

SkVYSA

Handbook for Club Administrators, Coaches, Players, and Parents.

September 2018

Skagit Valley Youth Soccer Association

Skagit Valley Youth Soccer Association (SkVYSA) is comprised of eight recreational clubs and one Select club. SkVYSA is affiliated with Washington Youth Soccer Association (WYS) who, in turn, is affiliated with US Youth Soccer, US Soccer (USSF), and ultimately with FIFA (the international governing body for soccer).

SkVYSA Mission Statement

Skagit Valley Youth Soccer Association exists to promote and provide opportunities for the youth of the Skagit Valley and San Juan Island to learn, play, and enjoy the game of soccer. SkVYSA is registered as a non-profit organization.

SkVYSA Board and Club Information

For more information visit our website at: www.skvysa.org

Our mailing address is:

SkVYSA
P.O. Box 614
Mount Vernon, WA. 98273

SkVYSA Officers

President / Director of Competition	Chad Burton	president@skvysa.org
Vice President	Duane Henson	vicepresident@skvysa.org
Treasurer	Cindy Storrer	treasurer@skvysa.org
Secretary	Renee Rodriguez	secretary@skvysa.org
Registrar	Renee Rodriguez	registrar@skvysa.org

Club and Referee Information

Anacortes Parks & Recreation	Fall Recreational	www.cityofanacortes.org/parks_and_recreation.php
Burlington-Edison Youth Soccer	Fall Recreational	www.beysc.com
Conway Youth Soccer	Fall Recreational	www.conwaysoccer.org
Friday Harbor FC	Fall Recreational	www.fridayharborfc.org
La Conner Youth Soccer	Fall Recreational	www.laconneryouthsoccer.com
Liga Tlaxtli	Spring Recreational	www.facebook.com/La-Liga-Tlaxtli-110953238921862
Mount Vernon Youth Soccer	Fall Recreational	www.mvysa.org
Northwest United FC	Select/Competitive Soccer	www.nwunited.org
Sedro-Woolley Youth Soccer	Fall Recreational	www.swyouthsoccer.com
Skagit Valley Soccer Referees Assn.	Referee Representative	www.skagitrefs.org
Rule Information	FIFA Laws of the Game	www.theifab.com

Table Of Contents

<u>Page Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>
2	About Skagit Valley Youth Soccer Assn. Skagit Valley Youth Soccer Assn. and Club Contact Information
3	Table of Contents
4, 5	SkVYSA Code of Conduct
6	Soccer Field Rules
7	Referee Abuse Policy
8	Introduction and Basics
9 to 11	Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
12	Registrations
13 to 18	SkVYSA Modifications to Laws of the Game
18	Other Modifications to Laws of the Game
19 to 20	General SkVYSA Policies and Guidelines for the Fall Recreational League
21 to 23	SkVYSA Disciplinary Policy (Yellow and Red Cards)
24	Appendix A - Field Modifications
25 to 26	Appendix B - Summary of Match Duration, Player Numbers, Ball Sizes, and Other Law Modifications
27	Appendix C - Roster Recommendations
27	Appendix D - Birth Year Chart
28	Appendix E - U-11 and Older Point System for Standings
29	Appendix F - Special Rules and Standards for SkVYSA Championships

Skagit Valley Youth Soccer Association (SKVYSA)

Code of Conduct

All participants (Board members, coaches, players, parents, and other spectators):

- You are expected to be respectful of all USSF-licensed referees at all times (this also applies to any other person acting as a Referee for a match). **Abuse and/or harassment of referees will not be tolerated.** It does not matter whether or not you agree with a referee's decisions, they are final. The referee often has a different viewing angle of the play on the field and may see things differently than you do. Soccer is a contact sport. Just because a player is on the ground, does not necessarily mean that the Laws of the Game have been infringed upon. Remember that the referees are also human and are capable of a mistake.
- Please remember that this is **NOT** professional soccer. The players are kids. They are here to learn and have **FUN**.
- Good sportsmanship is expected at all times. Win gracefully, not boastfully. Lose without being negative. Remember that kids learn by example.
- This is a "family oriented" event. Foul, obscene, offensive, or vulgar language is not to be used by anyone.
- Coaches, substitute players, parents, and any other spectators are expected to remain 2 yards (yes, that is 6 feet!) from the field boundary lines.
- Remember that **they're just kids and it is just a game.**

Parents/guardians:

- You will be held responsible for the conduct of yourself, your child(ren), and any other persons/spectators who attend our events on behalf of your child(ren). You are responsible for ensuring that any other persons who attend our events on behalf of your child(ren) are informed about this Code of Conduct and its content.
- Cheer and support the whole team. Always be supportive of your child, their teammates and coaches.
- Never badger the opposing players or argue with their supporters. Be appreciative of good play from both sides.
- Let the coach do his/her job. Regardless of whether they are paid and/or trained coaches or volunteers (who may have very little experience), they deserve to be treated with respect.
- Parents are not allowed onto the field during a match for any reason. Parents who enter the field may be asked, by the referee, to leave the premises immediately. If your child is hurt/injured, it may be instinctive to want to rush out to help them. Please refrain from doing this. If the referee determines that the player needs care/assistance, the coach will be summoned onto the field to address this. You can help your injured player after the coach removes them from the field.

Players:

- Treat other players as you wish to be treated.
- Encourage your teammates.
- Be respectful towards your coach and referees.
- Play clean and fair and follow the Laws of the Game. Don't cheat.

Coaches:

- Make fun your top priority.
- Do your best to learn the Laws of the Game.
- Teach your players to play fair and follow the Laws of the Game. Do not teach deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of the players.
- Teach good sportsmanship to your players, win or lose. Teach by example.

- Remain off of the playing field at all times during the match. The only exception to this is if the referee calls for you to enter the field to attend to an injured player.
- Any issues/complaints regarding referees are to be resolved through proper authorities. NEVER try to resolve issues or grievances by confronting the referee directly.

Grievances and/or Complaints:

- Anyone having a grievance/complaint regarding any match shall present/communicate such grievance/complaint **only** to their respective club. The club will decide how to best resolve the issue and whether or not to forward it to SKVYSA for further review/action.
- Grievances/complaints will **not** be directed or sent to persons from other clubs / organizations.
- Grievances/complaints will **not** be posted to social media web sites and/or any other form of public forum. This applies regardless of whether the posting is to a "Public" or "Private" page/site.

General:

- Violations of this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action being taken by your club and/or SKVYSA. Depending on the severity of the violation, a variety of sanctions are available and may be utilized to ensure compliance. On the "minor" side, the offender may receive a verbal or written warning/caution. On the "severe" side, the offender may be removed for the remainder of the season and, possibly, barred from any future involvement with the club and/or SKVYSA. In the event that this occurs, the information will be shared with all other soccer clubs within SKVYSA and may be sent to higher sanctioning authorities as well.

The remainder of this page intentionally left blank

Soccer Field Rules

- If you attend SkVYSA events, you are expected to obey/follow these rules:

PETS MUST BE LEASHED/RESTRAINED.

Pets are not allowed on the game fields. Please control your pet. Please clean up after your pet, if necessary. If your pet is not well behaved in the presence of others, please leave it at home.

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE TO BE PRESENT OR CONSUMED AT SKVYSA EVENTS.

Failure to comply will result in immediate expulsion from the facility. Law enforcement may also be notified. Any persons who are in attendance and appear to be intoxicated will be asked to leave immediately.

NO SMOKING OR VAPOR AT SKVYSA EVENTS.

These are “family friendly” events. We insist that you respect the rights of others to enjoy our events smoke/vapor free. If you must smoke/vapor, you will need to do so inside your vehicle.

PARK AT YOUR OWN RISK

Anyone improperly parked, blocking roadways or obstructing traffic may be towed at owner’s expense. Vehicles parked near fields may be damaged by soccer balls. SkVYSA, its member clubs, and facility owners/operators are not responsible for any such damage.

PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY DUE TO CHILDREN RUNNING THROUGH THE PARKING LOTS.

There is no “hurry” that is worth the life of a child.

KEEP OFF THE GOALS & NETS

The goals and nets are not intended to be used as climbing apparatus for children. This also causes expensive damage to the equipment (which usually leads to higher player registration fees). Plus, and most important of all, this presents a very dangerous and hazardous situation to kids.

DO NOT WALK ACROSS GAME FIELDS WHEN A MATCH IS IN PROGRESS

This also includes “cutting the corners” of the fields.

- **NOTE:** Various fields/facilities are used by the clubs of SkVYSA. Most of these facilities are owned/operated by either a local school district or a government agency (such as a city/county Parks and Recreation Department). The facility owner/operator reserves the right to place additional restrictions on the fields or patrons.

- SkVYSA reserves the right to refuse access/participation to anyone as it sees fit. If you are asked to leave by a SkVYSA Board member, a member Club official, or a Referee and refuse to do so, law enforcement will be called.

Referee Abuse Policy

- The short answer is....Referee abuse, of any kind, will **NOT** be tolerated at any match involving a SkVYSA member club.

Every year, we manage to train about 25 to 35 new referees for the local area. In most years only about 5 or so continue beyond their first season. (Many quit after just one or two weekends). When we reach out to ask the reason for quitting, about 90% of the time the answer is “abusive behavior from coaches and spectators”. This is why we always seem to have a shortage of referees.

For some reason, there are some coaches and spectators who have the belief that the person in the referee uniform quit being a human being as soon as they put on that uniform. Those same coaches and spectators feel entitled to yell and scream at the referee as they see fit.

Many of you go to your child's match and wonder why the referee appears to be in his/her late-60's or 70's (yes, we have several). The answer is that we can't keep the younger referees working. Many times those are the only referees left who are willing to deal with poor sideline behavior.

Before you make the decision to yell at a referee, we ask that that you think of one thing.....”If that was my young son/daughter out there in the referee uniform, how would I feel if a bunch of grown adults were yelling at him/her?”

- A referee has the authority to abandon a match at any time if they feel threatened, intimidated, or abused by coaches and/or spectators.

- Coaches will be held responsible for the behavior of their spectators. If spectators are behaving poorly towards the referee(s), the coach will receive the warning from the referee. If the poor behavior from the spectators continues, the coach will be sent-off and will be subject to disciplinary suspension. If a team coach is sent-off during the match and there is not a rostered assistant who has cleared all required background checks, the match will be abandoned by the referee and that team will forfeit the match. (In other words, the kids will suffer for their parent's bad behavior and poor choices.)

- Coaches, bench personnel, or spectators may NOT address any member of the referee crew during play except for:

- Responding to a referee initiated communication.
- Making a request for substitutions. (limited to coaches and bench personnel)
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues, such as an injured player on the field.
- To request clarification of any call provided the request is courteous and non-argumentative. (keep in mind that the referee is not required to provide an explanation.) (limited to coaches and bench personnel)

- A coach/spectator may not, before, during, or after a game, discuss with a referee their critique of the referee's performance, other than to thank and compliment the referee. Any concerns about the quality of officiating of a referee must be addressed to the appropriate Referee Assignor (see your club for that information). You may also leave an evaluation on the referee website once 24 hours has elapsed from the match time:
www.skagitrefs.org (We do welcome positive evaluations too!)

Introduction

As you spend time at the fields and around your young soccer player and his or her friends, teammates, and their families, you'll find yourself attracted to the sport for the same reasons youngsters are: It's a free flowing, ever changing game, calling for constant problem solving by the players.

An informed fan is an appreciative fan and the more you know and appreciate the game, the easier it is to help your child become a better player. This handbook is intended to help provide basic soccer information, registration information, approved local modifications to Laws of the Game, and conduct expectations. This information is for parents, coaches, players, and referees.

The "Basics"

In soccer, two teams face each other trying to put the ball in the opponent's goal without using their hands or arms. The game is played on a level field, (similar to a football field), equally divided with goals at each end. The maximum number of players, per team, on the field at one time is 11 (This may be modified for younger age groups.). Each team is typically comprised of: Goalkeepers, Defenders, Midfielders and Forwards (these may vary at younger age levels). The goalkeepers get the privilege of using their hands/arms as long as the ball is within their own defined "penalty area".

In standard play, the time is divided into two equal halves. Game time is kept solely by the referee. The "kick-off" officially begins the game and the second half. A coin toss decides who takes the first kick-off and who defends which goal. The action is continuous until a goal is scored, an infraction (foul) occurs, or the ball goes out of play. Play is restarted with either another kick-off (in the case of a goal scored), a throw in, a goal kick, a corner kick, a free kick, or dropped ball. In soccer, once the half has started, the "game clock" does not stop (there are no "time-outs"). The referee has the discretion to add time to a half to make up for "stoppage time". The amount of any such stoppage time is up to the sole discretion of the referee. Soccer is very likely the only organized sport in which the end of the period of play is solely determined by the official. A coach may make substitutions only during a stoppage of play and must get permission from the referee before making a substitution.

All players must develop offensive and defensive skills and every player has the potential to be a scorer. Players must learn to work together as a team to be successful. There is no such thing as a fixed space or position in soccer. Players may inter-change positions according to the flow of the game.

Soccer requires very little special equipment; a ball, jersey, shorts, socks, athletic/running type shoes and shin guards (shin-guards are mandatory and must be covered entirely by socks.). Soccer shoes (cleats) are optional, but recommended, especially for our "frequently wet" grass fields. **Jewelry is NOT allowed to be worn while playing. PLEASE do not have your young soccer player get ears pierced near or during the soccer season. They will not be allowed to play with jewelry.**

Unlike most other sports, which have rules, soccer has "Laws". These are called Laws of the Game (LOTG) and are published on behalf of FIFA, the worldwide governing body of the game. The referee manages the soccer match to ensure that the LOTG are being adhered to. Sometimes there are infractions of the LOTG and the referee will call a foul on the offending party. The referee does have the option of ignoring a foul if, in his or her opinion, the team that was fouled would lose an advantage such as a quick counterattack or a good chance for a shot on goal. Sometimes, the referee also has the option to ignore infractions/fouls that he/she judges to be "trifling" or "trivial".

SkVYSA has modified some laws for youth play and to better meet the needs of the individual age groups. Please read the "SkVYSA Modifications to the Laws of the Game" section for a more detailed description.

Frequently Asked Questions

When is soccer available?

- In the spring, Liga Tlaxtli offers a recreational league. Liga Tlaxtli primarily caters to soccer within our local Hispanic communities. However, their programs are open and available for all youth. Their season typically starts in April and continues through the middle of August.
- In the fall, there are two choices (depending on age):
 - Kids can play recreational soccer for their local club.
 - Kids in the U-9 and older age groups can try out for Northwest United FC select soccer.

At what age can my child play soccer?

- Starting age levels are determined by the individual clubs.
 - Most clubs start with “Under 6” (a.k.a: U-6) for 5 year old kids.
 - Some clubs start with “Under 5” (a.k.a: U-5) for 3 and 4 year old kids
 - Northwest United FC select soccer starts out at “Under 9” (a.k.a: U-9) for 8 year old kids.

How are the age groups/divisions determined?

- Our age levels are based on an “under” age. For example: Your child is 9 years old, they will register for “Under 10” (U-10).
 - The age level is based on calendar year of birth when registering for the fall season.
 - If registering for a spring season, you will use the same age group as you would have for the previous fall season.
 - Example #1: You are registering your child for the fall season and your child has turned 7 years old this year. You register for the “Under 8” (U-8) age.
 - Example #2: Your child is currently 6 years old, but will turn 7 years old sometime this calendar year. You will also register for the “Under 8” (U-8) age (even if the birth date is during or after the fall season).
 - Example #3: You are registering for a spring season. Your child turns 12 on January 1st. You will register for the “Under 12” (U-12) age. This is because your child was 11 years old (“Under 12”) for the fall season and did not turn 12 until the next calendar year. When you register for the fall season later that same year, you will then register for “Under 13” (U-13).
- Most clubs play coed soccer up through the U-7 age group.
- At U-8, most clubs begin playing with separate gender teams.
- For SkVYSA fall recreational league, it is common for the U-13 and U-14 ages to be combined into one age division.

Can my child play at an older age level (a.k.a. “play up”)?

- Yes, most of the time.
 - Approval to play up by one age group is determined by the individual clubs. A club is not obligated to allow players to play up.
 - A parent request to play up by two divisions will require the club to obtain prior approval from SkVYSA. This is generally discouraged and is frequently denied.

Can my child play at a younger age level (a.k.a. “play down”)?

- Except for very few cases, No.
 - SkVYSA does reserve the right to make exceptions for cases of developmentally delayed kids.
 - Parents will have to submit such a request to their respective clubs. The club will then have to forward the request to SkVYSA for approval. It is highly recommended that any such requests be made to the club as early as possible to allow time for review.
 - A letter from the child's medical doctor will be required to be submitted as part of the request. The letter will need to state why the child needs to play with kids of a younger age. The letter will also have to state that this is not likely to present a safety issue to other players (such as a large size difference).

Can a girl be allowed to play on a boys team?

- Yes, if the individual club chooses to allow it.

Can a boy be allowed to play on a girls team?

- No. If the team is designated as a girls team, boys are not allowed to play. No exceptions.

Is jewelry allowed?

- **NO.** Please do NOT get your child's ears pierced immediately before, or during, the soccer season. All jewelry, including taped earrings, is prohibited and must be removed during the game. The only exception is for medical alert jewelry. In this case, the item must be securely taped to the body so that it does not present a danger to the player or to other players. This should be done with clear tape so it can be identifiable to emergency personnel, if necessary. The referee will have the final decision as to the safety of the item.

Can my child play with a cast?

- Yes, with some restrictions.
 - The cast must be sufficiently padded so as to not present a hazard to other players. Large bubble wrap is a good way to do this. The referee will have the final decision as to the safety of the item.
 - If the player is using the cast as a “tool” to gain an advantage or as “weapon” which presents a hazard to other players, he/she will be removed from the game. The referee shall have the final decision in all such matters.

What is the cost?

- Fees are determined by individual clubs and may vary based on age level.
 - Recreational soccer generally is around \$100.00 for the season.
 - Select soccer is more expensive, but also includes trained coaching and a longer season.

Recreational or Select Soccer?

- All SkVYSA soccer through “Under 8” (a.k.a: U-8), for 7 year old kids, is recreational soccer.
- Children in the U-9 (or older) age group can either play recreational soccer or they can try out for Northwest United FC select soccer club.
- Recreational soccer typically ends with the U-14 age group. We are sometimes able to field teams for kids older than this. However, they will usually have to play in the Snohomish County league (This means more out-of-area travel and a possibility of games on Sundays.). If you are interested in this, contact your local club.
- Northwest United FC typically has teams all the way up to U-18.

What is Recreational Soccer?

- Focus is more on fun.
- Recreational soccer is open to all.
- Everyone gets to play. Coaches should strive to give equal playing time to all players, regardless of skill or ability.
- There are no try-outs.
- Teams are determined/formed by the individual club Registrars.
- Travel is normally limited to the Skagit Valley area and, at U-11 and older, San Juan Island.
- Coaches are volunteers. Some may be very knowledgeable about the game. Others may not know much about the game but have agreed to give their time and effort so kids have an opportunity to play.
- Games are usually on Saturdays. (Sunday games are a possibility for older age teams playing in the Snohomish County league.)

What is Select Soccer? (Sometimes known as “competitive” or “travel teams”)

- More competitive level of play than recreational soccer. Playing time is the discretion of the coach.
- Players are selected and placed to teams based on try-outs.
- Try-outs are typically held in late-April and early-May.
- Travel varies and could, potentially, be anywhere in the state.
- Games could be on Saturday or Sunday.
- Coaches are paid and licensed (trained).
- Season is longer.
- Most teams will play in various tournaments during the summer.
- Most teams will start their regular season in September and continue through early December.
- Some teams may play a spring season as well.
- Some teams may play in a State Championship Tournament.

Can my child play fall recreational soccer and select soccer at the same time?

- No. Players currently registered/rostered with a select team are not allowed to play in the fall recreational league. Liga Tlaxtli sets its own policies and may or may not have any such limitations for its spring recreational season.
- If a child plays recreational soccer in the fall season, they are allowed to play select soccer at the conclusion of the fall recreational season. However, the fall recreational season must be over before a player begins participation with select soccer. This shall include attending any practices with a select team.
 - A player who “quits” a recreational team after the first games have been played, but prior to the conclusion of the fall recreational season, will be required to wait for the official end of the recreational season (this depends on the age level) before beginning participation with a select soccer team.

When are schedules available for the fall recreational season?

- The start of team practices is up to the individual clubs and, possibly, up to individual coaches.
- Game schedules for the fall recreational season are usually published about 10 days before the start of the first games.
- The first SkVYSA games will be on the first Saturday after Labor Day. Some clubs may hold a “jamboree” or other season “kickoff” event prior to this.
- Games are published online via the Team Connect feature of our registration vendor. Please make sure that your registration profile information is current. Also, when you receive an email inviting you to “join” your team, please don't disregard it.
- SkVYSA recreational games are held on Saturdays.
 - For U-10 and younger ages, the season will conclude on the last Saturday in October.
 - For U-11 and older, the top 4 teams in each age/gender division will advance to the SkVYSA Championships on the first Saturday of November.

The remainder of this page intentionally left blank

Registration

How do I register for spring recreational soccer?

- Contact Liga Tlaxtli directly. March is usually the best time to do this. See the contact information at the beginning of this handbook.

How do register for select soccer?

- Northwest United FC usually holds try-outs in late April and early May for the next fall season. Please see their website for detailed information.

How do I register for the fall recreational league?

- Each club conducts its own registration in accordance with its own policies.
- Opening and closing of registration is up to the individual clubs.
 - Most clubs open registration in late-April or early-May and close registration around the end of June.
 - Club policies on late registrations varies. Some will take late registrations. Some will not. An additional late registration fee may be charged. Any such late registrations may be subject to team roster space availability.
- Other policies (such as refunds/cancellations) are the discretion of the individual clubs.

Which club do I register with?

- Players wishing to play spring recreational soccer with Liga Tlaxtli should contact them directly in March.
- Players wishing to play select soccer should check the Northwest United FC website starting in April for registration and try-out information.
- Players wishing to play fall recreational soccer should register with their local club.
 - Within SkVYSA, local club boundaries follow school district boundaries and are based on the players residence.
 - Players are encouraged to play within their designated local club, based on their residence. However, SKVYSA does not have any policies which restrict players from playing in a different club. A player may only play for one club at a given time.

How are recreational teams formed each year?

- Your Club Registrar (a volunteer) is responsible for forming teams. Registrars are authorized by Washington Youth Soccer (WYS) to form teams and they do so according to the Rules and Regulations of WYS.
- Teams are formed by age groups, determined by the player's birth date. The age groups are based on calendar year birth date. See: "***How are the age groups/divisions determined?***" in the FAQ section above for details.
- Teams are registered by age group, according to the oldest player on the team. It is the responsibility of the individual clubs to verify the age/gender of players.
- A player can be rostered to only one team at any given time. Players rostered to one team and playing on another team are considered to be playing for two teams. Teams found to be playing ineligible players will forfeit their games.
- There are absolutely *no guarantees* of any player being on the same team each season. The club registrar will form teams to the best of his/her ability.
- The coach cannot recruit players or promise a player that they will be on his/her team. (This would be considered a select team) The coach should always refer new players to the Club.

Soccer Rules

**The current FIFA Laws of the Game (LOTG) apply,
except as modified by The Skagit Valley Youth Soccer Association**

Approved SkVYSA modifications are as follows (Current as of August 15, 2018):

Law 1—The Field of Play

Dimensions:

- For the age divisions of U-12 and younger, the field dimensions will be modified (smaller). Since the outer field dimensions are modified (the touchlines and goal lines), then the interior markings (center circle, penalty area, goal area, etc.) may also be modified, proportionate to the outer field. See Appendix A for details.

Field Markings:

- Since goal-keepers are not used at the U-7 and younger age divisions, the penalty area and goal area lines will be deleted (not painted). For these games, the interior markings will only consist of a halfway line, a center circle, and corner arcs.
- For recreational play, there are no penalty kicks at the U-10 and younger age divisions. Therefore, the penalty spot and penalty arc will be deleted (not painted).
- For select/competitive play, penalty kicks for U-10 and below will be determined by WYS rules. If needed, markings will be painted in accordance with WYS guidelines.

Flag-Posts (corner flags):

- Flag posts are not used for age groups U-8 and younger.
- Flag posts are recommended, but not required, for age groups U-9 and older.

The Corner Arc:

- For age groups U-8 and younger, the corner arc will be 2 feet from the corner.

Goals:

- Goal sizes may be reduced for age groups U-12 and younger. See Appendix A for details.
- Goals are not required to be white in color.

Technical areas:

- Technical areas are not required to be painted. However, Referees will have the discretion to enforce a technical area (even if not painted). The purpose of this is to keep coaches, substitutes, spectators, etc. from standing near the goal line or behind the goal line (or the goal itself). These areas are off-limits during play.
- In the event that technical areas are not painted, all coaches, substitutes, and spectators are expected to remain at least 2 yards from the touchlines.

Build-out line:

- For recreational play, the build-out line rule will be enforced at U-10 and below. The build-out line will be painted according to Appendix A.
- For select/competitive play, the build-out rules and markings will follow WYS guidelines.

Law 2 – The Ball

Qualities and Measurements:

- For youth play, balls will not be required to contain official FIFA logos or markings. The balls must be of the appropriate size for the age group (as outlined below). The ball should be inflated to the specifications called for

by the manufacturer. They must be safe and suitable for play. The Referee will have the final decision as to the suitability of a ball.

- The designated home team shall be responsible for providing a suitable game ball. However, in the spirit of youth soccer, if the home team is unable to provide a ball, it is expected that the visitors will try to accommodate and supply a ball. In no case will a match not be played for the sole reason of the home team not having a suitable game ball.

Ball size:

- Ball sizes for youth play will be determined by age group as follows:
 - U-8 and younger will use a size 3 ball
 - U-9 through U-12 will use a size 4 ball
 - U-13 and older will use a size 5 ball (standard FIFA size)

Law 3 – The Players

Number of Players:

- For age groups U-12 and younger, the number of players on the field for each team, during play, is reduced.
- The number of players on the field, during play, shall be as follows:

U-7 and below	3 players (no goal keepers are used)
U-8	4 players (includes a goal keeper)
U-9 and U-10	7 players (includes a goal keeper)
U-11 and U-12	9 players (includes a goal keeper)

- For age groups U-10 and below, there will be no established minimum number of players required to play and/or continue a match. (U-11 and older are subject to the requirements of FIFA Laws of the Game).

Substitutions:

- For youth play, substitutions are unlimited in number. However, the requirements for obtaining permission from the Referee shall still apply.
- For youth play, substituted players may return to the match. (Return substitutions are allowed.)
- Substitute names are not required to be given to referee prior to match.
- Properly rostered players may play regardless of when they arrive at the field. If rosters are checked by the referee, then late-arriving players will also need to check in with the referee.

Law 4 - The Players' Equipment

Safety (Reminder Only. Not a Modification.):

- Jewelry is **NOT** permitted. All jewelry must be removed. Wrapping earrings with tape, band-aids, or other coverings is NOT a suitable substitute for removal. The only allowed exception is for medical alert notification bracelets and necklaces. In these circumstances, the item must be securely taped to the player so as to not present a danger to either themselves or other players (it is preferred that medical information be visible after taping). The Referee shall have the final authority to determine the safety of such items.
 - Players may play with a cast if the following conditions are met:
 - The coach must receive a note/letter from a doctor approving the player for play (does not need to be shown to the Referee).
 - The cast must be adequately padded so as to not present a danger to either themselves or other players.
- The Referee shall have the final authority to determine the safety of such items. (large bubble wrap is recommended)

- The cast must not be used in an offensive manner, used as a “weapon”, or used to gain an unfair advantage during the match. Misuse of a cast, as determined by the Referee, shall be grounds for the player to be removed from the match (will not be regarded as a “send-off” (red card) dismissal unless a send-off offense, according to Law 12, has occurred).

Compulsory Equipment:

- Published restrictions regarding the color of tape over socks, if used, will not be enforced.

Colors:

- Published restrictions regarding the color of undershirts and/or undershorts, if used, will not be enforced.

Other Equipment:

- Due to the inclement weather that is common for our matches, it shall be permissible for players to wear additional layers of clothing under their game uniform.

- Any such clothing shall not present a danger to either themselves or other players. “Hoodie” sweatshirts are discouraged. However, if worn, they should have the hood tucked inside of the uniform. The Referee shall have the final authority to determine the safety of such items.

- The game uniform shall be worn as the outermost garment.

- Published restrictions regarding the color of head covers, if used, will not be enforced.

Law 5 - The Referee

- Video Assistant Referees (VAR) will not be used.

- Unfortunately, we tend to have a shortage of licensed Referees. For recreational play, the absence of a licensed Referee will not be grounds to abandon or otherwise fail to play a scheduled match. If a mutually agreeable volunteer cannot be found, then each coach (or assistant) will act as the referee for one half of the match. For select/competitive play, procedures for the absence of a licensed Referee will be determined by WYS.

- Age groups U-7 and younger will not normally use USSF licensed Referees (although there are occasional exceptions). The team coaches will share the duties of the Referee. Each coach referees one half of the match unless another mutually agreed volunteer is available to act as the referee.

Law 6 - The Other Match Officials

- For youth play, Reserve Assistant Referees, Additional Assistant Referees, Fourth Officials, and Video Assistant Referees (VAR) are not assigned to matches. The duties published for such positions will be undertaken by the Assistant Referees (if assigned). Since VAR is not used, those duties will not be assigned to other officials.

- If a Referee is unable to continue a match, he/she shall name their replacement, if one is available.

- The absence of a full crew (Center Referee, and two Assistant Referees) for a U-11 and older match will not be grounds to abandon or otherwise fail to play a scheduled match. The match will be played, as scheduled.

- For age groups U-8 through U-10 no other match officials are assigned (only use a center Referee).

Law 7 - The Duration of the Match

Periods of play:

- The duration of each half will be determined by the age group. Modifications are as follows:

- U-6 will play (4) 8-minute quarters, with a 3-minute break between each.

- U-7 will play (4) 10-minute quarters, with a 3-minute break between each.

- U-8 through U-10 will play 25-minute halves.

- U-11 and U-12 will play 30-minute halves.

- U-13 and U-14 will play 35-minute halves.
- U-15 and U-16 will play 40-minute halves.
- U-17 and older do not have modifications (will play 45-minute halves).

Half-Time Interval:

- For recreational play, the half-time interval will be 5 minutes.
- For select/competitive play, the interval will be 5 minutes, unless otherwise specified by WYS.

Allowance for Time Lost:

- For youth play, there is not normally a fourth official. The Referee will determine the amount of time to be added to each half.
- The Referee is not required to announce the amount of stoppage time added (if any), but is encouraged to do so if reasonably possible.

Abandoned Match:

- If a recreational match is abandoned, for any reason, it will be up to SkVYSA to determine the final status of the match and whether it will be replayed.
- For select/competitive matches, these decisions will rest with the appropriate league administrators.

Law 8 - The Start and Restart of Play

- No modifications.

Law 9 - The Ball In and Out of Play

- No modifications.

Law 10 - Determining the Outcome of a Match

Winning Team:

- For select/competitive play, the appropriate league authority will determine if a match must have a winner and the procedure to be used for determining the outcome of a drawn (tied) match.
- For recreational play, regular season matches are not required to have a winner. They may end in a draw (tie). No extra time periods will be played. No Kicks from the Penalty Mark will be used.
- The SkVYSA Recreational Championship matches must have a winner. In the event that a match ends drawn (tied), the match will proceed to Kicks from the Penalty Mark to determine a winner. No extra time periods will be used. The Away Goals rule will not be used. (See Appendix F)

Law 11 - Offside

- For U-8 and younger, Law 11 will not be enforced. However, the spirit/intent of it will be. This means that an attacking player just standing in front of the opposing goal and just waiting there for the ball may be penalized. This is sometimes referred to as "cherry-picking". Before penalizing any such player, a verbal warning and explanation should be given (prefer that the coach be told too). Use discretion and only penalize for repeat offenses.
- For recreational play, Law 11 will be enforced as published for U-9 and older. However, coaches and parents are expected to understand that it is normally the job of Assistant Referees to watch for this. We do not normally assign Assistant Referees to these matches. Therefore, it is possible that a referee may not be in position to see a "close" offside call. The referee will use their best judgment and their decisions will be final. Coaches and parents will **NOT** argue offside calls (or lack of). For those coaches who may be more familiar with soccer "tactics"; you are not to be trying to coach "offside trap" at these levels.
- For select/competitive play from U-9 through U-11: If a build-out line rule is in place, then offside will only be enforced for the portion of the field from the build-out line to the goal line. In the absence of a build-out line rule, offside is penalized as published.

Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct

Direct Free Kick:

- For recreational play, at ages U-10 and younger, no direct free kicks will be taken. The offenses listed in this section will still be enforced. However, infringements will be penalized with an indirect free kick instead. This also means that no penalty kicks will be awarded at ages U-10 and younger. This shall also apply to any/all other offenses listed in the Laws of the Game which would ordinarily be penalized with a direct free kick.

Disciplinary Action:

- (Recreational and Select/Competitive Play) For age groups U-10 and younger, yellow and red cards will not be shown to players. If a player, substitute, or substituted player commits an offense that would normally require the display of a card, the referee will advise the coach that the player needs to be removed from the game for a period of time (a "time out"). The length of removal should be appropriate to the offense. The coach should use that time to instruct the player or substitute as to why that behavior is not appropriate. Coaches are expected to comply with referee instructions regarding this rule. A coach refusal to comply could lead to the abandonment of the match by the Referee.

- Published guidelines on penalizing coaches for improper behavior will be used (a.k.a. "ask, tell, dismiss"). For all matches sanctioned by WYS, (covers all local matches except those select/competitive matches organized by PSPL) if a coach has to be formally warned or dismissed for their behavior, He/She will also be shown a card (Yellow = warning, Red = dismissal).

Law 13 - Free Kicks

Procedure:

- For recreational play at U-10 and younger, there will be no penalty kicks (see Law 12 & Law 14). If an offense occurs which would ordinarily result in a penalty kick, the ball will be re-located to the edge of the penalty area, nearest the location of the offense. The indirect free kick will be taken from that location.

- If the age group rules call for a reduced distance for the opponents to retire at the taking of a kickoff (meaning less than 10 yards), then the required distance to retire for the taking of a free kick shall be reduced to that same distance. (Example: If the opponents are only required to be 6 yards away from the ball at the taking of a kickoff, then the opponents will only be required to remain 6 yards away from the ball at the taking of free kicks.)

Offenses and Sanctions:

- See note above ("Procedure") regarding required distance for opponents.

Law 14 - The Penalty Kick

- (As noted above, in Law 12 and Law 13) For recreational play, U-10 and younger age groups will not use Penalty Kicks.

Law 15 - The Throw-In

Procedure:

- In the event that a player is handicapped by the permanent loss of an arm, that player shall be permitted to use only one hand to take a throw-in. However, that player will be expected to follow the spirit of the law in all other ways (example: Both feet on the ground and throw the ball from behind the head).

Offenses and Sanctions:

- For U-8 and younger: For other than a handling offense, an offense of this law will not result in a change of possession. The player will be given a chance to re-take the throw-in. In addition to allowing the player to retake the throw, Referees are encouraged to instruct player as to their mistake. Only allow 1 retake per occurrence. Play on after that, even if still incorrect. We don't want half of the match taken up with throw-ins being taken repeatedly. Since incorrect throw-ins do not result in a change of possession at this level, it is acceptable for a referee to give instructions/reminders to players prior to the throw if it will help teach the player and keep the game flowing.

Law 16 - The Goal Kick

- For U-7 and younger age groups, there is not likely to be a painted goal area (see Law 1). The goal kick will be taken from the goal line, next to the goal.

Law 17 - The Corner Kick

- See note in Law 13, above (“Procedure”), regarding required distance for opponents.

Other Modifications to Laws of the Game:

“Heading” of the Ball:

- Per USSF Player Development Initiative: Deliberate heading of the ball will not be allowed at U-11 and below. If a player, at U-11 and below, deliberately heads the ball in a game, the Referee shall stop play and award an IFK to the opposing team at the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the offenders own goal area, the IFK should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the offense occurred.

- If a player is of the U-11 age but is playing-up on a U-12 team, it shall be the responsibility of the coach to discourage the younger player from heading the ball. The referee will not enforce “no heading” rules in a match designated as U-12.

Build-Out Line:

- At younger age levels, the build out line is used to promote playing the ball out of the back, in an unpressed setting. When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play or at the taking of a goal kick, the opposing team must retreat behind the build out line. At any time the goalkeeper may pass, throw or roll the ball to a teammate, but the goalkeeper does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes. After the ball is put into play, the opposing team can then cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.

Clarifications:

- The ball shall be considered “put into play” when a teammate of the goalkeeper receives AND touches the ball. In the case of a goal kick, the ball must also leave the penalty area, per Laws of the Game. If the ball crosses the build-out line, it is considered to be “put into play” whether or not touched by the goal-keepers teammate.

- In the case of a goal kick, there is no requirement that the goalkeeper take the kick. For the purposes of this rule, the term “goalkeeper” also includes any player taking a goal kick.

- A goalkeeper is not required to wait for all opponents to retreat behind the build-out line before putting the ball in play. However, if a goalkeeper chooses to put the ball in play before all opponents have retreated behind the build-out line, he/she accepts the risk/consequences of the ball being intercepted by those opponents.

- A goalkeeper who is waiting for opponents to retreat behind the build-out line shall not be penalized for controlling the ball with their hands for more than 6 seconds.

The remainder of this page intentionally left blank

General SkVYSA Policies and Guidelines for the Fall Recreational League:

- SkVYSA shall be the final authority for determining the outcome or status of a match.
- The individual clubs shall have the responsibility to verify the age/gender of players. A birth certificate should be viewed by a club official. Due to liability concerns, clubs are discouraged from keeping copies of birth certificates.
- Official match scores and standings are only recorded for U-11 and older age groups.
- For U-11 and older ages, a team will be given a ten minute “grace period” in which to field a team with the minimum number of eligible players (seven). If a team cannot field at least seven eligible players at ten minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, the match shall be declared a forfeit in favor of the team with enough players. The referee shall determine if a team had the minimum number of players in time to play the match. Some common sense will be applied here. Example: If a team is short the minimum number of players at ten minutes past scheduled kick-off but the remaining player(s) are seen at the venue (in the parking lot or walking out to the field), the game will be played as normal (not a forfeit).

Exception: If a team is required to travel to the match via ferry boat, the referee will extend the grace period to 15 minutes. If any member (coach or player) of the team arrives within the grace period, the referee shall then further extend the grace period by whatever time is needed to allow the remainder of the team to arrive and take the field. This is due to weather and ferry traffic conditions which are beyond control of the team.

- All coaches are expected to cooperate with match referees at all times (regardless of whether or not they agree with the referee decisions). Any coach who refuses to cooperate with referees (Examples: Refusal to provide player information for misconduct purposes or refusing to control the behavior of their team spectators) shall first be issued a warning (yellow card). If the coach still refuses to cooperate with the referee, the coach shall be dismissed (red card). See the SkVYSA Disciplinary Policy for penalties involving misconduct.
- Coaches and spectators will not be behind the goal line during a match. Referees do have the option to enforce a more stringent “technical area” which could include making the area from the penalty area line to the goal line off-limits as well.
- Any team found to be playing with ineligible players, regardless of reason, will automatically forfeit all matches in which the ineligible player(s) played any portion of.
 - In the absence of clear proof to the contrary, it will be assumed that an ineligible player(s) played in a match if they are on the team roster.

Player Eligibility Requirements:

- Players who are rostered to any team playing in any fall select league will not be eligible to play recreational soccer for the fall season.
- Players must be properly rostered (by the club Registrar) on a team in order to participate in a match.
- Players must be of the proper age / gender for the team.
 - A girl may play on a team designated as Boys, if the club chooses to allow it.
 - A boy may not play on a team designated as Girls. No exceptions. A child's gender is determined by birth certificate. A child without a gender specified on their birth certificate will be presumed to be a boy for team assignment purposes.
 - A player may “play-up” by one age group if the club chooses to allow it. Playing-up by more than one age group requires prior approval from SkVYSA (to be enforced beginning Fall 2019)
 - A player may not “play-down” except in rare cases and ONLY with prior approval from SkVYSA. Any such approval will need to be reviewed/renewed each year.
- A player may only be rostered to one team for a season. There will be no “guest players” or “player swapping” between teams for league matches (even within the same club). This shall not apply to practice or scrimmage matches not organized by SkVYSA.
 - Exception: (For U-10 and younger only) If a team does not have enough players to play a match, it shall be permitted to “borrow” players from the opposing team, if the coaches agree. This is permitted to keep with the spirit of allowing the kids to play and have fun. This is permitted only at U-10 and younger due to the fact that SkVYSA does not keep official scores / standings at these age levels.

- Clarification for U-11 and older: If a team does not have the minimum required number of players to play a match (seven), the match is declared a forfeit in favor of the team with enough players. The teams will then have the option of playing a “friendly” match (which will not count for standings). In such a case, the team without enough players may “borrow” players from the opponent.
- Players suspended for disciplinary reasons may not play in a match.
 - Any such players will be required to attend the match(es) to serve their suspension.
 - Suspended players are permitted to sit with their team. They will not be in game uniform for the match. They are not prohibited from taking part in any pre-match/warm-up period with their team.

Coach requirements:

- All coaches must be cleared by WYS and issued a Risk Management Acceptance (RMA) (a background check) before having any involvement with players.
- Due to recently enacted federal laws, if abuse is reported by a player, that coach is REQUIRED to report it to their club immediately (same day).
- If a coach is sent-off/expelled from a match and there is not a rostered assistant who has a RMA, the referee will abandon (terminate) the match. That coach's team will forfeit the match. In addition, the coach will likely be suspended for at least one additional match (see SkVYSA Disciplinary Policy). Any “fill-in” coach will also be required to have a RMA and be listed on the team roster prior to having direct involvement with players or participating as a coach in a match.
- At recreational soccer, coaches will make the best effort possible to see that all players get an equal amount of playing time in matches. At recreational soccer, all players get to play regardless of skill or ability.

The remainder of this page intentionally left blank

Skagit Valley Youth Soccer Association (SKVYSA)

Disciplinary Policy

- (1) Committee Members. There shall be a total of five persons serving as the Disciplinary Committee. These five persons shall be determined by a vote of the SKVYSA Board of Directors and Club Representatives prior to the start of matches for a season.
 - 1.1 Three of these shall be the primary members. The primary members shall appoint one person to serve as the Committee Chair. The primary members will serve in all matters unless a conflict of interest exists in the matter being adjudicated.
 - 1.2 The other two members will serve as alternate members (“Alternate #1” and “Alternate #2”). The alternate members will only serve in the event that one or two of the primary members have a conflict of interest with the matter being adjudicated. In the event that the Committee Chair has a conflict of interest, the alternate member who is serving in his/her place shall become the Committee Chair for that particular matter.
 - 1.3 Since match misconduct issues involve interpreting the Laws of the Game, it is recommended that committee members also be licensed as USSF Referees or have significant background in the game of soccer to be knowledgeable as to the Laws of the Game.
 - 1.4 A committee member may also serve on the Board of Directors (or similar title) for an individual club. However, no club shall have more than one such person serving on the Disciplinary Committee at a given time.
- (2) Conflict of Interest. No committee member shall participate/vote in matters where he/she may be perceived as having a conflict of interest. It shall be the responsibility of an individual committee member to declare a conflict of interest as necessary. Although not necessarily covering every situation/possibility, the following items would constitute a conflict of interest:
 - 2.1 The committee member, or their family, is the subject of the matter being adjudicated.
 - 2.2 The committee member served as a match official for the matter being adjudicated (regardless of whether or not the member is licensed as a USSF Referee).
 - 2.3 The committee member is, in some other way, directly affiliated with one (or both) of the teams involved in the matter (Head Coach, Assistant Coach, has a child playing on the same team, or other similar affiliations).
 - 2.4 Any other situations in which the committee member feels that he/she cannot participate without bias or prejudice.
 - 2.4.1 In the event that a committee member declares a conflict of interest, the Committee Chair shall appoint Alternate #1 or Alternate #2 to fill in for the adjudication of the matter at hand.
- (3) Process for Adjudicating Misconduct. All committee members shall have access to misconduct reports that are filed by USSF Referees. This is typically done electronically via the Skagit Valley Soccer Referees Assn. (SVSRA) website. Committee members will be instructed in the use of such website. In the event that misconduct is reported by someone who is not a licensed Referee (a person acting as the match official in the absence of a licensed USSF Referee), such reports may be filed by email and/or other electronic means. Any such reports will be sent to all committee members.
 - 3.1 The current SVSRA website contains provisions for committee members to provide their input on misconduct issues. For misconduct that is reported by USSF Referees, this is the process that will be used as it allows all members to be involved and see feedback/comments from all other members.
 - 3.1.1 All committee members will review and provide an initial opinion/vote on misconduct reports no later than the Monday evening following each week of games.
 - 3.1.2 If any appeals have been filed and heard, the committee members will review the

misconduct report again and provide a final opinion/vote.

3.1.2.1 This final review will be completed no later than the end of the weekly period for adjudication as specified below.

3.1.3 Wednesday evenings during the game season, at 8:00pm, shall be the end of the weekly period for adjudication of misconduct reports.

3.1.3.1 At the end of the weekly period for adjudication, the Committee Chair shall, based on the opinions/votes of the committee members, record the final status of the misconduct (upheld or denied). Such determination shall be made by simple majority vote of the participating committee members. The Committee Chair shall report any applicable suspensions to the SKVYSA President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Registrar immediately. The Committee Chair is the only person who is to make a final determination entry on the SVSRA website.

(4) Appeal of Misconduct. If a person accused of misconduct has requested an appeal, such appeal may be conducted by email or other acceptable electronic means or by an in-person hearing with the Disciplinary Committee. The Committee Chair will make a final determination as to which method will be used to receive testimony and review the appeal.

4.1 Any electronic means used to review the appeal will include all committee members simultaneously (example: If email is being used instead of the SVSRA website, email replies will be sent to all committee members. Not just the member who sent the original email). Electronic communications sent among the committee members for review will not include the person(s) filing the appeal.

4.1.1 Tuesday evening, at 6:00pm, following a match, will be the deadline for an appeal to be filed and all pertaining documents/testimony to be received.

4.1.1.1 The Committee Chair has the authority to extend the time for the purpose of holding an in-person hearing, if needed (example: A hearing is called by the Chair, but the hearing cannot be held until 7:30pm on Tuesday. It is acceptable to extend the time deadline for the hearing.)

4.2 All misconduct decisions made by the Disciplinary Committee are final. There are no further appeals. Any persons who attempt to circumvent this and appeal to other bodies / organizations (thus wasting the time of the volunteers serving on the committee) could be in violation of a Code of Conduct. Such persons may face further disciplinary sanctions for any such violations.

(5) Sanctions / Penalties for Misconduct. The following shall be used as a guide for determination of sanctions / penalties for misconduct. It should be followed as often as possible. However, if the Disciplinary Committee determines that extraordinary circumstances and/or conditions exist, they shall have the authority to impose sanctions / penalties greater than those contained in these guidelines. They shall also have the authority to issue lesser sanctions if circumstances warrant it (Should not be very common).

5.1 Cautions (yellow card) to players.

5.1.1 Yellow card accumulation. Any player who is cautioned for the third time during sanctioned matches in a season shall be suspended for the next match. (Clarification: This does not affect the current match. The player is allowed to complete the match in which the third caution was received (unless a send-off is issued as well)).

5.1.1.1 For players in the U-11 and older age classifications: A suspension for an accumulation of yellow cards shall not be enforced for the final game in the SKVYSA Championships. However, if the third caution is received during the final match of the regular season, a suspension will be enforced for the first match of the SKVYSA Championships.

5.2 Warnings (yellow card) to coaches.

5.2.1 Yellow card accumulation. Any coach who is warned / cautioned for the second time during sanctioned matches in a season shall be suspended for the next match. (Clarification: This does not affect the current match. The coach is allowed to complete the match in which the

- second warning / caution was received (unless an expulsion / send-off is issued as well)).
- 5.3 Send-off (red card) to players. Players who are sent-off from a match shall be suspended for a minimum of one full match (in addition to the match time already missed due to the send-off). Suspension will begin immediately upon final determination of the Disciplinary Committee.
- 5.3.1 For players in the U-10 and below age classifications, the Disciplinary Committee shall have the option to allow the player who has been sent-off to not face a minimum suspension. Some factors which may impact such a determination are the severity of the send-off offense and the amount of game time already missed
- 5.3.1.1 Example #1: If the offense was not violent in nature and a significant amount of the game was missed due to the send-off, the committee shall have the option to enforce a penalty of “time already served” as punishment (no suspension).
- 5.3.1.2 Example #2: The offense was violent in nature. The committee should enforce the appropriate suspension.
- 5.3.1.3 Example #3: The offense was not violent in nature, but occurred in the last few minutes of the match (very little match time missed by the offending player). A suspension for one match may be appropriate, depending on the details of the offense.
- 5.3.2 A send-off for Violent Conduct shall require a minimum two game suspension (longer may be justified).
- 5.3.3 A send-off for Serious Foul Play should be heavily considered for at least a two game suspension. Circumstances / details can be considered in such a decision.
- 5.3.4 Offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures is a send-off offense. By itself, it should be subject to the minimum suspension (one match). However, if it is part of another send-off offense or the offending player continues to use such behavior after being sent-off, then additional suspension time would be justified.
- 5.3.4.1 Example #1: Player is sent-off for Offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures. The player figures that they might as well “get their money's worth” and continue the behavior. A longer suspension should be given.
- 5.3.4.2 Example #2: Player is sent-off for another offense. Player then begins to use foul language or make obscene/offensive gestures figuring that, since they have already been sent-off, nothing worse can be done. A longer suspension should be imposed as a consequence of this behavior.
- 5.4 Expulsion (red card) to coaches (including registered assistant coaches and/or managers). Coaches (as defined above) who are sent-off from a match shall be suspended for a minimum of two full matches (in addition to the match time already missed due to the send-off). Suspension will begin immediately upon final determination of the Disciplinary Committee.
- 5.5 In the event that a player is being considered for a suspension that would equal or exceed half of a season of matches (four matches), the matter will be referred to the SKVYSA President for review by the full SKVYSA Board of Directors and Club Representatives.
- 5.6 In the event that a coach (as defined above) is being considered for a suspension that would equal or exceed three matches, the matter will be referred to the SKVYSA President for review by the full SKVYSA Board of Directors and Club Representatives.
- 5.7 In the event that a coach (as defined above) is being considered for a suspension for the second time in a single season, the matter will be referred to the SKVYSA President for review by the full SKVYSA Board of Directors and Club Representatives.

Appendix A - Field Modifications

	Min. Length	Max. Length	Min. Width	Max. Width	Min. Goal Size	Max. Goal Size	Recommend. Goal Size
U-6/7	30 yds	30 yds	20 yds	20 yds.	Cones	4 x 6 ft	4 x 6 ft
U-8	35 yds	40 yds	20 yds	25 yds	5 x 7ft	6 x 12ft	6 x 8 ft
U-9/10	55 yds	65 yds	35 yds	45 yds	6 x 12 ft	6 x 18 ft	6 x 12 ft
U-11/12	70 yds	80 yds	50yds	55 yds	6 x 18 ft	8 x 24 ft	6 x 18 ft

	Center Circle	Goal Area	Corner Arc	Penalty Area	Penalty Spot
U-6/7	3 yds	N/A	2 ft	N/A	N/A
U-8	4 yds	2 yds	2 ft	6 yds	N/A
U-9/10	8 yds	4 yds	3 ft	12 yds	N/A
U-11/12	10 yds	6 yds	3 ft	18 yds	10 yds

Note: In all cases, the field must be longer than it is wide. (It must be a rectangle. A square field is not permitted.)

Build-out lines:

U-8 and younger will use the halfway line as the build-out line.

U-9/10 will have a build-out line painted. It shall be halfway between the penalty area and the halfway line.

For U-13 and older, FIFA LOTG specifications shall be used.

The remainder of this page intentionally left blank

Appendix B - Summary of Match Duration, Player Numbers, Ball Sizes, and Other Law Modifications

	<u>U-6/7</u>	<u>U-08</u>	<u>U-09</u>	<u>U-10</u>	<u>U-11</u>	<u>U-12</u>	<u>U-13/14</u>	<u>U-15/16</u>	<u>U-17/18</u>
Match Duration	4 x 8 Min./ 4 x 10 Min.	2 x 25 Min.	2 x 25 Min.	2 x 25 Min.	2 x 30 Min.	2 x 30 Min.	2 x 35 Min.	2 x 40 Min.	2 x 45 Min.
Ball Size	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
Goalkeeper	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Total # of Field Players (see note 4)	3 (no minimum enforced)	4 (no minimum enforced)	7 (no minimum enforced)	7 (no minimum enforced)	9 (must have at least 7 to play)	9 (must have at least 7 to play)	11 (must have at least 7 to play)	11 (must have at least 7 to play)	11 (must have at least 7 to play)
Incorrect throw-in	Retake (see note 1)	Retake (see note 1)	Per FIFA	Per FIFA	Per FIFA	Per FIFA	Per FIFA	Per FIFA	Per FIFA
Free Kicks	IFK only (see note 3)	Per FIFA (PK @ 10yds)	Per FIFA (PK @ 10yds)	Per FIFA	Per FIFA	Per FIFA			
Build-out line used (see note 6)	Yes (uses half line)	Yes (uses half line)	Yes (painted)	Yes (painted)	No	No	No	No	No
Goalkeeper Punting (see note 5)	N/A	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Heading Allowed (see note 7)	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offside enforced	No	No	Yes (see note 2)	Yes (see note 2)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Slide Tackle	NOT Allowed	NOT Allowed	NOT Allowed	NOT Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed

Note 1: In addition to allowing the player to retake the throw, please instruct player as to their mistake. At U-08 and below, allow 1 retake. Play on after that, even if still incorrect. We don't want half of the match taken up with throw-ins. Since incorrect throw-ins do not result in a change of possession at this level, it is acceptable for a coach and/or referee to give instructions/reminders to players prior to the throw if it will help teach the player and keep the game flowing.

Note 2: Offside will be enforced for U-9 and U-10. However, coaches and parents are expected to understand that it is normally the job of Assistant Referees to watch for this. We do not assign Assistant Referees to these matches. Therefore, it is possible that a referee may not be in position to see a "close" offside call. The referee will use their best judgment and their decisions will be final. Coaches and parents will **NOT** argue offside calls (or lack of). For those coaches who may be more familiar with soccer "tactics"; you are not to be trying to coach "offside trap" at these levels.

Note 3: No free kicks for the attacking team will be taken within the penalty area (no penalty kicks). If an offense occurs within the penalty area that results in a free kick for the attacking team, the ball will be placed at the nearest point immediately outside of the penalty area. The IFK will be taken from that point.

Note 4: The total number of players on the field shall include the goalkeeper, when a goalkeeper is used (U-8 and older).

Note 5: Where indicated, goalkeepers are not allowed to punt the ball. They must pass, throw, or roll the ball.

Note 6: Build-out lines: The build out line is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in an unpressed setting. When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play or from a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line. At any time the goalkeeper may pass, throw or roll the ball to a teammate, but the goalkeeper does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes. After the ball is put into play, the opposing team can then cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.

Clarifications:

- The ball shall be considered “put into play” when a teammate of the goalkeeper receives AND touches the ball. In the case of a goal kick, the ball must also leave the penalty area, per Laws of the Game.
- In the case of a goal kick, there is no requirement that the goalkeeper take the kick. For the purposes of this rule, the term “goalkeeper” will also apply to any player taking a goal kick.
- A goalkeeper is not required to wait for all opponents to retreat behind the build-out line before putting the ball in play. However, if a goalkeeper chooses to put the ball in play before all opponents have retreated behind the build-out line, he/she accepts the risk/consequences of the ball being intercepted by those opponents.
- A goalkeeper who is waiting for opponents to retreat behind the build-out line shall not be penalized for controlling the ball with their hands for more than 6 seconds.

Note 7: Per USSF Player Development Initiative: Deliberate heading of the ball will not be allowed at U-11 and below. If a player, at U-11 and below, deliberately heads the ball in a game, the Referee shall stop play and award an IFK to the opposing team at the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the IFK should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the offense occurred.

The remainder of this page intentionally left blank

Appendix C - Recreational Roster Recommendations

	Min. Roster	Suggested Roster	Max. Roster *	# of field players
U-6/7	4	6	6	3
U-8	6	7	8	4
U-9/10	8	10	11	7
U-11/12	10	13	14	9
U-13 and older	12	16	18	11

* Note: This is the recommended maximum. SkVYSA does not currently enforce a Maximum Roster limit.

Appendix D - Birth Year Chart

<u>Player Registration Birth Year Chart</u>					
<u>Soccer Year (01 September to 31 August annually)</u>					
	<u>2018/2019</u>	<u>2019/2020</u>	<u>2020/2021</u>	<u>2021/2022</u>	<u>2022/2023</u>
<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Birth Year</u>				
U-05	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
U-06	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
U-07	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
U-08	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
U-09	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
U-10	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
U-11	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
U-12	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
U-13	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
U-14	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
U-15	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
U-16	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
U-17	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
U-18	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005

Appendix E - U-11 and Older SkVYSA Rec.: Point System for Standings

The standings are based on a point system. Here is how points are awarded:

Win = 6 points

Tie = 3 points each

Loss = 0 points

Shutout = 1 point

Additionally:

Goals scored = 1 point per goal. Maximum is 3 goals per match (applies to both winners and losers)

In this system, the maximum points that can be achieved in a single match is 10 (Win by shutout with at least 3 goals scored). With this system, even the loser of the match can score 3 points by scoring 3 goals (and keep the winner from getting a point for a shutout). A forfeit win will be recorded as a 1-0 win. This will award 8 points (6 for the win, 1 for the goal, and 1 for the shutout).

If two or more teams are tied on points, there are a series of predetermined tie breakers.

1. Head-to-head
2. Goal differential. The maximum computed goal differential for a given match is 5.
3. Goals allowed. The maximum computed goals allowed for a given match is 8.
4. Goals scored. The maximum computed goals scored for a given match is 8.
5. Red / Yellow Cards.

For divisions with an odd number of teams (you have BYE weeks)...There is going to be one team that has an extra match at the end of the season (and may not have a BYE). If that team is not affecting the top 4 in the standings, no adjustment will be made. If that team is in the top 4 (and affecting standings to decide who plays in the SKVYSA Championships), we will take that team's total points and average them to come up with a revised point total based on the number of matches played by the rest of the division. In other words, the team with the extra match isn't going to get an unfair advantage.

The adjustment formula is as follows:

- Raw points / actual games played = average pts. per game

- Average pts. per game x # of games played by the other teams = Adjusted points total

- We will round any final fractional points to the nearest full point (up or down) using standard rounding.

Fractional points will not be considered for tie-breaking purposes. Example: A calculation resulting in “.49” or less will be rounded down. A calculation of “.50” or more will be rounded up.

- Here's an example of how this works:

The team with the extra game played 8 games, while the rest of the division played 7. The team with the extra game ends up with 39 points. The math goes as follows: $39 / 8 = 4.875$ pts. per game, 4.875×7 games = 34.125. This will be rounded down to an adjusted point total of 34 points for figuring final standings.

- In this example, if there is a tie at 34 points, the “.125” fractional points will not be considered. Our standard tie-breaking procedures will decide the tie.

As you can see from the point system above, once a team is ahead by a score of 5-0, there isn't really anything left to gain (10 points scored plus the max allowed goal differential of five). Beating opponents by 10, 12, or 15+ goals is not necessary. It is also quite depressing to the team on the receiving end. We ask all coaches to be aware of this and do everything possible to avoid such large score margins. Please remember that this is recreational soccer and we want ALL of the kids to have fun and learn good sportsmanship.

Appendix F - Special Rules and Standards for SkVYSA Championships

- For U-11 and older teams, the top 4 teams in each division at the end of the regular season will advance to the SkVYSA Championships. Points from the regular season are used to determine seeding. Beyond that, the points no longer matter. Matches are scheduled as follows: For the first matches, the #1 seed plays the #4 seed. The #2 seed plays the #3 seed. For the second matches, the winners of the first matches play each other for 1st and 2nd place. The losers of the first matches play each other for 3rd and 4th place.
- Each team will play 2 matches.
- Place medals are awarded to all teams at the conclusion of the tournament.
- Games will be the full normal time prescribed for the age division (30 or 35 minutes).
- All teams in a given division will play at the same times.
- Game times will be either 9am and 1pm or 11am and 3pm.
- For this tournament, both teams will share one touch line (side line). **ALL** parents and other spectators will share the opposite touch line. Only rostered coaches and assistant(s) will be with the teams during the match (no exceptions).
- There will be a “technical area” enforced during the matches (and Kicks from the Penalty Mark, if applicable). This means that all coaches, substitute players, parents, and other spectators **will remain AT LEAST 2 yards (yes, that is 6 feet) from the touch line**. Everyone will also remain “between the 18’s”. This means that no one will be permitted between the top of the penalty area and the goal line at each end of the field. No one will be behind the goal lines.
- These matches must have a winner. There will be no tie/draw matches. If the score is tied at the end of regulation time, then the match will proceed straight to “Kicks from the Penalty Mark” (a.k.a. “shootout”). There are no overtime periods. Kicks from the Penalty Mark shall be conducted in accordance with Law 10 from LOTG. Here are some of the “basic” highlights from Law 10:
 - Once the referee blows the whistle to signal the end of the match, no substitutions are permitted. The 11 players (or 9 for U-11/12) that the coach wants to participate in Kicks must be on the field (through a proper substitution) BEFORE the whistle sounds.
 - Except for goalkeepers and the player currently shooting, all players participating in Kicks must remain inside the center circle during the taking of the kicks. The goalkeeper who is not currently defending must remain on the goal line where it intersects the penalty area (18 yd) and behind the Assistant Referee.
 - A coach may switch goalkeepers at any time during Kicks. However, the change must be made with an eligible field player. There are no substitutions allowed from the bench (except in case of injury to the goalkeeper). Other players injured during kicks may not be substituted.
 - Players may shoot in any order (including goalkeepers). However, all eligible players (including goalkeepers) must take a shot before any player can shoot a second time. If the kicks go through all eligible players and start over, the same order does not have to be followed for the next round of kicks. If a goalkeeper takes a kick and is then replaced from the bench due to injury, the replacement player must wait until the next round before taking a kick.
 - The kicks are taken alternately by the teams.
 - The first kicks are a “best of five”. This means that both teams will take five kicks. The exception is that if, before both teams have taken five kicks, one team has scored more goals than the other could score, even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken.
- In addition to the procedures prescribed by Law 10, the following shall apply:
 - At the end of the match, since SkVYSA does not utilize player passes and allows unlimited substitutions, **NO ONE** enters the field and **NO ONE** leaves the field. **This includes coaches**. All players on the field at the end of regulation time must remain on the field. These are the only players eligible to participate in Kicks from the Penalty Mark.