

St. Louis Youth Soccer Association, Inc.

An affiliate of the United States Soccer Association, Inc. And the Missouri Youth Soccer Association, Inc.

U8-U18 Rules of Play

Approved by SLYSA Board of Directors for Fall 2012

All rules will be in accordance with FIFA and US Soccer, with the following exceptions:

LAW 2 – The Ball

- 1. Under-12 and younger divisions will use size #4 ball.
- 2. Under-13 and older divisions will use size #5 ball.
- 3. The home team shall provide the match ball, subject to approval of the referee.

LAW 3 – The Number of Players

- 1. All players on the roster may play in the match with unlimited entry and re-entry. SLYSA allows for free substitution on any dead-ball situation at the discretion of the referee. "At the discretion of the referee" is to be interpreted as assisting the referee in carrying out his or her mandate to "facilitate the continuous flow of the game". Therefore referees are expected to deny substitution by either team which would delay a quick restart, while allowing substitutions by either team when the flow of the game has been naturally interrupted.
- 2. Within a club, players may be moved from one team to another team for an individual match if the following conditions are met: (The same rules apply for MYSA At-Large players used on club or independent teams)
 - a. Permission must be granted by the coach of the player's primary roster.
 - b. No player can play down. Note: Playing down refers to both the age of the player and to guest playing on a team in a division lower than the rostered player's team's division. Examples: 1) A U12 aged player, may not guest play on a U11 or younger team. 2) A player rostered on a team playing in U13D2 may guest play on any team in U13D2 and higher, but may not guest play on any team in U13D3 and lower. Similarly, a U13 player rostered on any team playing in a U14 division or higher, may not guest play on any team playing in any U13 division. Note: Players on teams playing in the MRL are considered in the first division of their own age group and higher.

Exceptions:

- i. During the fall season, boys who are a) in the 8th grade, b) required to play Under-15 due to their legal age, and c) registered to play in SLYSA on an Under-14 team in the prior spring league or on an Under-15 team in the ensuing spring league, may play on an Under-14 team in SLYSA league matches.
- ii. During the spring season, girls who are a) in the 8th grade, b) required to play Under-15 due to their legal age, and c) registered to play in SLYSA on an Under-15 team in the preceding fall or winter league, may play on an Under-14 team in SLYSA league matches.
- iii. Any age appropriate player registered within the club may play in an individual match in Division 1 of the age group subject to the limitations of section 2(c).
- c. Maximum number of players added.
 - Up to three (3) players can be added to a team per match for the Under-8 through Under-14 age divisions. Up to six (6) players can be added for the Under-15 through Under-18 age divisions. Note: These limits apply to the age of the division, not of the team. For example, a U14 team playing in a U15 division may add up to six (6) players.
- d. Players being added under the conditions of 2(c)(i) and 2(c)(ii) must have their name and number added on the match card for that match. They must also have a player pass to show the referee at the match.

- e. Match suspensions as a result of red cards under the conditions of 2(c)(i) and 2(c)(ii) will be served with the player's PRIMARY team. No matches can be played for any team by the suspended player until the suspension is served. If a player/team is in violation of this rule the player will be deemed illegal and the match will be forfeited.
- 3. The maximum number of players on a game roster for a specific match for an 8v8 game is 14; for an 11v11 game is 18.
- 4. The maximum number of bench personnel allowed in the coach area will be four (4). All bench personnel must have a current laminated pass with picture. All other personnel will be viewed as spectators and must maintain the proper distance from the players as prescribed in the following rules of the league.
- 5. Players are allowed to play in a maximum of two (2) SLYSA matches per day.
- 6. Failure to comply with any of the above conditions may result in a forfeit of the particular match and disciplinary action for both player and coach.

LAW 4 – The Player's Equipment

The jersey of all players, except the goalkeeper, must contain a visible number, unique from the other members of the same team. This number must be the same number listed on the match line-up card.

LAW 7 – The Duration of the Match

- 1. Under-8 through Under-10 6v6/8v8 two (2) equal periods of 25 minutes.
- 2. Under-11 and Under-12 (8v8) two (2) equal periods of 30 minutes.
- 3. Under-11 and Under-12 (11v11) two (2) equal periods of 30 minutes.
- 4. Under-13 and Under-14 two (2) equal periods of 35 minutes.
- 5. Under-15 and Under-16 two (2) equal periods of 40 minutes.
- 6. Under-17 and 18 two (2) equal periods of 45 minutes.
- 7. High School (Under 15-18) High School divisions may be reduced to two (2) equal periods of 40 minutes if both team coaches agree. If either coach does not agree, the duration will be two equal periods of 45 minutes. In either event, referees will be paid for the rate for the 45 minute period game.
- 8. Regular season matches ending in a tie shall remain a tie.

Administrative Rules/Policies

Discipline and Ethics

- 1. All coaches, players, referees, team officials and spectators shall be subject to the SLYSA Discipline and Appeals Policies.
- 2. No wagering of any kind will be tolerated and such violations could lead to a maximum penalty of expulsion for the league. A report will also be sent to MYSA.
- 3. No player shall receive any compensation for services rendered to a team or receive any promises of compensation.
- 4. There will be no drinking of alcoholic beverages or smoking in the player/coaches area.

Registration

- 1. All registration shall be in accordance with current US Soccer, USYSA and MYSA or other US Soccer member youth rules unless otherwise specified by the SLYSA Board of Directors.
- 2. All players, coaches, and managers must have a US Soccer member youth pass card (photo ID) to participate in SLYSA.
- 3. Player registration and necessary paperwork as required by the SLYSA league must be completed prior to the start of the first league match. Failure to do so will be an automatic forfeit of the matches until registration has been completed, except when delay is caused by SLYSA.
- 4. Eligibility of players shall be in accordance with the current US Soccer, USYSA and MYSA or other US Soccer youth member regulations, unless otherwise specified and approved by the SLYSA Board of Directors.
- 5. Age limit definition shall be in accordance with current US Soccer/USYSA regulations except as modified by the SLYSA Board of Directors.
- 6. Proof-of-birth shall be in accordance with the current US Soccer youth member regulations as directed by the SLYSA Board of Directors.
- 7. All coaches and managers signing the official team roster must be registered with US Soccer/USYSA/MYSA or other US Soccer member approved by the SLYSA Board of Directors. All such personnel must hold a coaching license approved by the SLYSA Board of Directors.
- 8. It is the sole responsibility of the coaches to advise each league in which they participate of any schedule changes to prevent match conflicts. SLYSA will not be responsible for advising any other league of the schedule or changes to the schedule. SLYSA will not reschedule games for other leagues conflicts with scheduled SLYSA games.

Rostering requirements/limitations

A. Full Sided Games

- 1. Teams in Age Divisions U13 through U19 shall be allowed no more that twenty-two (22) players on its SLYSA league roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
- 2. Teams in the U12 Age Division shall be allowed no more than eighteen (18) players on its SLYSA league roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
- 3. No team in age divisions U13-U19 shall be allowed to have less than nine (9) players on its SLYSA league roster at any given time during the seasonal year.

B. Small Sided Games

Teams in age divisions U8 through U12 playing small sided games shall be allowed no more than eight (8) players, one of whom is the goalkeeper on the fields at all times. Each team will be allowed no more than fourteen (14) players on their roster at any given time during the seasonal year.

Teams and Divisions

- 1. Decisions concerning a team's admittance into the league shall be at the sole discretion of the SLYSA Board of Directors.
- 2. Teams will be accepted into the league and may be classified into divisions based on the prior season's record, if any, at the discretion of the SLYSA Board of Directors and Bracketing committee.
- 3. Ownership of a Team:
 - a. A club team belongs to the club administrator on file with the SLYSA office and an independent team belongs to the coach/manager listed on the team application. This person has the right to assign all rights of "ownership" to another person, subject to SLYSA approval.
 - b. To gain SLYSA approval for change in ownership, the SLYSA Board of Directors must be notified in writing that a change in ownership is to take place. The written notice should clearly state which club the team will be affiliated with and who will be managing and coaching the team.
 - c. At the start of a new season this notification must accompany the team's application to the league.
 - d. Teams forfeiting three (3) or more games, regardless of the reason, will not be accepted back into the league the following season. They will also bear the responsibility for all fees with respect to each forfeited game which include field costs and full referee payments. Any team dropping out of the league will not be reimbursed for games missed nor will they be allowed back the following season.

4. Relegation and Bracketing:

- a. The Objective: The primary objective of relegation and bracketing is to place teams in brackets such that the resulting bracket becomes the most competitive bracket possible for all teams in all brackets.
- b. Each year, the SLYSA Competition Commissioner will select 4 individuals (subject to approval by the SLYSA Board of Directors) to establish the Bracketing committee. While the Bracketing committee will use every effort to adhere to the Relegation and Bracketing Criteria, the Bracketing committee shall have final authority to place teams in brackets/divisions.

c. The Process:

- i. After applications are received, SLYSA administration will create an initial set of brackets based on the criteria defined in the Relegation and Bracketing Critera section.
- ii. SLYSA administration will provide this information to the Bracketing committee for their review and modification.
- iii. The resulting brackets will be published for all teams and clubs to review.
- iv. Club teams will send requests/error notifications to the single delegate selected by/for their club. SLYSA administration will direct calls/emails from club teams to

- the appropriate club contact. The Bracketing committee will accept requests from club teams only through the designated club delegate.
- v. Independent teams will send requests/error notifications to SLYSA administration.
- vi. All Club bracketing representatives will send their bracketing change requests to SLYSA administration.
- vii. SLYSA administration will collect all requests and forward them to the Bracketing committee.
- viii. The Bracketing committee will review all requests and make final changes to the brackets and the brackets will be published. Any additional changes will be subject to approval by the Bracketing committee.
- ix. SLYSA administration will begin scheduling. Once an age group/division is scheduled, there will be no bracket changes.

d. Relegation and Bracketing Criteria:

- i. The number of teams in brackets/divisions will be primarily based on the previous season for the age group.
- ii. Team history will be based on the team application. (i.e. it is important to use the same gotsoccer account each year because it contains the team history).
- iii. Team placement will be largely determined by its performance in the previous season played.
- iv. All teams which are eligible to be moved up a division but request to stay in the same division or be moved down will be honored.
- v. Teams which win division 1 will be given the option to move up an age group. If they choose to move up, they will be placed in division 2. They may also request to play in division 1 subject to the approval of the Bracketing committee.
- vi. Teams which did not win division 1 in their own age group, but wish to play up an age group will be placed in either the lowest or second lowest division at the discretion of the Bracketing committee.
- vii. Teams which have a win/loss record of less than .250 will be eligible to relegate to the lower division at the discretion of the Bracketing committee.
- viii. Teams with a win/loss record greater than .750 or finished among the top three teams will be eligible to relegate up at the discretion of the Bracketing committee.
- ix. New teams with no record will be placed in the lowest division.
- x. Teams which have not played in the SLYSA league but have history against teams which do play in SLYSA may be placed in divisions based upon that performance at the discretion of the Bracketing committee.
- xi. Girl's teams may play in Boys divisions. Boys may not play in Girls divisions.
- xii. Teams which played up in previous seasons which choose to return to their own age group should expect to be returned to the same division they were in before they chose to play up.
- xiii. For divisions which have no history (such as Fall U8), teams will be randomly bracketed in multiple divisions except that effort will be made to place multiple teams from the same club in different divisions. The top teams from each of the divisions will be placed in division 1 the following season, etc.
- xiv. Teams which do not play both spring and fall, but do play every spring or every fall, will be placed back in the same division. I.e., a team which played in division 2 in the fall, but did not play in the spring, will be placed in division 2 when they return the following fall season.

- xv. For divisions which had both 8v8 and 11v11 formats in a previous season and are now combining into 11v11 formats, the Bracketing committee will do its best to create the most competitive divisions.
- e. Team definition with respect to relegation and bracketing:
 An existing team is any team which has ten (10) or more members on the roster from the 11-a-side team from the previous season (eight (8) or more from an 8-a-side team). A new team is any team with less than ten (10) members on 11-a-side teams or eight (8) members of an 8-a-side team. Existing teams will be bracketed using the past team information.

SLYSA League Standings

- 1. Standings will be determined by awarding three (3) points for each win, one (1) point for each tie and no points for a loss.
- 2. If the teams have played an uneven number of games, a win/loss percentage will be determined by adding one-half of the ties to the wins, then dividing that number of wins by the total number of games played. The percentage shall be rounded to the nearest thousandths (3 decimal places).
- 3. In a division where every team has played each of the other teams at least once, but not all teams have played each other an equal number of times, then the win/loss percentage is computed differently. When two teams play each other twice, the win/loss record between the two teams is computed as follows: If one of the teams wins both games (or if that team wins one game and ties the other), then it is treated as one win for the winning team and one loss for the losing team. If each team wins one of the two games or if both games are tied, then it is treated as one tie for both teams. While this may not be reflected properly in the gotsoccer standings, it may be used for determining league division winners or relegation.

Other Administrative Rules

- 1. Home teams must wear white or light colored jerseys. If a conflict occurs while the home team has the designated color, the visitors must change; otherwise the home team shall change.
- 2. Each team manager must complete and give to the referee the line-up card indicating the jersey number, name and player ID number of each player participating in the game.
- 3. The Player Pass of each player, manager, and coach participating and a copy of the roster must be in the possession of the coach or manager at each league game. A team has until the final whistle to produce the player cards and/or roster, or the game will be an automatic forfeit.
- 4. Games shall start on time. If a game is delayed due to the tardiness of a team, players, coach or manager, a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes of "grace" time shall be awarded. After fifteen (15) minutes if the team is still not able to start the game, it shall be declared a forfeit. Forfeits shall be recorded with a score of 2-0. In the case of a double forfeit, both teams will record a 0-2 loss to their records.
- 5. Suspension of games due to weather and/or field conditions considered dangerous to the players shall be at the discretion of the referee. If the first half of the game has been completed the game is official. If the game is stopped in the first half the game will be restarted from that point of the game.

- 6. All coaches and substitutes should remain a minimum of two (2) yards away from the touch line. Spectators should remain a minimum of six (6) yards from the touch line.
- 7. Teams should be situated on the same side of the field and confined to an area equal to the diameter of the center circle. Team fans will be located on the opposite side of the fields as their team, when possible.
- 8. A licensed coach is required on the sideline at all league games for the entire game. If a licensed coach is not present for any portion of the game, the game will be forfeited.
- 9. Teams responsible for a forfeit for not having enough players, no licensed coach, refusing to play or abandoning a game shall be assessed all applicable fees for both teams.
- 10. Scheduled SLYSA games take precedence over all other commitments except MYSA Cup games.
- 11. Teams requesting special consideration for absence due to out-of-town tournaments must make the request in writing to the SLYSA office by the deadline established by the office.
- 12. All park rules where games are played shall be respected and obeyed.
- 13. Each coach/manager shall acquaint themselves, as well as players, parents, and spectators with the Rules, Discipline and Appeals Policies, Constitution, and By-Laws of the Association. A plea of ignorance is not sufficient grounds for appeal or protest.
- 14. Any matters not provided for in these rules shall be determined by the SLYSA Board of Directors.
- 15. The SLYSA Board of Directors may change these rules at its sole discretion
- 16. All league fees will be due by the announced due date for all divisions. If fees are not paid by the announced due date, the offending team/club may not be eligible to play in league games and may forfeit any game until all fees are paid in full unless arrangements have been made and approved by the SLYSA Board of Directors. Costs such as registered letters notifying a team of an overdue account will be billed to that team as part of the monies they owe
- 17. **Refunds for Cancelled Games**. All refunds will be issued in the form of a Credit to be applied to future league fees. There will be only one exception to this general rule. U18 and U19 Teams whose players are graduating to college will receive a check for game cancellations. These checks will be issued to the individual or entity that signed the check paying for their last league fees. Other teams receiving credits for cancelled games must meet two qualifications. These are:
 - 1. A team must qualify as a "Returning Team" as defined in "Teams & Divisions" Sec. 5c in these playing rules
 - 2. A team must play two consecutive league sessions or at least 1 session in the next Soccer year.

If either of these conditions are not met, then a team will not be eligible to receive a credit. For example, if a team disbands, no credit will be issued for game cancellations. If a team elects to leave SLYSA and play in another League; there will be no credit. Teams that play a fall session and play Tournaments in the spring but return for the following fall session will receive their credit from the previous fall session.

18. All clubs will register with the league: their club name, teams represented by that club, a list of coaches and managers within that club, and the officers of that club authorized to use the club's name in matters of this league. Any team registering with SLYSA using a club name or form of the club name but not authorized by the club will be denied use of the name and possibly admission into this league. It is the responsibility of the club to notify the league of any changes in information that may occur during the current season.