB Youth Sports Director

SUBJECT: 2010 Youth U6 (5-6), U9 (7-8-9), U12 (10-11-12), Divisions Soccer Schedule and By-Laws.

MEMO: The Youth Soccer season will be governed by the National Alliance for Youth Sports and the 2009-2010 Florida Youth Soccer Association Bylaws and Rules with the following adaption applicable to the U6, U9, and U12 divisions.

Remember that the intent of this league is to provide each player with an opportunity to learn all aspects of the game of soccer. The guiding philosophy of each team should be to have fun! These rules have been set forth to provide a framework within which to work, but if we as coaches, officials and administrators do our job properly and in the correct spirit, we will not have to refer to this document very often. It's not about winning or losing; it's about the kids having fun.

For clarification or concerns pertaining to these by-laws or the current season, contact the Youth Sports & Fitness Staff at 321-494-4748 or 321-494-4747.

PLAYERS

- A. The age used to determine which division a child will play in is based on the child's age as of Sep 10.
- B. Players assigned to a team will attend at least one practice before playing in a game. All players must be on the official roster held at Youth Sports & Fitness to be eligible to practice or play.
- C. Only the coach and his/her first assistant coach may have their child assigned to their team (All coaching applications must be on file for this to happen)
- D. Youth Sports & Fitness Director will assign new players. It is the coach's responsibility to inform the director if a team is short of players.
- E. Players from the waiting list will be assigned to teams with the lowest number of players first; (players that have been assigned to any team must be physically dropped from the roster by their parents before any other player is assigned to any team). Players must have a physical prior to participations.
- F. No child will be added to a team after season starts unless the team falls below the minimum number of participants to play.
- G. NO FORFEITS.

PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

- A. YSF will provide the uniforms that must be worn. **Uniforms may not be altered. Names are not allowed on jerseys.**

- B. Soccer Cleats – soft-cleat soccer shoes are highly recommended. Proper shoes reduce ankle, knee, leg and lower back injuries. Failure to wear required equipment will cause the player to be ineligible for the day's activities. Soccer cleats are similar to baseball and football cleats. Soccer cleats do not have a toe cleat. Toe cleats are not allowed in soccer. Only soccer style cleats or non-cleats sneakers will be authorized to wear. **Football or softball cleats will not be authorized for wear. Alteration of any type of shoe will not be authorized for wear.**
- C. During practice or a game, articles that may constitute a danger to the wearer or any other player must be removed, (i.e. jewelry, earrings, tongue/belly rings, watches, barrettes, chains, belts, pants or shorts with pockets, etc.)
- D. Players with plaster casts or hard splints even if padded are not allowed to play, even with the permission of a parent or medical approval.
- E. Player's are required to wear shin-guards during **ALL** practices and games.
- F. Players may not wear shorts with any pockets.
- G. **Prior to each game, officials will inspect personal protective equipment.** No hard material will be used for protective equipment that an Official feels is potentially dangerous.

PLAYING TIME REQUIREMENT: Each participant is guaranteed minimum playing time. While our intention is not to force a child to play more than he/she is willing, we do want to provide each child minimum playing time.

A. Players Playing Time Requirement:

- a. **Each player will play 50% of the game.**
- B. Ideally, all players will have equal playing time. Failure to comply will result in a one game suspension of the Head Coach. If the situation continues the Head Coach will be removed from his/her coaching duties. Documentation must be provided to the YSF PRIOR to enforcing disciplinary actions. Reasons for disciplinary action:
 - a. Unexcused absence from practice.
 - b. Has not attended any practices prior to league play.
 - c. Disciplinary action requested by the parents; (grades, in trouble @ school/home)
 - d. Unsportsmanlike conduct (fighting, taunting, etc.) at a practice or game.
- C. Prior to the start of the game – coaches must notify YSF staff and opposing coaches of any medical problem a player may have which would precluded he/she from playing their mandatory time.

SCORING

- A. We believe that participants can learn from both winning and losing if winning is placed in a healthy perspective. Staff, parents and volunteers should teach players that winning is not the primary goal, and that losing a game or event is not a reflection on their own self-worth. Staff, parents and volunteers should inform participants that success is not solely defined as winning but is related to effort and is found in striving for the best they can do.
- B. No scores or standings are kept. **(U12 Division: Scores kept, but no standings)**
- C. **RUNAWAY GAMES:** For the sake of the children, a coach knows when he has control of the game. Embarrassment and humiliation will not be tolerated. Swift action will be taken against any violation of this rule. *This will allow your team as well as your opponents to improve their soccer skills*

EJECTIONS OF PLAYERS AND COACHES

The league will enforce a ZERO tolerance for inappropriate behavior will exercise its power to the fullest. We expect all sponsors, players, coaches, cheerleaders, parents and fans to exhibit a high standard of sportsmanship and to observe all published rules and regulations.

- A. **PLAYER EJECTIONS:** Immediate removal from the game will result for any player demonstrating unsportsmanlike behavior such as purposely shoving or pushing another player. Verbal insults to referees, coaches, league officials or other players is considered unsportsmanlike behavior and will result in suspension for the next game.
- B. Players ejected from a game cannot be substituted. The ejected player must leave out of sight and sound of the playing area within one minute of the ejection. Failure to do so will be valid grounds for a forfeiture of the game. If the player's parent is not at the game, the player will be escorted to a phone to make verbal contact with the player's guardian. The child will sit with a staff member until the parent comes to pick up the child.
- C. The ejected player will be automatically suspended from the next game. This includes all practices leading up to the game. This will also be documented in writing and placed in the coaching folder.
- D. **COACH OR SPECTATOR EJECTION:** Any coach or spectator that has received one official warning or a card by any official or youth sports staff member will be suspended from all practices for the next week and the next official game. The coach will be required to meet with the Youth Sports & Fitness (YSF) Director prior to resuming his/her position as coach. This will be documented in the permanent coaching folder.
- E. Automatic ejection is in effect for fighting (swinging of hands even without contact is considered fighting), rough play, unruly or flagrant conduct, physical contact with an official, or being present at a fight on the field (coaches or players from the bench who come onto the field where a fight is occurring makes them present at a fight on the field and therefore are subject to an automatic ejection.).
- F. With the exception of responding to a communication initiated by the official (umpire or referee) or pointing out an emergency safety issue, parents and spectators should refrain from any communication, which in any way convey any criticism of the official. Infractions on this policy will be dealt with in the following manner:
 - a. First Infraction: The YSF Staff will ask the coach responsible for the team to quiet the offending spectator or speak directly to the spectator about the violation.
 - b. Second Infraction: The YSF Staff will instruct the spectator to leave the facility. If the spectator does not leave the field the game will be abandoned.

COACHING RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Coaches will be responsible for all equipment issued from Youth Sports & Fitness Department. All equipment must be cleaned and returned during the required time in order to receive your coaching AF1297 *Temporary Issue Receipt*.
- B. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team, coaching staff and their parents. Phrases such as "KILL-EM", taunting or showboating in any matter will not be tolerated. Derogatory statements from the stands will not be tolerated.
- C. Coaches and players will remain on their respective team benches. No parents or spectators are allowed on any teams sidelines.
- D. It is recommended that only one coach to be standing while the other monitoring the players not playing on the field.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

- A. **Accident Reporting Procedures** – An injury/incident report (AF For 1187) must be completed by the coach whenever an injury occurs that requires first aid (band aid, ice packs, etc.) or where the participants must be removed from the game/practice. Forms are to be sent to the Youth Center within 24 hours. Follow ups must be conducted.
- B. Each team is responsible for the clean-up of their bench & sideline area after each game. Post game meetings with the teams should be held away from the bench area in order for the next team to set up.

CANCELLED OR TERMINATED GAMES OR PRACTICES:

- A. Call the Youth Center for information -494-4748 to get updates on the current season (i.e. cancelled games)
- B. Inclement Weather Policy will be in effect at all times.
- C. Any unsportsmanlike conduct by a team or spectator that threatens the safety of the players may result in cancellation of the game by the referee or the YSF staff.
- D. Coaches cannot cancel or reschedule any games.
- E. Games will not be held during 45th Space Wing Exercises.

PRACTICES AND GAMES

- A. Practices are to be conducted only during your assigned time frames and in your assigned locations.
- B. Coaches are required to conduct practices within the AF standards. These are limited by the AF Guidelines and resources available within the program.
- C. If a practice is cancelled, coaches shall notify parents and ensure the facility is secured at the appropriate time.
- D. No player will remove his/her jersey until after the game is over and opponents' hands have been shaken.
- E. All teams should arrive to the soccer playing field prior to game time and warm-up BEFORE your scheduled game time and be ready to start play at the scheduled time.

HEALTH AND SAFETY: The youth staff, league administrators, team coaches, officials, parents and players must share the responsibility for safe play.

- A. Alcohol, smoking, dipping, chewing tobacco or any substance will not be allowed within sight of any child, youth or within the vicinity of any YSF event or activity. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in the removal of the individual from the playing area.
- B. Profane language or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in the removal of individuals from the playing area.

DIVISION SPECIFIC RULES:

GENERAL:

A. TIME LIMIT

- a. U6 Division – Two (2) – Eighteen (18) minute halves with 5-minute halftimes. Unlimited timeouts.
- b. U9 Division – Two (2) – Twenty (20) minute halves and 5-minute halftimes. A tie will stand. Unlimited timeouts.

- c. U12 Division – Two (2) – Twenty-two (22) minute halves and 5-minute halftimes. A time will stand. Unlimited timeouts.
 - d. If a player starts bleeding while playing the game, that player must be taken out of the game until the bleeding is stopped and wiped clean. An injury substitution will be used while the bleeding player is being attended to. When the player that was bleeding is ready for play again, that player may re-enter for the injury substitute at any time, without losing his/her reentry privilege.
- B. If a player shows up late for a game, after the game has begun and before the end of the second quarter, that player must receive their minimum playing time.
- a. U6 Division – 5 vs. 5 – no goalkeeper. Unlimited substitutions.
 - b. U9 Division – 5 vs. 5 – no goalkeeper. Unlimited substitutions.
 - c. U12 Division – 6 vs. 6 – one player will be designated as a goalkeeper. Unlimited substitutions.
- C. A sub may be made any time during a dead ball situation at the discretion of the referee.
- D. No Soft Red Card will be used.

PATRICK YOUTH SPORTS SELECTION PROCESS:

All players age 9 and above are required to have player evaluation performed by their coach. Since everyone who registered to play will be placed on a team, player evaluations are intended to help preserve parity for the league with no one dominant team. Players under age of 9 will be placed on teams based on the number of players in their age group.

Each team will be given the same amount of players in each age group. Siblings in the same division must be assigned on the same team unless the parents request otherwise. Players that do not show up for evaluations will be given and evaluations rating based on previous experience and number of years played. Players that do not participate in evaluations cannot request to be on a team with another player.

During practice, all players perform drills to test their abilities and skills development. Coaches will have a list of players. Each coach will evaluate each player as they perform their drills using a rating system of 1 – 5. (1-low skills, 2-below average, 3-average skills, 4-above average skill, 5-outstanding) After all players have completed coaches' evaluation during practice and drills, the coaches rating for each player will be totaled and an average score for reach player is determined. The sports director will determine team composition based on the players ranking.