



**State League**  
2010-2011 Seasonal Year  
General Rules and Policies for Participating in the League

1.	MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS.....	2
2.	DEFINITION OF TERMS.....	3
3	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.....	6
4.	LEAGUE MANAGEMENT.....	8
5	GENERAL PROVISIONS.....	9
6	AGE LIMITS.....	10
7	AZSL REGISTRATION AND ROSTER REQUIREMENTS.....	11
8	PLAYER LOAN POLICIES.....	12
9	PLAYER TRANSFER POLICIES.....	13
10	LEAGUE STRUCTURE.....	15
	10.2    Number of Matches.....	15
	10.3    Division Formation: Start of the Seasonal Year.....	15
	10.3.2    Relegation from Division I.....	16
	10.3.3    Relegation from Division II.....	16
	10.3.4    Promotion to Division I from Division II.....	17
	10.3.5    U14 Relegation/Promotion.....	17
	10.3.6    Promotion from Other Leagues.....	18
	10.4    Promotion/Relegation: Season II (U11-U14 Only).....	18
	10.4.2    Relegation from Division I.....	18
	10.4.3    Relegation from Division II.....	18
	10.4.4    Promotion to Division I.....	18
	10.4.5    Promotion from Other Leagues.....	18
	10.6    Scoring.....	19
	10.6.3    Tiebreaker Criteria.....	19
	10.6.4    Forfeits.....	19
11	FIELDS AND SCHEDULING.....	20
	11.1    Fields Selection.....	20
	11.2    Scheduling.....	20
	11.2.1    Number of Matches.....	20
	11.2.2    Blackouts.....	20
	11.2.3    Available Play Dates.....	21
	11.2.4    Coaching Conflicts.....	21
	11.2.5    Postponements.....	21
	11.2.6    Forfeitures.....	22
12	MISCONDUCT.....	23
13	PENALTIES.....	24
	13.4    Red Card Suspensions Standards.....	24
14	GRIEVANCES, PROTESTS, AND APPEALS.....	25

## **DISCLAIMER**

**NOTICE:** The Arizona Youth Soccer Association (AYSA), in administering the Arizona State League (AZSL), reserves the right to make changes to these policies and rules as it deems necessary, and when needed, to provide interpretations of the policies and rules as to their intent. Typographical errors, omissions, and other errors do not change the scope, intent or spirit of the policies herein. Some policies and/or rules contained herein are not specific to the AZSL, such as some registration criteria, etc.

### **1. MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS**

- 1.1 The mission of the AZSL is to provide competition for the best teams in Arizona, on the best fields available, with the best officiating (referees).
- 1.2 Additionally, the goal of the AZSL is to advance and foster the sport of soccer for players under nineteen years of age in the State of Arizona. Specifically:
  - 1.2.1 Promote and develop the sport of soccer for all individuals throughout the State of Arizona, including those in rural, suburban, urban and inner-city areas, without regard to race, creed, religion, national origin, gender or physical ability.
  - 1.2.2 Give every player, coach and referee the opportunity to develop his or her skills to the highest level of the individual's ability.
  - 1.2.3 Provide a healthy, safe and enjoyable soccer environment for all participants.
  - 1.2.4 Foster honesty, integrity and goodwill within soccer.
  - 1.2.5 Promote unity within the soccer community.
  - 1.2.6 Provide an equitable format for due process and adjudication within the sport of soccer through properly established rules and procedures for players, coaches, referees, participants and spectators.
  - 1.2.7 Be a sports organization which is a positive role model and which provides leadership to the sports community at large.

## 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS

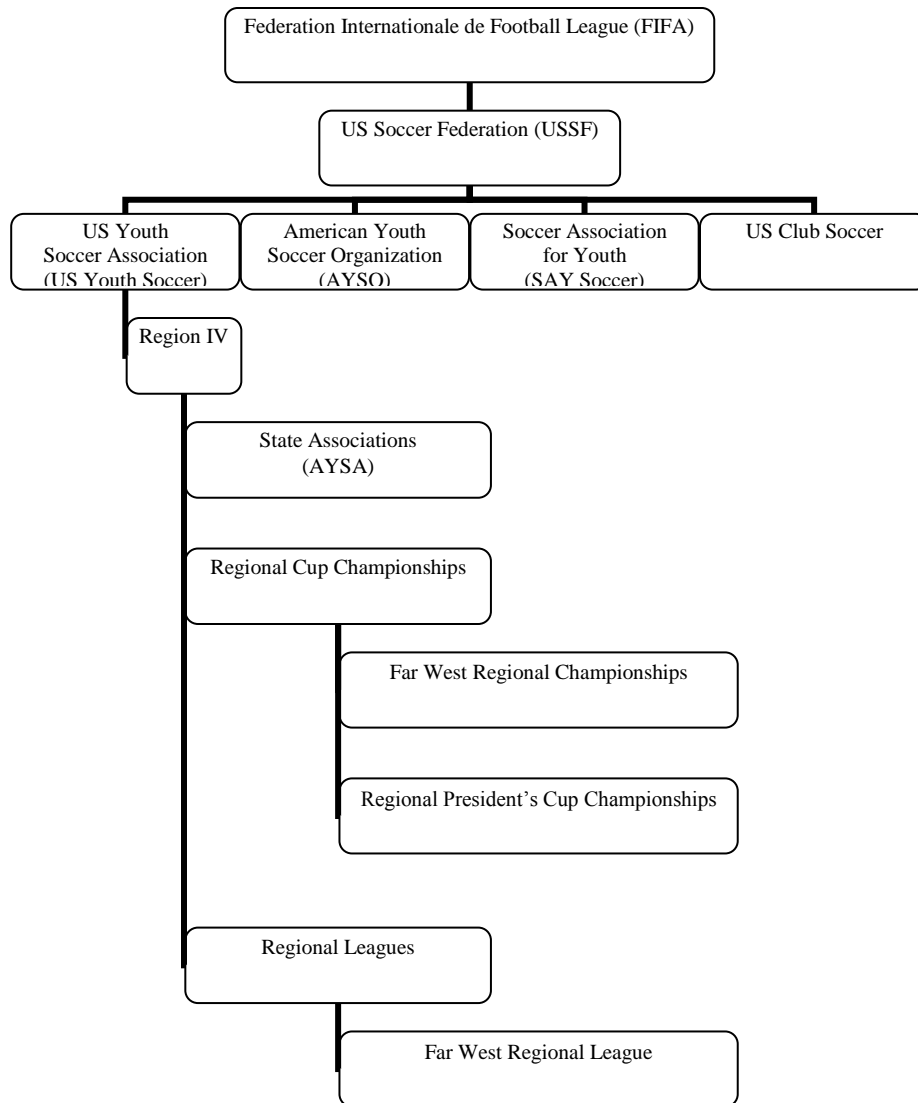
- 2.1 **Affiliation:** The process of associating as members of the successive leagues administering soccer programs for US Soccer and/or US Youth Soccer. AYSA is an affiliate of US Soccer, and is therefore responsible for governing all affiliated soccer programs in the state and for collecting and forwarding national registration fees for all players registered with the clubs/teams under their jurisdiction.
- 2.2 **Club:** The basic organization for the administration of youth soccer programs; responsible for the registration and development of players and teams.
- 2.3 **League:** A scheduling entity responsible for the arrangement of matches between teams.
- 2.4 **Arizona Youth Soccer Association (AYSA):** The Arizona affiliate of US Youth Soccer.
- 2.5 **Federation Internationale de Football League (FIFA):** The world governing organization for soccer, headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. The highest authority for administration of international playing rules, international competitions, and technical/educational development programs.
- 2.6 **Olympic Development Program (ODP):** A program developed and administered by US Soccer and supported by the US Olympic Committee (USOC). US Soccer and its affiliates identify and develop players for participation on state, regional and national teams.
- 2.7 **United States Olympic Committee (USOC):** The national governing body for selecting and developing olympic athletes and teams for olympic competitions.
- 2.8 **United States Soccer Federation (USSF):** The national governing organization for soccer in the United States, headquartered in Chicago, IL. The USSF is affiliated with FIFA and is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC).
- 2.9 **United States Youth Soccer (US Youth Soccer):** The division of US soccer which governs youth soccer, headquartered in Richardson, TX.
- 2.10 **Add:** The addition of a player to a team's roster.
- 2.11 **Age Division:** US Youth Soccer's method of organizing competition by grouping players by birth date. The youngest age division in which a team may play is determined by the age of the oldest player on the team as of August 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous seasonal year.
- 2.12 **Eligibility to Play:** A player or team which is properly registered, not under suspension or in bad standing, and which is eligible to participate according to the rules of the competition.
- 2.13 **Foul and Abusive Language:** Verbal abuse or threats, including racial or ethnic slurs, whether or not directed to one or more individuals.
- 2.14 **Guest or Loan Player:** A properly registered player participating in a competition for a team to which the player is not rostered.

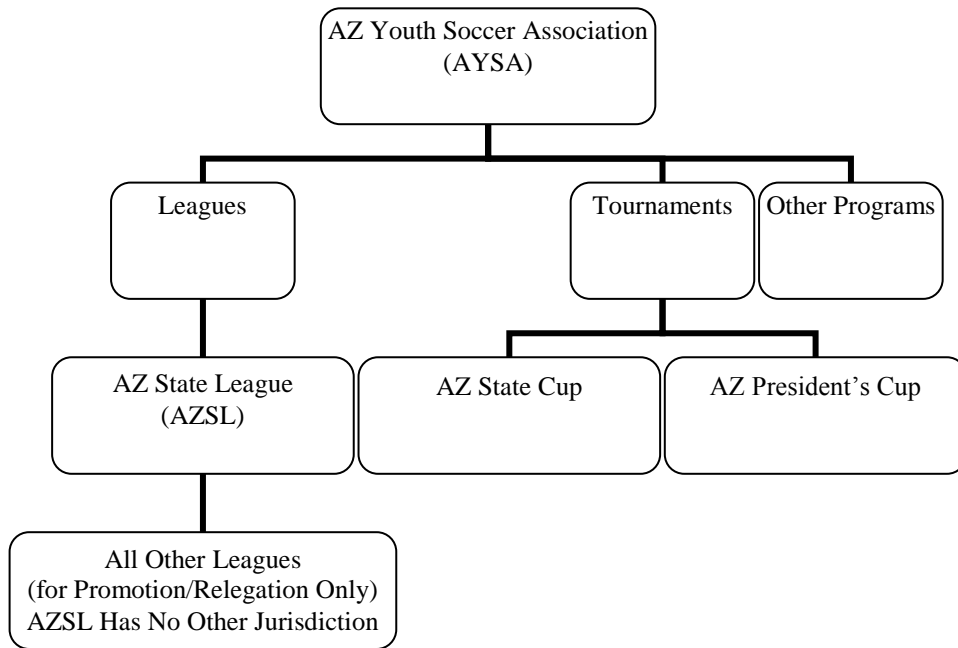
- 2.15 **League Oversight Committee:** A group of individuals appointed by AYSA’s Vice President of Competition, charged with the following:
- 2.15.1 Oversee the operations of the AZSL.
  - 2.15.2 Provide clarification and/or interpretations to AZSL policies and rules where no policies/rules exist or are otherwise unclear.
  - 2.15.3 Provide recommendations to the policies and rules of the AZSL.
- 2.16 **Participant:** Any player, coach, manager or other person associated with a team.
- 2.17 **Recruiting:** The process of attracting players to join a team or club.
- 2.18 **Rostering:** The assignment of a registered player to a team.
- 2.19 **Sanction:** The authorization extended by USSF or one of its affiliates to conduct an official competition and/or travel out of state and/or out of country.
- 2.20 **League Season:** The period of time designated for scheduled competitions of a league from opening of league registration through the last match played.
- 2.21 **Seasonal Year:** Established by US Soccer, extends from September 1<sup>st</sup> of a given calendar year through August 31<sup>st</sup> of the following calendar year.
- 2.21.1 **Note:** For the U11-U14 age groups, the AZSL divides the seasonal year into two seasons: a fall season and a winter season.
- 2.22 **Spectator:** Any person associated with the team present at a youth soccer event who is not a participant or official. Spectators are subject to all AZSL rules and procedures applicable to participants.
- 2.23 **Suspension:** The temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges.
- 2.24 **Tier 1:** AYSA’s highest level of team registration, also called a “National Team”. The required level of registration to participate in the AZSL.
- 2.24.1 Uses tryouts, invitations, recruiting and/or similar process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability.
  - 2.24.2 One or more rules restrict the manner in which players may be rostered to participating teams. *Reference: US Youth Soccer National Championships Rule 221, Team Eligibility, Section 2(a)(1).*
  - 2.24.3 Eligible to participate in the AZSL or other AYSA sanctioned league(s).
  - 2.24.4 Eligible to participate in either the Arizona President’s Cup Championships (formerly Open Cup) or the Arizona State Cup Championships.
  - 2.24.5 Player passes are issued.
- 2.25 **Coed Team:** A team composed of both male and female players. For purposes of the AZSL, a Coed Team is considered a Boys’ Team, and must participate in a boys’ division. A Coed Team may not participate in a girls’ division.
- 2.26 **Team Representative:** Any coach, manager, parent, or club official who has been delegated the right to represent a team.

- 2.27 **Transfer:** A team registered in Tier 1 which rosters a player who is currently registered in Tier 1, or who has been registered in Tier 1 at any time during the current seasonal year.
- 2.27.1 A maximum of five (5) transfers are allowed per Tier 1 team during a seasonal year.
- 2.27.2 A player leaving a Tier 1 team via a transfer or drop at any time during the year is not considered a transfer to the team from which the player is leaving (player is outgoing). Should the player return to the team (player is incoming) or sign with another Tier 1 team, it will be considered as a transfer to the team with which the player rosters.
- 2.28 **Move:** A team registered in either of Tier 2, 3, or 4 (but not Tier 1) during the current seasonal year, which rosters a player who is currently registered in Tier 2, 3, or 4, and has not been registered in Tier 1 at any time during the current seasonal year.
- 2.28.1 The number of player movements involving Tier 2, 3, or 4 teams/players is unlimited.
- 2.29 **Tryout(s):** Any training, practice or evaluation session used to evaluate player ability for placement on a team.
- 2.30 **Voluntary Release:** The removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of the player.
- 2.31 **Drop:** A player may be released from a team by the coach only if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons: *Reference: AYSA bylaw 805, Section 4.*
- 2.31.1 The player has violated rules of the US Soccer, US Youth Soccer or the AYSA;
- 2.31.2 The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance; the determination of "reasonable travel distance" is subject to definition by the AYSA; and/or,
- 2.31.3 The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season.

3 **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

3.1 The AZSL is administered by the AYSA. The AYSA falls under the auspices of US Youth Soccer. However, AYSA's various competitions and rules of play are ultimately governed by several different organizations.





#### 4. LEAGUE MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The AZSL will be managed by an Executive Director appointed by AYSA. The Executive Director will administer the league under the oversight of the League Oversight Committee and AYSA, and shall:
  - 4.1.1 Coordinate daily AZSL activities.
  - 4.1.2 Schedule matches between teams participating in the AZSL.
  - 4.1.3 Assign referees or otherwise arrange for the assigning of referees for scheduled matches.
  - 4.1.4 Track match results (scores) and team standings.
  - 4.1.5 Notify the League Oversight Committee of any issues, including but not limited to un-played matches.
  
- 4.2 A League Oversight Committee will be appointed by AYSA's Vice President of Competition. The committee shall:
  - 4.2.1 Provide clarification and/or interpretations to AZSL policies and rules where no policies/rules exist or are otherwise unclear.
  - 4.2.2 Provide recommendations to the policies and rules of the AZSL.
  - 4.2.3 Act as arbiter in conflicts, disagreements, and similar instances.
  
- 4.3 Disciplinary matters will be forwarded to the Discipline and Rules Committee (D&R). The D&R Committee is appointed by AYSA's Vice President, Administration. Issues which the D&R Committee will oversee will include, but not be limited to:
  - 4.3.1 Participant behavior.
  - 4.3.2 Match ejections.
  - 4.3.3 Disciplinary matters involving members of the League Oversight Committee.

5        **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 5.1        These provisions shall govern:
  - 5.1.1      All participants of the AZSL.
  - 5.1.2      All competitions sanctioned by the AZSL unless the rules of a specific competition, as approved in advance by the League Oversight Committee, provide otherwise.
  
- 5.2        Each club shall designate the following representatives. One individual may serve in multiple capacities.
  - 5.2.1      **Club Representative:** Shall be responsible for attending AZSL meetings and disseminating information from the AZSL to the club’s teams, players, parents and other officials.
  - 5.2.2      **Club Registrar:** Shall be responsible for the proper registration of its players, teams and club officials; proper accounting of fiscal transactions and accurate reporting to the AZSL.
  
- 5.3        Each club is responsible for its players, coaches, managers, team representatives and spectators adherence to the AZSL provisions, policies and rules. Each club shall ensure that the actions of all associated individuals, on and off the field, do not bring the AZSL into disrepute.
  
- 5.4        Each team shall register to the AZSL on or before the dates prescribed by the AZSL. Registration deadlines shall be established by the AZSL and shall be communicated to the Club Representatives via AZSL meetings, email and/or the AYSA website.
  - 5.4.1      The AZSL reserves the right to reject any club or team application to the AZSL, at its sole discretion, if it is determined that acceptance of the club or team would be detrimental to the AZSL or its mission statement.
  - 5.4.2      A player may be registered on only one AZSL affiliated team at any time.
  - 5.4.3      Prior to participation in any sanctioned AZSL event, each team and its players shall:
    - 5.4.3.1      Be properly registered in Tier 1 with AYSA.
    - 5.4.3.2      Have paid the appropriate AYSA registration fees or have otherwise been approved by AYSA for participation.
    - 5.4.3.3      Have paid the appropriate AZSL registration fees.

## 6 AGE LIMITS

- 6.1 Unless otherwise noted herein, the AZSL shall divide play among teams by the age divisions established by US Youth Soccer.
- 6.2 A player whose birthday falls within the dates established by US Youth Soccer may not play down an age group without a written request from a doctor and approval by AYSA.
- 6.3 Proof of age shall consist of an official AYSA-issued player pass with current seasonal year photograph.
- 6.4 Maximum age requirements for each age group are as follows:
  - 6.4.1 **U11:** Players may be no older than a birth date of August 1, 1999.
  - 6.4.2 **U12:** Players may be no older than a birth date of August 1, 1998.
    - 6.4.2.1 **Limitation:** A maximum of three (3) players from the U11 age group or younger may be registered or loaned to the team at one time.
  - 6.4.3 **U13:** Players may be no older than a birth date of August 1, 1997.
  - 6.4.4 **U14:** Players may be no older than a birth date of August 1, 1996.
  - 6.4.5 **U15:** Players may be no older than a birth date of August 1, 1995.
  - 6.4.6 **U16:** Players may be no older than a birth date of August 1, 1994.
  - 6.4.7 **U17:** Players may be no older than a birth date of August 1, 1993.
  - 6.4.8 **U18:** Players may be no older than a birth date of August 1, 1992.
- 6.5 No U11-U14 team may play up in an older age group. Teams in age groups U15 and older may petition to the League Oversight Committee to play up. However, should such a team be granted permission, it will forfeit any possibility of earning a seed for the Arizona State Championships in its own age group.

## AZSL REGISTRATION AND ROSTER REQUIREMENTS

- 7.1 Prior to any team registering with AZSL, the club must first register. This enables teams to then link to their clubs during the team registration process.
- 7.1.1 **Note:** A team may not register with AZSL until confirmation has been received that the club has first registered. Teams which register prior to the club registration may have their registrations deleted, requiring them to re-register.
- 7.2 Each team shall register to the AZSL on or before the dates prescribed by the AZSL. Registration deadlines shall be established by the AZSL and shall be communicated to the Club Representatives via AZSL meetings, email and/or the AYSA website.
- 7.2.1 The AZSL reserves the right to reject any club or team application to the AZSL, at its sole discretion, if it is determined that acceptance of the club or team would be detrimental to the AZSL or its mission statement.
- 7.3 Each team name must be unique, distinguishable from any other team within AZSL.
- 7.4 A player may be registered on only one AZSL affiliated team at any time.
- 7.5 Prior to participation in any sanctioned AZSL event, each team, its players, coaches, managers and other officials shall:
- 7.5.1 Be properly registered in Tier 1 with AYSA.
- 7.5.2 Have laminated passes with current seasonal year photo for each player, coach, manager, and team official.
- 7.5.3 Have paid the appropriate AYSA registration fees or have otherwise been approved by AYSA for participation.
- 7.5.4 Have paid the appropriate AZSL registration fees.
- 7.5.5 Submit a disclosure form for all coaches, managers and other team officials.
- 7.5.6 Be registered with a sanctioned club who is a member of AYSA.
- 7.5.7 Not be in bad standing with AYSA or otherwise suspended from participation by AYSA.
- 7.5.8 Submit a team roster via the AZSL on-line registration system. The roster must consist of the following number of players:

Age Group	Minimum on the Roster	Maximum on the Roster	Maximum Suited Up for a Match
U11	5 Players	14 Players	14 Players
*U12	7 Players	18 Players	18 Players
U13	7 Players	18 Players	18 Players
U14	7 Players	18 Players	18 Players
U15	7 Players	18 Players	18 Players
U16	7 Players	22 Players	18 Players
U17	7 Players	22 Players	18 Players
U18	7 Players	22 Players	18 Players

- 7.5.8.1 **U12 Limits:** A maximum of three (3) players from the U11 age group or younger may be registered or loaned to a U12 team at one time.
- 7.5.8.2 **U16-U18 Limits:** A maximum of (18) players may suit up (dress) for a match. Additional players on the roster up to the maximum number of (22) may be in the technical area with the team during the match. However, such players may not wear the team jersey/uniform, substitution jersey, or other such clothing which may make it difficult for the referee to distinguish them from active participating players.

## 8 **PLAYER LOAN POLICIES**

- 8.1 For all age groups except U12, the number of loan players is unlimited. U12 teams are limited to a maximum of three (3) loan players for any match. All loan players shall be designated as “loan” players on the score card.
  - 8.1.1 Loan papers are not required. Note: This pertains to the league only. All other competitions (tournaments, etc.) require loan papers.
- 8.2 No AZSL player may play in a Maricopa County Open League match.
- 8.3 No AZSL player may be loaned to another State League team, regardless of whether the team is in the same club or not, i.e. club affiliation is not a factor.
- 8.4 A player may not be loaned to an AZSL team from a team participating in any of the following:
  - 8.4.1 Arizona State League (AZSL)
  - 8.4.2 Far West Regional League (FWRL)
  - 8.4.3 US Youth Soccer National League
  - 8.4.4 Elite Clubs National League (ECNL)
  - 8.4.5 Western College Development Academy (WCDA)
  - 8.4.6 Real Salt Lake – Arizona Academy
  - 8.4.7 Other leagues/academies which, in the opinion of AYSA, may offer a team participating in the AZSL a competitive advantage by loading up on players otherwise not participating in the AZSL.
- 8.5 A player from any other AYSA sanctioned league, including the Maricopa County Open League, PCJSL, Futbolito Bimbo, etc., may be loaned to an AZSL team, but must come from the same club.

## 9 PLAYER TRANSFER POLICIES

- 9.1 A multiple rostered player, after he/she has played his/her first match sanctioned by AYSA, who requests a transfer will lose his/her multiple status by such request. Reference: AYSA Bylaw 805, Section 1.
- 9.1.1 Note: A player may play for only one team in any competition sponsored by US Youth Soccer. Reference: AYSA Bylaw 805, Section 5.
- 9.2 Any player registered to a team is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless he/she requests and obtains a transfer or move. All requests for release or transfer shall be submitted to the AYSA Registrar on an AYSA transfer form. The reason for the request to transfer must be stated in the appropriate place on the form. Reference: AYSA Bylaw 805, Section 2.
- 9.2.1 Players are obligated to fulfill all financial obligations agreed to with the club/team from which the players transfer. However, a transfer may not be blocked due to unfulfilled financial obligations.
- 9.2.1.1 The club may, at its discretion, conduct a hearing. If the player is found to owe money to the club he/she is leaving, the results of the hearing are then forwarded in writing to AYSA.
- 9.2.1.2 AYSA places the player in bad standing, notifying the player and the club to which he/she transferred. The player's pass is withheld and the player may not play in sanctioned events until the financial obligations are fulfilled.
- 9.2.1.3 The player may appeal the original club's findings, at which time AYSA will conduct an appeals hearing.
- 9.3 A player may be released from a team by the coach only if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons: Reference: AYSA bylaw 805, Section 4.
- 9.3.1 The player has violated rules of the US Soccer, US Youth Soccer or the AYSA;
- 9.3.2 The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance; the determination of "reasonable travel distance" is subject to definition by the AYSA; and/or,
- 9.3.3 The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season.

#### 9.4 **Transfers vs. Moves**

9.4.1 **Transfer:** A team registered in Tier 1 (required of all AZSL teams) which signs a player who is currently registered in Tier 1, or who has been registered in Tier 1 at any time during the current seasonal year.

9.4.1.1 A maximum of five (5) transfers are allowed per Tier 1 team during a seasonal year.

9.4.1.2 Players who transfer from one club to another after November 1<sup>st</sup> will be ineligible for play in the Arizona State Championships, a.k.a. State Cup (see section 9.5 below).

9.4.1.3 A player leaving a Tier 1 team via a transfer or drop at any time during the year is not considered a transfer to the team which the player is leaving (player is outgoing). Should the player return to the team (player is incoming) or sign with another Tier 1 team, it will be considered as a transfer to the team with which the player signs.

9.4.2 **Move:** A team registered in either of Tier 2, 3, or 4 (but not Tier 1) during the current seasonal year, which signs a player who is currently registered in Tier 2, 3, or 4, and has not been registered in Tier 1 at any time during the current seasonal year.

9.4.2.1 The number of player movements involving Tier 2, 3, or 4 teams/players is unlimited.

9.5 Players who transfer from one club to another after November 1<sup>st</sup> will be ineligible for play in the Arizona State Championships (State Cup). Any transfer after November 1<sup>st</sup> will be allowed, subject to the following conditions:

9.5.1 Transfers from one team to another within the same club are not subject to the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, but may be subject to the 5-transfers limit (see section 9.4.1 above).

9.5.2 If the player transfers on or prior to November 1<sup>st</sup>, the transfer is considered a normal transfer subject to the rules of transfer for the specific tier of the team to which the player is transferring (see section 9.4 above).

9.5.3 A player who is not enrolled in high school and whose club team has disbanded for the high school season may be loaned to another team from November 1st to January 31st. If the player's original team does not re-form after the high school season, the player will be allowed to transfer to another team for the remainder of the season, subject only to the 5-transfers limit in section 9.4.1. Any player who is on loan to another team is bound to the original team and will become ineligible for any Cup competition or AZSL matches if he/she does not return to his/her original team after the loan period.

9.5.4 In recognition that there may be individual situations not foreseen by AYSA in the development of this rule, a player may appeal a decision. The dissolution of a team will be considered as such a potential situation on a case-by-case basis.

## 10 LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- 10.1 The league will be divided by gender and age group into a series of divisions. Each age group, by gender, will have two (2) divisions, consisting of the following number of teams:

Age Group	Division I	Division II
U11	8 Teams	8 Teams
U12	8 Teams	8 Teams
U13	8 Teams	8 Teams
U14	8 Teams	8 Teams
U15	6 Teams	6 Teams
U16	6 Teams	6 Teams
U17	6 Teams	6 Teams
U18	6 Teams	6 Teams

### 10.2 Number of Matches

- 10.2.1 Teams participating in the U11-U14 age groups will play two seasons (Season I and Season II), a fall season and a winter season. Teams must participate in both seasons.

10.2.1.1 Each team in the U11-U14 age groups will play every other team in its division, each season, for a total of seven matches per season.

- 10.2.2 Teams participating in the U15-U18 age groups will play a fall season only (Season I).

10.2.2.1 Each team in the U15-U18 age groups will play every other team in its division twice, for a total of ten matches.

### 10.3 Division Formation: Start of the Seasonal Year

- 10.3.1 Teams will begin the seasonal year according to the rules of promotion/relegation from the previous year.

#### 10.3.1.1 New Teams

10.3.1.1.1 A new team (one which did not participate in the AZSL the previous season) wishing to apply to State League must be the first or second team in one of the qualifying leagues, or must submit verifiable evidence that the team's level of play is at least equal to other teams' level of play at that level. After the team has applied, the State League Oversight Committee will consider the request for the upcoming season. Current qualifying leagues include:

10.3.1.1.1.1 Maricopa County League

10.3.1.1.1.2 PCJSL

10.3.1.1.1.3 Futbolito Bimbo

10.3.1.1.1.4 Far West Regional League (FWRL)

10.3.1.2 **Dissolved Teams/Clubs or Teams Switching Clubs**

10.3.1.2.1 A team no longer exists if its numbers (returning players + new players) fall below the minimum set forth in section 7 by the end of the team registration period.

10.3.1.2.2 To be considered a “team switching clubs”, a team must retain a minimum of the maximum number of players on the field (including goalkeeper) + one additional player. In the event a club dissolves, a team may still be considered as a “team switching clubs” and retain its league position so long as it meets the following criteria.

10.3.1.2.2.1 For the U11 age group, a team must retain a total of 9 players (8 players which play on the field + one additional player).

10.3.1.2.2.2 For the U12-U18 age groups, a team must retain a total of 12 players (11 players which play on the field + one additional player).

10.3.1.2.3 In all age groups, if a team leaves a club, the club will retain the position previously held by the team. The club will have the option of fielding a team for that position or relinquishing the position. If a club relinquishes the position the rest of the bracket will move up one position.

10.3.1.2.3.1 A U11-U14 team which switches clubs, loses its position in the AZSL and must play a season in a qualifying league (see above) and finish either 1st or 2nd to be eligible for the AZSL the following season.

10.3.1.2.3.2 A U15-U19 team which switches clubs and had played in Division I the previous season (after promotion/relegation) will drop to Division II. A U15-U19 team which switches clubs and had played in Division II the previous season (after promotion/relegation) will drop out of the AZSL and must play in a qualifying league for one season to be eligible for re-admittance to the AZSL.

10.3.2 **Relegation from Division I**

10.3.2.1 Teams which finished in either of the two last positions (places) in Division I at the end of the prior seasonal year will be relegated to Division II. The exception to this rule shall be the U14 age group (see U14 Relegation/Promotion below).

10.3.3 **Relegation from Division II**

10.3.3.1 Teams which finished in either of the two last positions (places) in Division II at the end of the prior seasonal year will be relegated out of the AZSL. The exception to this rule shall be the U14 age group (see U14 Relegation/Promotion below).

10.3.4 **Promotion to Division I from Division II**

10.3.4.1 Teams which finished in either of the first two positions (places) in Division II at the end of the prior seasonal year may be promoted to Division I of the AZSL if open position(s) exist. The exception to this rule shall be the U14 age group (see U14 Relegation/Promotion below).

10.3.5 **U14 Relegation/Promotion**

10.3.5.1 U14 Division I Relegation

10.3.5.1.1 Teams which finished in either of the two last positions (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> place) in the U14 Division I at the end of the prior seasonal year will be relegated to Division II for U15 play the following seasonal year.

10.3.5.1.2 At the end of the seasonal year, if an open position is available in Division I, the team which finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the U14 Division I will play the team which finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the U14 Division II. This match will be held prior to the Arizona State Cup Championships, before the commencement of a new seasonal year.

10.3.5.1.2.1 The winner of this match will be promoted to the U15 Division I the following seasonal year.

10.3.5.1.2.2 The loser of this match will be relegated to the U15 Division II the following seasonal year.

10.3.5.1.3 At the end of the seasonal year, the teams which finished in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> positions (places) in the U14 Division II will fill the remaining three positions in the U15 Division II the following seasonal year.

10.3.5.1.4 At the end of the seasonal year, the teams which finished in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> positions (places) in the U14 Division II will be relegated out of the AZSL.

10.3.5.1.5 No other promotion/relegation will occur. No teams from outside AZSL will be considered for promotion to the U15 age group for the following seasonal year.

### 10.3.6 **Promotion from Other Leagues**

- 10.3.6.1 At the conclusion of the seasonal year, the League Oversight Committee will review the top finishers from other sanctioned leagues for possible promotion into Division II of the AZSL. All age groups, except for the following seasonal year's U15 age group (see the U14 exclusion above), will be considered. The League Oversight Committee will focus on the top two finishers by age group/gender in each league. Criteria to be used for consideration shall include, but not be limited to:
- 10.3.6.1.1 League results.
  - 10.3.6.1.2 Head-to-head results against other teams being considered for the same promotion.
  - 10.3.6.1.3 Head-to-head results against teams currently in AZSL.
  - 10.3.6.1.4 Tournament results.
  - 10.3.6.1.5 Information provided by the league.
  - 10.3.6.1.6 Information provided by the coach.
  - 10.3.6.1.7 Information provided by competing coaches.

### 10.4 **Promotion/Relegation: Season II (U11-U14 Only)**

- 10.4.1 Teams in the U11-U14 age groups will go through a promotion/relegation process at the end of the Season I to reconstitute the divisions for the Season II.
- 10.4.2 **Relegation from Division I**
- 10.4.2.1 Teams which finished in either of the two last positions (places) in Division I at the end of Season I will be relegated to Division II.
- 10.4.3 **Relegation from Division II**
- 10.4.3.1 Teams which finished in either of the two last positions (places) in Division II at the end of Season I will be relegated out of the AZSL.
- 10.4.4 **Promotion to Division I**
- 10.4.4.1 Teams which finished in either of the first two positions (places) in Division II at the end of Season I will be promoted to Division I of the AZSL.
- 10.4.5 **Promotion from Other Leagues**
- 10.4.5.1 At the conclusion of Season I, the League Oversight Committee will review the top finishers from other sanctioned leagues for possible promotion into Division II of the AZSL. The League Oversight Committee will select the top two finishers by age group/gender in each league for consideration for AZSL. Criteria to be used for consideration shall include, but not be limited to:
- 10.4.5.1.1 League results.
  - 10.4.5.1.2 Head-to-head results against other teams being considered for the same promotion.
  - 10.4.5.1.3 Head-to-head results against teams currently in AZSL.
  - 10.4.5.1.4 Tournament results.
  - 10.4.5.1.5 Information provided by the league.
  - 10.4.5.1.6 Information provided by the coach.
  - 10.4.5.1.7 Information provided by competing coaches.

### 10.5 **Declining a Position in the AZSL**

- 10.5.1 At the beginning of the seasonal year, a team may decline a position in the AZSL. By declining a position, the team will not be considered for inclusion in the AZSL for the entire seasonal year.

## 10.6 Scoring

- 10.6.1 All matches will count in the standings, whether or not they are actually played.
- 10.6.2 For purposes of defining team standings, teams will earn the following points:
  - 10.6.2.1 Win = 3 points
  - 10.6.2.2 Tie = 1 point
  - 10.6.2.3 Loss = 0 points
  - 10.6.2.4 Forfeit = 3 points
  - 10.6.2.5 Unplayed Match = 0 points
- 10.6.3 **Tiebreaker Criteria:** The following criteria shall be used, in sequence, as tiebreakers when two or more teams are tied in points in divisional standings:
  - 10.6.3.1 Head-to-head competition between the tied teams. **Note:** This criteria will not be used if more than two teams are tied and no single team has defeated all others with which it is tied.
  - 10.6.3.2 Goals differential (goals scored minus goals allowed). A limit of four will be counted per match.
  - 10.6.3.3 Least goals allowed. A limit of four will be counted per match.
  - 10.6.3.4 Most goals scored. A limit of four will be counted per match.
  - 10.6.3.5 Most wins.
  - 10.6.3.6 Most shutouts.
  - 10.6.3.7 In the event a tie remains between teams which may be promoted/relegated at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> season (U11-U14 only) or the end of the seasonal year, the tied teams will play a shootout (FIFA kicks from the mark).
- 10.6.4 **Forfeits**
  - 10.6.4.1 A team awarded a forfeit win will be awarded 3 team points.
  - 10.6.4.2 The team forfeiting the match will have 3 points deducted from their team's total points.
  - 10.6.4.3 The score shall be recorded as 4-0.
  - 10.6.4.4 The team forfeiting the match will be fined \$100.00 for the first infraction.
    - 10.6.4.4.1 A second infraction will result in a \$300.00 fine. The coach and the club's Director of Coaching will be summoned to a hearing by the League Oversight Committee for review and possible additional disciplinary action.

## 11 FIELDS AND SCHEDULING

### 11.1 Fields Selection

- 11.1.1 It is the goal of AZSL to utilize regional fields which are best-suited for the top level of competition in Arizona. However, it is to be understood that certain fields may not be available to AZSL, or may be logistically- or cost-prohibitive. AZSL reserves the right to schedule matches wherever needed to play the matches. Fields may be utilized anywhere within the state.
- 11.1.2 Criteria considered in the field selection shall include, but may not be limited to:
  - 11.1.2.1 Quality of the fields.
  - 11.1.2.2 Cost to rent the fields. Includes actual rental costs, fees for security, site management, site maintenance, portable restrooms, field set-up (painting, goals, flags), parking, etc.
  - 11.1.2.3 Number of fields at the site.
  - 11.1.2.4 Number of hours which fields are available at the site.
  - 11.1.2.5 Location of the fields in relation to teams playing.
  - 11.1.2.6 Availability of AZSL staff.
  - 11.1.2.7 Availability of referees.
  - 11.1.2.8 Availability of volunteers.

### 11.2 Scheduling

#### 11.2.1 Number of Matches

- 11.2.1.1 In each of Season I and Season II, each U11-U14 team will play every other team in its division, for a total of (7) matches per season, or (14) for the seasonal year.
- 11.2.1.2 Each U15-U18 team will play every other team in its division two times, for a total of (10) matches.

#### 11.2.2 Blackouts

- 11.2.2.1 Blackouts are defined as an entire weekend (Friday through Sunday) in which the team is unavailable for play. No reason is required for the unavailability.
  - 11.2.2.1.1 In Season I, each team will be afforded two (2) blackout weekends.
  - 11.2.2.1.2 In Season II (U11-U14 teams only), each team will be afforded three (3) blackout weekends.
- 11.2.2.2 Blackouts must be properly entered by each team in its online account at the time of registration. Blackouts may be revised up until the start of scheduling (time when AZSL begins work on schedules). At the start of the scheduling process, no further changes will be allowed.
  - 11.2.2.2.1 **Note:** Blackouts not registered correctly will not be recognized by AZSL. This includes registration by email, entry of blackouts in comment boxes, etc. AZSL currently uses GotSoccer for scheduling. Blackouts must be entered specifically in the designated area of the team's GotSoccer account.
- 11.2.2.3 Blackouts may not be split. For example, a team which is only unavailable on a Saturday (but is available on the Sunday) cannot split a blackout for use only on the Saturday. A registered blackout will remove the team from all matches for that weekend.

### 11.2.3 Available Play Dates

- 11.2.3.1 Each date of each season will be considered an available play date, except for those dates officially registered as blackouts.
- 11.2.3.2 Teams must be available to play on the specified rain dates, even if not originally scheduled.
- 11.2.3.3 Matches will not be scheduled for high school age teams (U15-U18) during the high school season.
  - 11.2.3.3.1 Players on high school teams may participate in the high school season. Upon completion of the high school season, players may return to their original club team without the need for transfer or loan paperwork.
  - 11.2.3.3.2 Players not participating on high school teams may participate in the league during the high school season. Should the original club team temporarily disband to participate in the high school season, remaining players may be temporarily loaned to other teams in order to participate in league play. At the conclusion of the high school season, the players must then return to the original club team. If players do not return and instead play on another team, transfer rules will apply.

### 11.2.4 Coaching Conflicts

- 11.2.4.1 A head coach must be designated for each team at the time of initial team registration. AZSL will consider two teams under the direction of one coach during the scheduling process, i.e. AZSL will try to avoid scheduling matches at the same time involving those two teams.
- 11.2.4.2 Schedules will not be changed once posted should a change in coaches occur on a team.

### 11.2.5 Postponements

- 11.2.5.1 No postponements will be granted except for events beyond the control of AZSL (weather, field closures, etc.).
- 11.2.5.2 Matches postponed due to inclement weather will be rescheduled on the first rain date established by AZSL. All teams are required to play on that date unless both teams agree to an alternate play date. In that case, the team initiating the request must provide (and pay for) a suitable field and referees (including payment of referees). Written authorization by the head coach of each team must be received by AZSL prior to an alternate date being approved.
  - 11.2.5.2.1 In the case of a rescheduled match in which two teams agreed to play on an alternate date and not on the official AZSL rain date, if a team is then unable to play the match, it will be declared a forfeit. All provisions of the forfeiture clause will then apply.
  - 11.2.5.2.2 In the event a match is unable to be played due to inclement weather, closure of fields, etc., the match score will be recorded as 0-0.
- 11.2.5.3 If a match is terminated due to weather or other field-related considerations, the match shall be considered complete if 10 minutes of the second half have elapsed before the match was terminated. If the match was of lesser duration, it shall be replayed.

11.2.6 **Forfeitures**

11.2.6.1 In the judgment of the referee, if one team is not ready to play within 15 minutes after the scheduled start of a match, then the opposing team shall be awarded a victory by forfeit. All provisions of the forfeiture clause will then apply. If a coach or team representative is not present, the team will be judged as not ready to play.

11.2.6.2 No team may participate in a scheduled match without a coach or team representative, properly registered to the team or club. If a coach or team representative is not present within 15 minutes after the scheduled start of a match, then the opposing team shall be awarded a victory by forfeit. All provisions of the forfeiture clause will then apply.

## 12 MISCONDUCT

- 12.1 All participants and spectators in AZSL activities shall be subject to all misconduct rules noted in the Laws of the Game as well as those contained herein, regardless of whether they have passes and regardless of whether the referee displayed a yellow or red card. The AZSL may investigate misconduct that is not noted in a referee's game report but is reported in writing to the AZSL by any individual.
- 12.2 A participant whose pass has been retained or who has been notified of suspension shall be ineligible to participate in any AZSL sanctioned match until the pass is returned to the team representative or the suspension satisfied. Any individual who participates in a match while ineligible shall be subject to further disciplinary action. Any team which permits an ineligible player to participate in a match shall forfeit all matches in which that player participated and the coach or team representative shall be subject to further disciplinary action.
- 12.3 Any team which refuses to take the field without cause, refuses to travel to an assigned game site without cause, or quits a match prior to its completion, shall be subject to a disciplinary hearing.
- 12.4 A referee may suspend play when necessary due to spectator or participant interference or harassment until the individual(s) creating the disturbance leaves the playing area to a distance of satisfaction to the referee. Said individual(s) shall remain silent for the duration of the match and take no further part in the match. Failure of the individual(s) to comply with the referee's request within two minutes may result in the referee's terminating the match and further disciplinary action by the AZSL.
- 12.4.1 Spectator(s) creating a disturbance may also be requested to leave the playing area by a league official (site coordinator, AZSL staff, AYSA staff, etc.).
- 12.5 Any participant or spectator who refuses to give his or her correct name to the referee or other league official while being cautioned, sent off or otherwise disciplined shall be subject to additional disciplinary action.
- 12.6 The possession, consumption or use of any alcoholic beverage, drug of abuse or controlled substance or the possession or use of any firearm at the field area by any player, coach, referee, team official or spectator prior to, during or after the playing of any AZSL activity is prohibited. Any individual who violates this provision shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- 12.7 All allegations of referee misconduct, unethical conduct, or conflict of interest occurring as a result of sanctioned youth matches shall be directed to the AYSA office. AYSA shall communicate such allegations promptly to the State Referee Administration.

## 13 PENALTIES

- 13.1 Penalties, sanctions and fines, unless otherwise noted herein, will be governed by the bylaws of AYSA. As allowed by those bylaws, the AZSL may institute stricter measures. However, in no case may lesser measures be allowed.
- 13.2 The following penalties/fines will be assessed where applicable:
- 13.2.1 A team which registers for AZSL, then withdraws after schedules are published but prior to the first match, will forfeit its entire entry fee. If feasible, a new team may be placed into the division to replace the withdrawn team. In such a case, the AZSL will follow the promotion/relegation guidelines.
- 13.2.2 A team which registers for AZSL, then withdraws after having played at least one match in the league, will forfeit its entire entry fee. Additionally, the team will be fined \$100.00 per match. No matches played will count in the standings. All such matches played will be recorded as 0-0. Additionally, a new team will not be placed into the division to replace the withdrawn team.
- 13.3 A team which refuses to travel to a game site without cause will be fined \$250.00. If a second violation occurs, the team's club will be fined \$500.00. In the event of a second violation, both the team coach/representative and a club representative shall be subject to a disciplinary hearing and possible suspension from the AZSL.
- 13.3.1 Any game(s) affected by a team's refusal to travel will result in forfeiture of said game(s). Fines listed above are in addition to the forfeiture penalties.
- 13.3.2 **Note:** Suspension from the AZSL may not necessarily be limited to the offending team, but may include any and all teams from the club.

### 13.4 Red Card Suspensions Standards

Offense	<u>Minimum</u> Suspension for Player	<u>Minimum</u> Suspension for Coach or Team Representative
Second Caution	1 Game	2 Games
Foul or Abusive Language directed at anyone other than a game official	1 Game	2 Games
Serious Foul Play – Denies an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball; Denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick, in a non-dangerous way (i.e. pulling a jersey).	1 Game	Not Applicable
Serious Foul Play other than above	2 Games	Not Applicable
Violent Conduct	3 Games	4 Games
Foul or Abusive Language directed at a game official	3 Games	4 Games

14     **GRIEVANCES, PROTESTS, AND APPEALS**

- 14.1     Requirements for filing grievances, protests and appeals shall be in accordance with AYSA bylaws (Part VII, Bylaws 701 to 721).