

To: All OSA Sanctioned Tournaments
From: OSA Youth Board & Sid Goodrich, OSA Executive Director
Date: September 27, 2007
Re: Academy play and other US Soccer Affiliate play at OSA Tournaments

In the past year many tournaments have started to add academy levels to their tournaments and we are seeing an increased interest in academy teams or other US Soccer affiliates interested in attending OSA sanctioned tournaments. To help address these questions and what is permitted by the OSA Tournament Hosting procedures, we will touch on a couple of the major questions:

In "Restrictive" tournaments – only US Youth teams (OSA & US Youth State associations) can attend. Questions arise in the "Unrestrictive" tournaments because teams from many different US Soccer affiliates (US Club, AYSO, SAY, etc) may be attending and their rules and policies may be different from the Oklahoma Soccer Association. As the sanctioning organization for the tournament, Oklahoma's rules and policies take precedence over what another US Youth State or US Soccer affiliate may do in attending your tournament. As noted in Section 2.02 of the OSA Tournament Hosting Policies (below), the tournament and teams agree to follow our rules and policies; and this is why the quoted text below is required on all tournament hosting documents:

- 2.02 **Restrictive and Unrestrictive Tournaments** – A "restrictive or closed" tournament is a tournament that only US Youth Soccer and/or OSA members may participate. "Closed" tournaments will not have to seek any additional insurance or need to indemnify OSA. "Unrestrictive or open" tournaments may have any US Soccer affiliate member participate and include teams from outside of USYS/OSA membership. In "Open" tournaments, the following text must be added to the hosting form, rules, and invitation:

"All teams and tournament participants must abide by the Oklahoma Soccer Association's and US Youth Soccer's policies, rules, & regulations and are subject to their disciplinary actions. All teams wishing to participate in an "open" tournament that are not USYS members will be required to provide proof of liability insurance paperwork indemnifying OSA from harm."

The majority of the questions and confusion that we have seen are in the Under 10 age group and teams. In Oklahoma, all under 10 age play is recreational including academies and rec plus levels. **Under 10 teams cannot "play up" in a competitive tournament level.** This means that Under 10 age players cannot play in a competitive level even if another US Soccer affiliate allows this. Teams that may have a mixture of Under 10 & Under 11 age players and desire to play in an Under 11 competitive tournament will not be allowed to have their under 10 age player(s) participate. Also, Oklahoma does not allow any Under 10 player to "guest play" in any level.

In tournament "Academy Divisions," OSA Hosting policies allow for only Under 9 and Under 10 age levels to be offered. Again, as noted above, an under 8 team can not "play up" and an Under 9 team with Under 8 age players can not have their Under 8 age players participate in the tournament. Also, as noted below from the Tournament Hosting Policies, Academy teams (of any US Soccer affiliate) cannot play up in an under 11 age group.

2.05 A. **Academy Divisions:**

- Only **Under 9 & 10 Academy** level teams will be eligible to participate – this age group will play 8V8 and have a maximum roster size of fourteen (14) players. Under 8 and below level teams cannot "play up".
- Academy teams will only be allowed to play in tournaments with academy levels and cannot "play-up" an age level. Academy teams will play 2 X 25 minute halves per game. "Guest" players cannot participate.
- Players can only play with one team per tournament and will play 50% of each game.

Oklahoma Academy teams that play in OSA sanctioned academy tournaments must have an OSA approved academy roster. These teams must have notified OSA of their academy and have followed the registration guidelines of the Academy Program.

We at OSA hope that this information will help eliminate the confusion concerning US Soccer affiliate participation, Under 10 age play, and academy team play and help your tournament to be a success. If at anytime you have additional questions or are not sure if a team can participate in the level that they have applied for, please do not hesitate to contact the OSA office and we are happy to help answer your questions.

Good Luck at your upcoming tournament!