



OKLAHOMA SOCCER

COMPETITIVE POLICIES



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Approved OCC- all member Competitive clubs 2/24/2024

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1.0 Purpose

The OSA Competitive Commission (OCC) shall be responsible for oversight of OSA competitive teams, players, coaches and trainers as well as all Competitive Leagues in accordance with the OSA Bylaws, these Competitive Policies, and any other OSA Policies or Rules. The OCC shall be the governing authority on all issues relating to OSA competitive teams, players, coaches and trainers.

2.0 Governing Body

2.1 Structure

The OCC shall consist of the Youth Competitive Vice President (Chairman of Committee), Competitive East District Vice President, Competitive West District Vice President, OSA Coaching Director, and all member competitive clubs.

2.2 Meetings

Meetings of the OCC will be held at least semi-annually, with fifty percent (50%) of the above named OCC members being necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Members may give a proxy provided that notification is sent to the Chairman of the committee prior to the meeting and the person being represented or the President of the organization being represented approves such proxy. Votes will be cast on a one vote per one OCC member basis on all business coming before the OCC. The OCC votes are subject to review and approval by OSA Board of Directors. Any vote shall be submitted to the OSA Board of Directors within five (5) days of the OCC meeting and shall be acted upon at the next OSA Board of Directors meeting.

3.0 Registration of Competitive Teams

Players and teams will be registered in accordance with the OSA Registration Policies and Procedures.

4.0 Responsibilities and duties of each OSA club sponsoring an OSA competitive team

- 1) Insure that these OSA Policies and all other applicable OSA Policies, Procedures, and Rules of OSA Competitive League Competition are complied with by all their teams, coaches, trainers, players and spectators.

- 2) Maintain order and respect for referees, players and others involved with the games scheduled on their fields.
- 3) Provide an appropriate number of fields for OSA competitive competition as well as suitably marked fields, which in the opinion of the referee, complies with the requirements stated in the FIFA and OSA rules.
- 4) Insure that all their competitive players, teams, coaches and trainers are properly registered and rostered prior to participation in any scheduled game.
- 5) Insure that their competitive players receive appropriate and safe training.
- 6) Insure that their competitive coaches and trainers are appropriately trained, licensed and Risk Management approved before working with youth players
- 7) Provide appropriately certified and licensed referees for each game scheduled for their fields.

5.0 Competitive League Rules

All OSA competitive leagues will be run in accordance with the League Policies.

6.0 Player Registration

All OSA competitive teams, players, coaches, and trainers will be registered in accordance with the OSA Registration Policies.

7.0 Cautions, Ejections, Suspensions and Probations

All OSA competitive teams and teams participating in the OSA Competitive Leagues and their respective coaches, trainers, players and player's parents or legal guardians, shall be subject to a determination of bad standing, suspension, probation, or other disciplinary action by the OCC, an OCC subcommittee, the OSA Games, Discipline and Appeals Committee, or their OSA Club for misconduct or rule violation. Any determination of bad standing, suspension, probation or other disciplinary action imposed by an OSA Member Club against an OSA competitive player may be appealed within five (5) business days to the OCC for a de novo review. At the discretion of the Chairman of the OCC any original OSA competitive disciplinary matters and any appeal of a disciplinary determination by an OSA Club against an OSA competitive player may be referred either to the full OCC, an OCC subcommittee, or directly to the OSA Games, Discipline, and Appeal Committee for hearing and/or determination. A determination related to bad standing, suspension, probation or other disciplinary decision made by the OCC or any OCC subcommittee, and the terms thereof, may be appealed to the OSA Hearing and Appeals Committee.

8.0 OSA Competitive Team Coaches

8.1 Background Check Requirement

Head Coaches, Trainers, and Assistant Coaches of all OSA competitive teams must complete a Volunteer Disclosure form and be Risk Management approved through OSA **before** participating with the team.

8.2 Licensing Requirements

Head Coaches, Trainers, and Assistant Coaches of all OSA competitive teams must possess the appropriate license as established in the Competitive Policies.

8.3 Coach Selection

The coach and trainers of each OSA competitive team shall be selected or approved by the sponsoring club and shall remain as a coach or trainer at the discretion of that club.

9.0 OSA Competitive Team Formation

9.1 Tryouts

Formation of all OSA competitive teams, except for U19 teams that are allowed to be formed under the U19 Section below, shall be accomplished through the registration of selected players by the player's parent or legal guardian at annual tryouts to be held pursuant to this section.

No player may be registered to any competitive team/club who has an outstanding financial obligation or commitment to another competitive team/club as determined by the current competitive team/club in the current seasonal year. It will be each club's responsibility to notify the player(s) that are in bad standing with their club on their financial obligations. Players that are receiving a scholarship from the competitive team/club are responsible for paying back only the current year agreement that is in writing between the parent/legal guardian/player and the team/club of training fees, and other club fees that have been identified at signing.

Registration of a player requires the submission to the club or team official of:

- 1) A completed USYS Membership Form signed by any player 18 years old or older or by any younger player's parent or legal guardian, as well as
- 2) Payment of the club's registration fee (or documentation of a club registration fee scholarship). This includes all methods of on-line registration approved by the club.

The OCC with the assistance of OSA's Director of Coaching (DOC) shall determine the Annual Tryout Structure. The signing period for players will begin on the Saturday following completion of all levels of the State Cup Tournament.

Eligible players (Free agents) to sign include:

- 1) Any player currently registered with the club for the previous year.
- 2) Any player from another club whose team has finished **all competitions** in their current seasonal & tournament year.
- 3) Any player not currently registered with an OSA competitive team.
- 4) Any player who has been released by their club for the previous year by mutual agreement of the player and club.

A player may sign with only one (1) competitive team/club during any time of the seasonal year.

Who is not eligible to sign:

- 1) Any currently actively rostered player that is participating in a US Youth Regional or National event. This includes President's Cup and USYS National

Championship play. The player MAY re-sign with the club on the Saturday following completion of the State Cup Tournament but may NOT sign with another club until completion in the USYS competition.

- 2) Teams that continue into USYS Regional and National play also may not sign players from another club until they have completed their Regional and/or National competition.

9.2 Registration

Registration of players, coaches, and teams will be handled in accordance with the OSA Registration Policies and will remain in place until the completion of the last USYS event for which that team is eligible.

All players are deemed free agents for the purpose of recruiting AFTER the last USYS event for their current team (i.e., President's Cup, State Cup, Regionals, etc.) Once a team has completed the USYS competition, team officials may make unsolicited contact with players or their parents, including phone calls, in-home visits, emails, etc. to Free Agents; however, all contact must cease once a player has registered with another team or the player or the player's parent or legal guardian requests that such contact ceases. It will be considered illegal recruiting for any Team Official, or any registered players or their parents, to attempt to recruit a player after a player has registered to another OSA competitive team.

Prior to the start of the Contact Period (the Contact Period begins once a player is a Free Agent, see above), no players shall be directly contacted by any Team Official (including players and players' parents) regarding tryouts for team formation except by public notices. Direct contact shall include contacts in person or by telephone, fax, e-mail or mail. This provision is not intended to prohibit a head coach from discussing tryouts for that team with players, or their parents or legal guardians, currently registered with that team.

Public notices must be in an open public forum such as a public bulletin board, club newsletter, newspapers, web sites, etc. They may not take the form of personal, direct contact.

The only way a player may receive direct contact outside these parameters is with prior consent by the team coach or director of the club for which the player is currently registered.

No player may be selected or registered for an OSA competitive team for the upcoming year by any coach or club prior to the start of the Signing Period.

Up to Five (5) Under 10 age player(s) may register and be rostered to play on an OSA Competitive team. Any other player that does not qualify under USYS guidelines for a U11 or older age group will not be allowed to register for any OSA competitive team without prior approval from the OCC. Under 10 age players may not club pass to a team older than U12. A team may appeal to OCC to request more than five U10 players to be added to their team.

All OSA competitive teams shall be formed as follows: Team formation will consist of the number of players on the field plus two –

U11 & U12 9v9 teams shall be formed with a minimum of 11 and a maximum of 16 players, and U13 through U19 11v11 teams shall be formed with a minimum of 13 and a maximum of 22 players.

Players may be freely registered and added to a team roster after the Registration Deadline and proper registration of an OSA competitive team, so long as the player has not already registered with another competitive team for the current seasonal soccer year.

9.3 Special U19 Team Formation

Recognizing the special needs and challenges of forming U19 teams (often primarily comprised of players attending college and not able to participate in the Competitive League), OSA clubs may form U19 OSA competitive teams, at any time until one (1) week prior to the roster freeze date set by OSA State Cup rules for participation in the Oklahoma State Cup of each seasonal year. Clubs may form U19 teams comprised of U19 (or younger) players not already registered on an OSA competitive team as of the date of such player's registration with the U19 team. In order for teams formed through the special U19 team formation period to be registered with OSA, the team's club must register the players and team through GotSoccer prior to the established deadline.

10.0 Player/Coaches Passes

Each player, coach and trainer for an OSA competitive team must have a current USYS Member Pass with a current and identifiable picture of the player, coach or trainer and approval stamp. USYS Member Passes for coaches, assistant coaches, and trainers will only be approved if the coach/trainer's license has been verified and they are Risk Management approved. USYS Member Passes will only be approved for registered players, coaches, assistant coaches, and trainers. USYS member passes may only be used for USYS sanctioned events.

11.0 Commitment of Player/Coach

Once a club accepts a player's completed and signed USYS Membership Form and the player pays the required club registration fees, that player and club are committed to each other for the seasonal soccer year for both the team and club registered, and that player would then fall under the OSA competitive team Transfer Rules. Once a name has been submitted on the roster of a registered OSA competitive team, a completed and signed USYS Transfer/Release Form will be required in order to remove that player's name from the roster.

12.0 Participation with another Team/Club

Until released, a player registered to an OSA competitive or recreational team may not practice or play with another OSA competitive team from a different OSA Club. The player must receive prior consent from the registered coach or Director of Coaching of the team and club to which the player is currently registered. The player shall be required to meet their commitments to their registered team (including all obligations financial, practice and game participation owed to

the team, coach or OSA Club which were disclosed to the player's parent before the player became committed to the team.)

13.0 Bad Standing

Upon written complaint made no later than 30 days of the player's or their parents' violation of the obligations owed to the team, coach or OSA Club, and after a fair opportunity to be heard, the OSA Club of the player's registered OSA competitive team may place a player in bad standing for the failure of that player or their parents to properly meet their obligations owed to the team, coach or OSA Club. If consented to in writing by the coach of a player's registered OSA competitive team, a player on an OSA competitive team cannot be placed in bad standing for participation in a practice or game of another OSA competitive team. Such determination of bad standing by an OSA Club must be terminated by the OSA Club upon compliance with the obligation owed to the team, coach or OSA Club giving rise to the determination of bad standing. Unless reversed upon the timely filing of an appeal, OSA shall honor an OSA Club's determination of bad standing. No player currently in bad standing is allowed to register to another OSA competitive team, guest play for another OSA competitive team, or practice or play with any other OSA competitive team until the determination of bad standing is terminated, reversed on appeal or expires. Any such determination of bad standing imposed by an OSA Club against an OSA competitive player may be appealed within five (5) business days to the OSA Games, Discipline and Appeal Sub-Committee for hearing and/or determination.

14.0 Consolidation and Dissolution of OSA Teams

Consolidation of two or more OSA competitive teams during a playing season because of a lack of player participation requires the approval of the OCC. Each surviving team of a consolidation will complete the schedule of one of the original teams as determined by the OCC. The consolidated teams will be reorganized as club teams at mid-seasonal year if possible.

The dissolution of an OSA competitive team must be certified in writing as having been dissolved by the Competitive Club Representative or Director of Coaching of that team's club.

15.0 Recruiting

Recruitment, or recruiting, is defined as any action initiated by a team or club's coach, trainer, assistant coach, team manager, trainer, or any other person representing a team or club, including a player or a player's parent or legal guardian, (collectively, a "Team or Club Official") who seeks to enlist the services of a player for that team.

15.1 Illegal Recruitment

Illegal recruitment is defined as the employment of any of the following prohibited practices by a Team or Club Official:

- 1) Offering a roster position to any player currently registered or rostered with another OSA competitive team, except as allowed after the start of the Contact Period or with the prior consent of the player's registered coach or Director of Coaching for the club at which the player is registered.
- 2) Permitting a player who is registered with another OSA member competitive team to participate in any practice or game of the Team or Club Official's OSA competitive team with whom the player is not then formally registered without prior written

consent of the coach of the player's registered member OSA competitive team or Director of Coaching for the club to which the player is registered.

- 5) If a current team (continues a continuity of 50% or 9 players) moves from one club to another club and the coach moves to the same club, then the coach is prohibited from coaching this team and in the same age group and gender with the new club, unless the DOC of their prior club agrees to the move and team formation.

15.2 Items Not Included in Illegal Recruitment

Illegal recruitment does not include the following permitted practices:

- 1) Waiver of club or team fees and expenses upon proof of financial hardship.
- 2) Contact with a player who is not then registered or rostered to an OSA competitive team.
- 3) Contact with a free agency player after the start of the Contact Period through the date such player is registered to another OSA competitive team.
- 4) Contact with a player for the limited purpose of asking the player to participate as a guest player for any USYS sanctioned tournament, participation in such tournament, and for practice preceding the start date of such tournament, but only after prior notice to the player's registered club coach or Director of Coaching.
- 5) Contact initiated by a potential player, or their parents or legal guardians.
- 6) Advertising or public relations of a general, indirect nature (e.g. newspaper or web page article on a team's success at a tournament).
- 7) Non-sanctioned OSA soccer activities, including indoor soccer teams or formation and coaching of special tournament teams (e.g. 3v3 tournaments, etc.).

15.3 Handling of Illegal Recruitment

Illegal recruitment may result in the OSA Games, Discipline and Appeals Committee, suspending or prohibiting a Team or Club Official from all OSA competitive soccer activities for a determined period, removing an illegally recruited player from a team's roster, prohibiting a team from registering the illegally recruited player, or additional sanctions or disciplinary action. Any complainants desiring to assert a recruiting violation must file a written complaint detailing the illegal recruiting or prohibited practice with the OCC. Upon receipt, the OCC will pass the complaint to the OSA Games, Discipline and Appeals Committee for a hearing.

16.0 Release of OSA Competitive Players and Movement between clubs

16.1 Definition of a Release

A release shall be defined as removing a player from a team's roster USYS registered player from a team's roster, including players who are either voluntarily or involuntarily removed from a team's roster.

Any player registered with an OSA competitive team is obligated to that team for the entire soccer year unless released; provided, however, in the event a team fails to form during the annual tryouts as a result of a team's failure or inability to meet the requirements of the Registration Deadline, any players registered with such teams which failed to form shall be free of their commitment to that team and club and may register

with another OSA Competitive Team without OCC approval and without need for any release.

No player may be rostered by any competitive team/club who has an outstanding financial obligation or commitment to another competitive team/club.

16.2 Automatic Release and Registration Approval

Players, in good standing with their current club, seeking releases under the following subsections shall automatically be allowed to do so upon submission of a completed USYS Release/Transfer/Add Form and compliance with the requirements of that subsection:

- 1) Any player seeking to be released from an OSA competitive team for the purpose of returning to the OSA Recreational League or for the purposes of not playing soccer for the remainder of the seasonal year; provided, however, any attempt by such a player to subsequently register on a OSA competitive team during the same seasonal year shall not be allowed. Any player released or transferred for the purpose of returning to the OSA Recreational League will immediately become subject to all OSA recreational rules regarding registration and team formation.
- 2) Any player who is rostered to an OSA competitive team which has been certified by the applicable Competitive Club Representative or Director of Coaching as having been a dissolved team that has ceased to exist and who seeks register with any OSA competitive team with an available roster spot under the age group limits.
- 3) Any player who has been previously registered during the seasonal year only to teams outside OSA or only to OSA recreational teams, and who is seeking to register with any OSA competitive team with an available roster spot under the age group limits.
- 4) Any player who seeks to move during the soccer year from one OSA competitive team to another OSA competitive team sponsored by the same club is deemed an intra-club transfer and is handled internally by the club and no additional approval is required aside from the team coaches involved and/or a Director of Coaching for the club. All intra-club transfers must be completed by the State Tournament's Roster Freeze date of the tournament that the receiving team is registered to play in.

A Player Release may be denied by the club if it drops the team below roster minimum. If this circumstance arises and the player still wishes to be released, they may appeal the decision to the OCC for review and final determination.

16.4 Involuntary (Contested) Release of Competitive Players

A player may be involuntarily released from an OSA competitive team only in one of the following events:

- 1) The player has violated rules of USSF, USYS, or OSA and is in bad standing as a result of that violation for the remainder of the playing year.
- 2) The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance from the team's practice fields. In this case, reasonable shall be determined by the ability of the player to fulfill the coach's reasonable requirements for attending practices and meeting scheduled game times.

- 3) The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the playing year.
- 4) A coach may request a player be involuntarily released from a team for disciplinary reasons only as follows:
 - a. The player has violated rules of the team's club and is in bad standing as a result of that violation for the remainder of the playing year.
 - b. A player demonstrates consistent and/or frequent failure to attend reasonable practice sessions and/or scheduled games.
 1. If a player frequently fails to attend reasonably scheduled practices or league games, the coach must notify the player, in writing, of the practice requirements and league game schedule and of his/her intention to release the player if the situation is not corrected.
 2. The player must be given an opportunity to justify the missed practice sessions and/or games and given a reasonable opportunity to show a change in behavior by meeting the team's reasonable schedules.
 3. Should a player continue to fail to meet these conditions, the coach may then, and only then, request the player be released from the team roster for a player's frequent failure to attend reasonably scheduled practices or league games.
 - c. A player is found to be in violation of team, club, and/or OSA conduct rules involving:
 1. Public behavior of an illegal or violent nature.
 2. Consistently unsupportive and disruptive behavior resulting in substantial impact on the stability and/or reputation of the team. Allegations of the behavior described above must be documented with specific details and substantiated.

A coach must obtain the written approval of their sponsoring club's governing body in order to involuntarily release a player as follows:

- 1) The coach must submit a written request for an involuntary release of a player to their club's governing body with a written justification of the requested involuntary release. The club's governing body must afford any player against whom an involuntary release is sought (and their parents and legal guardians) a reasonable opportunity to be heard concerning the justification given for the requested involuntary release.
- 2) Such request for an involuntary player release must be approved by the club's governing body in accordance with the club's rules, and bylaws; written certification by the club's Competitive Representative of such approval must accompany the completed USYS Release/Transfer form submitted to OSA before OSA will approve an amended roster without that involuntarily released player. Consideration of all requests for involuntary releases must be made on a case-by-case basis and each request must be evaluated on its individual merit and circumstances.
- 3) Once the OSA Club's governing body approves an involuntary release, the player's commitment to the team (including all future financial obligations and all practice/game participation obligations to the team, coach or OSA Club) is terminated.

17.0 Appeals

Decisions of the Oklahoma Competitive Committee may be appealed to the OSA Games, Discipline and Appeals Committee, decisions of the GD & A Committee may be appealed to the Executive Committee of OSA. All appeals at each level must be made within 5 business days

from written notification of that entity in writing and must be accompanied by a \$250 Cashier's Check or Certified Check made payable to OSA and a letter stating the basis for the appeal. This fee is refundable only if the appeal is upheld and the original decision is overruled. Furthermore, OSA Executive Committee decisions are subject to appeal to US Soccer.

18.0 Amendment of Competitive Policies

These Competitive Policies may be amended at any regularly scheduled OSA Board of Director's meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

Approved OCC- all member Competitive clubs 2/1/2018
Approved BOD 2/14/2018

Section B - Oklahoma Soccer Association Competitive Leagues ***Approved Dec 2017***

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1.0 Purpose

The mission of the Oklahoma Competitive Leagues are to identify the best Oklahoma competitive teams through competition and to promote the development of Oklahoma competitive players through strong competition on a weekly basis throughout the playing season.

2.0 Policies and Procedures, Operations Committee, Review of Decisions

All Oklahoma Competitive Leagues shall operate under these Policies and Procedures and other decisions as adopted by the Oklahoma Competitive Commission (OCC).

- a. Approval – These Policies and Procedures must be approved by a majority vote of the members of the Oklahoma Competitive Commission and OSA BOD for final approval.
- b. Revisions – Any revisions of the Policies and Procedures must be approved by majority vote of the present members of the OCC and presented to the OSA BOD.

2.1 League Operating Committee (LOC).

The LOC shall operate under the supervision and direction of the OSA Vice-President Competitive.

- A. The LOC shall consist of seven members: OSA Vice-President Competitive, East & West District Vice President, Referee Representative (SYRA), the OSA Assistant Director of Coaching and OSA Competitive Administrator, Director of Operations.

The referee representative shall be the State Youth Referee Administrator or appointed by the State Referee Committee and approved by the BOD.

- B. Removal of committee members – any committee member may be removed at the request of the OSA Vice-President Competitive and District Vice Presidents with the approval of the BOD. The reason for removal must be submitted in writing to the BOD by the OSA Vice-President Competitive.
- C. Replacement of committee members will be done by the remaining members of the LOC (with approval by the BOD) except for the following committee members:
 1. Referee representative will be replaced at the advisement of the State Referee Committee with the approval of the BOD.
 2. The OSA Director of Coaching and Competitive Administrator shall serve at the discretion of the OSA Board of Directors.
- D. Actions and Decisions – All actions and decisions taken by the LOC shall be made by majority vote of all members of the LOC. Votes may be taken in person, via email, or any other method that allows all members votes to be made in a time-appropriate manner. The OSA Vice-President Competitive will cast the deciding vote in case of a tie among other voting members.
- E. The LOC shall meet at the request of the OSA Vice-President Competitive, or a majority of all members of the LOC in any form deemed appropriate. The LOC will be responsible for:
 1. Day-to-day operations of the Leagues.
 2. Review of and interpretation of rules and policies
 3. Appeals
 4. Team play-up requests (by application only)

- F. Appeals - Only the club or teams' designated representative filing the appeal shall provide any additional information including appearing at an LOC review meeting as required by the OSA Vice-President Competitive.
1. An appeal will require a \$250.00 appeal fee which will be refunded if the appeal is upheld by the LOC.
 2. Once a review of an LOC decision is complete, a team or club may appeal the decision to the OCC in accordance with the following:
 - (a) Request for appeal must be submitted in written form and received by the OCC Chairman within 7 days of the LOC decision.
 - (b) Only a team's coach or club's designated representative may make a request for appeal.
 - (c) The team or club designated representative filing the appeal shall provide any additional information, including appearing at an OCC appeal hearing, as required by OSA Competitive Vice President.
 - (d) The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match are final and is not an appealable decision.

3.0 League Structure and Seasonal Formation

- A. League Structure – All Competitive League divisions goal is to be age pure leagues, but will ultimately be determined by the LOC based on team applications.
1. 11U League – All 11U teams wishing to play in the Competitive Leagues will apply. OPL will offer U11 Divisions in the 9 v 9 format. Upon receipt of all applications, it will be determined by the LOC in review of the division standings which division the team will be accepted to.
 2. 11U through U19 Divisions – The Competitive League will consist of a Fall and Spring season, teams will be required to apply by the application deadline for each season. Divisions will be OPL Super – 5 teams, OPL 1 – 9 teams, OPL 2 and OPL 3 if the age group has enough teams to form (typically with 9 teams in each division). The Top and bottom two teams in each division will be subject to Promotion/Relegation based on final season standings.
 3. The LOC reserves the right to make other decisions as circumstances require adjusting the League structure to ensure meeting the mission of the Competitive League. Specifically, the LOC reserves the right to approve or deny a team's specific placement requests.
 - a. In OPL Super and OPL 1 Divisions - The LOC will place teams into divisions each season as soon as practical after the deadline for forms and fees. *Note: No team will be included in the league or scheduled until the payment of all applicable league fees and bonds.* If collect by the League, Referee fees must be paid before the due date dateline, a \$50.00 fee will be accessed after the dateline and must be paid before the start of play or the team will forfeit their bond. These divisions will be posted to the OSA Competitive League web page.
 - b. In OPL 2 and OPL 3 Divisions - The LOC will place teams into divisions each season as soon as practical after the registration deadline. Teams must register to the league in Gotsoccer to be included in the schedule. There is no registration fee in OPL 2 and 3 Divisions.
 1. Any request for review of a team's placement or omission from the Competitive Leagues must be received in the Tulsa OSA office in accordance with the procedures set forth in Part I (F) "Request for Appeal."

2. In cases where the LOC is not able to fill an OPL division by using promotion and relegation (Part III below), the LOC will:
 - a. Promote the relegated teams in order of finish from the previous season (highest to lowest) until the division is filled or all relegated teams have been invited to participate.
 - b. Promote such other teams, as the LOC deems appropriate.
 - c. Leave the division at less than 5 or 9 teams as identified in their level above.

4.0 Promotion and Relegation

- A. Concept for Promotion and Relegation – It is the intent of the promotion and relegation procedures to ensure the quality of the teams participating in the Competitive League. The continuing teams that are being considered for promotion and the continuing teams being considered for relegation of each division will compete for the vacant spots in their respective division. In general, promotion/relegation will go as follows:
1. Following the season, strict positioning of teams from current standings will be followed:
 - U11-U19 teams will be limited to 5 Premier, 9 OPL 1, 9 OPL 2, and (if necessary) 9 OPL 3 team brackets
 2. Starting each season - promotion and relegation will be as follows:
 - The 4th and 5th place teams in the Super division will be relegated to the OPL 1 division. The top two teams from the OPL 1 Division will be promoted into the 4th and 5th spot in the Super division.
 - The 8th & 9th place (bottom two) teams in the OPL 1 division will be relegated to the OPL 2. The top two teams in OPL 2 will be promoted into the OPL 1 division
 - The 8th & 9th place (bottom two) teams in the OPL 2 division will be relegated to the OPL 3. The top two teams in OPL 3 will be promoted into the OPL 2 division

The LOC reserves the right to determine the format, timing and rules for this competition.

Note: A team that has been permitted to play-up an age division may be considered as an alternate for the division from which it was relegated or may be considered to return to the team's pure age division and be allowed to participate in any promotion/relegation competition for the age group in which this team intends to compete.

- B. Teams will be considered for promotion or relegation in each division in the OPL after the season has been completed by the date set by the league
1. U17 through U19 Divisions – Teams will be considered for promotion and relegation when feasible since these divisions are formed based on the number and quality of the teams applying to play each year.

5.0 Club Wide Player Pass (CPP)

The use of the CPP will be allowed in all divisions of the Competitive League. The rules for the use of CPP will follow the current CPP rules from US Youth Soccer and the National Championships Policy.

6.0 Standings, Point System and Tie Breakers

- A. A team's standing in its division will be determined by the number of points it receives based on its win/loss record during the league season. Points will be awarded as follows:
 1. Three (3) points for a win.
 2. One (1) point for a tie.
 3. Zero (0) points for a loss.
- B. In the event of a tie within a division, the following criteria shall be used to break the tie:
 1. Winner of head to head game(s), in the event of a tie among more than 2 teams, this (#1) criteria will not be considered and #2 will be the first tie breaker.
 2. Most wins.
 3. Teams with the greatest net goal difference (no limit per game).
 4. Coin toss or other method as deemed appropriate and communicated to the participants by the LOC.
- C. Forfeits are recorded as a score of 3-0 for the winning team. If a team withdraws from the league before completing its schedule all games will be considered forfeits and it will further forfeit any applicable league fees and performance bonds. Further, this teams' future requests for participation in the OPL will be evaluated by the LOC.
- D. A team that forfeits a game during league play will automatically lose all tie-breakers with any other team that it is tied with in the final standings.
- E. Double forfeits or no-plays are recorded as 0-0 loss for both teams. It is not considered a tie for awarding division points.
- F. Brackets that play "exhibition" games will have the first game against an opponent be the exhibition and the second game count in league standings.

7.0 Rules of Play

- A. The OPL will be played using FIFA Rules as modified by US Youth Soccer Policy on Players and Playing Rules. These rules shall govern this league with the following exceptions and clarifications: *Note: OSA reserves the right to modify the application of any USYS Policies.*
 1. Length of Match and Ball Size

a.	U11 – U12	30 min halves	Size 4
b.	U13 – U14	35 min halves	Size 5
c.	U15 – U16	40 min halves	Size 5
d.	U17 – U19	45 min halves	Size 5
 2. Substitutions
 - a. U11 – U12 matches:

Unlimited substitutions will be allowed at any stoppage of play.
Players must be ready to enter the field of play and at the midfield line when the substitutions opportunity arises, with the exception of goals, issuance of yellow or red cards, and injuries.
 - b. U13 – U14 matches and U15-19 OPL 1 Division and lower matches:
 1. Unlimited substitutions may be taken at the following times:
 - (a) Prior to a throw-in by the team in possession.
 - (b) Prior to a goal kick by either team.
 - (c) Following a goal by either team.
 - (d) After an injury by either team, if the injured player is substituted.

- (e) After a caution is issued for the cautioned player only.
 - (f) At half time.
- c. OPL Super Division for Under 15 – Under 19 teams
 - 1. Teams will have limited substitution:
 - (a) No re-entry of a substituted player in the same half of the game.
 - (b) Substitutions will be taken as noted in (a) – (f) under 2b.1) above.
- 3. Uniforms
 - a. Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey including the goalkeeper. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. The official team roster shall include the number of each player's jersey.
 - b. All players are required to wear shin guards that provide adequate protection.
 - c. Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players, including the opposing goalkeeper.
 - d. Uniforms may not have insignia/patches/logos from non-USYS Soccer Association on any part of their uniform and will not be allowed to participate until removed or permanently covered. Sponsorship logos/patches/insignia are allowed.

8.0 Hosting Club and Team Responsibilities

- A. The hosting club will have properly prepared fields; including proper markings, nets, goal size, and corner flags. A club representative will be available to fix any problems associated with the fields. If the field is unable to be prepared properly by the hosting club, the game will be played if the referee determines that a hazardous condition does not exist. The referee will file a report with the OPL referee assignor or Home Club referee assignor documenting any improper field condition that: 1) was unable to be fixed before a match was played; 2) or, if a match was unable to be played due to hazardous field conditions. The OPL referee assignor or Home Club referee assignor will forward these details to the LOC.

If the hosting club's fields are found by the LOC to be out of compliance of the standards recommended by USYS, i.e., unsafe, improper size, inadequate markings, flags, nets, goals, etc., home games for the hosting club will be suspended or moved to away games until fields are brought into compliance. If the hosting club is unable to bring the fields into compliance with 1 seasonal year, the hosting clubs' membership with OSA may be suspended.

II.RATIONALE

Complaints of unsafe, improperly marked, or improperly sized fields are continuing to occur with no clear action available.

- B. The hosting club will be responsible for closing the complex in case of inclement weather. If the complex closes, it will be the responsibility of the hosting club to notify the home team and referee assignor or Home Club referee assignor. **The home team shall notify the opposing coach and/or manager and OSA as soon as possible that the game has been postponed.** Failure to notify OSA, the referee assignor and/or opposing coach or manager could result in the game being declared a forfeit. Failure to notify the OPL referee assignor or Home Club referee assignor will result in the hosting club paying the referee fees.

- C. Each team is required to provide the referee with a current copy of the team's official game card including jersey numbers and official USYS laminated player passes. Coaches and team managers must have USYS laminated cards as well. Referees will check passes against the game card prior to each match.

In situations where a rostered player does not have a corresponding player pass, or a player pass name is not on the official game card, the player will be allowed to play if both coaches and the center official agree to allow it. The player's team must provide documentation confirming the player is an OSA Competitive Registered player in hardcopy or digital format. The referee will note such discrepancies on both game cards.

If the official game card and/or passes are not available, a roster will be provided or prepared on-site by the appropriate team and provided to the referee. The referee will notify the opposing team prior to the match. The LOC will determine if the game result stand and/or if further action is required.

- D. Only rostered players and qualified coaches will be allowed on the teams' side or in the team area.
- E. The home team will wear lightest colored jersey and lightest socks. The visiting team will wear the dark jersey and darkest socks. Sock color shall be different in color between the teams. The team not wearing the correct uniform will be required to change as determined by the referee.
- F. The home team will provide a game ball to the referee. If the referee does not deem any provided games balls to be acceptable, the visiting team may be asked to provide the game ball.
- G. Game Cards/ Team Rosters are the official document and constitute the record of the game. The referee will give the completed forms to the winning team, or home team in case of a tie at the conclusion of the match. The winning team, or home team in case of a tie, is responsible for reporting the result and scanning the report and uploading into their Gotsoccer team account.
- H. Each team shall cleanup their respective areas before leaving. The hosting club will be asked to notify the LOC if a non-home club team(s) (which could be the home and/or visiting teams) leaves their respective area(s) in an inappropriate manner.

9.0 Procedure for Postponement and Reschedule of Games

- A. If the COMPLEX is closed because of inclement weather, the home team shall notify the referee assignor, OSA Office, and the opposing coach or manager as soon as possible that the game has been postponed. Failing to notify the referee assignor and/or opposing coach or manager could result in the game being declared a forfeit.
- B. Temperature – in consideration that the League is a fall extended season that plays through the winter months, the follow guidelines will be used to determine if a game can be cancelled based on the current mean temperature at the start of play:
 - 1. 40 degrees or above – The match will play as scheduled, if a team decides not to play then the result will be recorded as a forfeit (3-0) and team forfeits their bond.
 - 2. 20-39 degrees - Game may be played if both teams and OSA deem appropriate. Any of the three parties can "veto" playing, and the game will be rescheduled.

3. 19 degrees or below – Game(s) will be postponed.
- C. In the event of diminished playing circumstances (rain, cold, etc.) if the complex remains open and the referee declares the field conditions safe for play, the teams/coach do not have the authority, even by mutual agreement to reschedule the match. Failure to play the match will result in a review by the LOC and the match may be declared a forfeit or double forfeit.
- D. Rescheduling Games
1. Coaching conflicts will not be considered when scheduling. This is especially applicable to coaches who have more than two teams. Teams are required to have qualified assistant coach available and/or qualified club staff coaches to be able to serve in the coaches' role when a coach has multiple team coaching conflicts.
 2. Teams will submit up to 4 individual "blackout dates" but will have the ability to reschedule games.
 3. For teams participating in FCL or National League games (other than in-state matches), the LOC will not schedule these teams on these weekends. It is the intent of the FCL to have these dates published well in advance of the OPL scheduling.
 4. How to reschedule games - OPL teams will follow the posted policies on rescheduling.
 - a. Both coaches must agree to have a game rescheduled.
 - b. Rescheduling games will be subject to the home team's club reschedule policy.
 - c. Teams attending sanctioned tournaments will receive a guaranteed postponement/reschedule of any league game/games scheduled during the tournament.

10.0 Notifying OSA of Game Scores

A representative from both teams will report the game result into Gotsoccer at conclusion of the match and within seven days. The winning team, or the home team in case of a tie, must upload the game card to the team account in the documents tab to submit the official game form. Do not mail forms, only scanned forms will be accepted. Failure to report scores via the Got Soccer System and submit game forms may result in the game(s) being declared a forfeit or a double forfeit.

11.0 Referees

- A. Payment – The referee fee payment process will be determined by OSA prior to the start of the season and communicated to the OCC.

12.0 Ejections and Discipline

- A. Any player ejected from an OPL match shall be suspended for their next OPL match and/or next match in the National Championship Series (State Cup, Presidents Cup, etc).
- B. Any coach ejected from an OPL match shall be suspended from the next OPL match and/or next match in the National Championship Series (State Cup, Presidents Cup, etc) for the team they were coaching at the time of the ejection.
- C. Ejections (red card) cases that involve "Violent Conduct" (fighting) as noted by the game

official's Misconduct Report will always be reviewed by the LOC and considered for additional game suspensions. If an additional match(s) suspension is determined, the LOC will notify both the coach and manager in writing after the LOC has reviewed the incident and rendered a decision. LOC rulings on additional game suspension may not necessarily be completed before the next scheduled OPL or National Championship Series game.

- D. The LOC may review any ejection for coach, manager, and/or player in situations that it determines to be egregious or excessive and issue additional match suspensions as is deemed necessary.
- E. In the case of an ejected coach or team official, the use of radio communication systems, which include cell phones, between players and/or technical staff, is not permitted. The coach or team official who is ejected is required to leave the area and be out of "sight & sound" of the match.
- F. A player is allowed to serve his/her suspension at the game on the team bench and must not be in uniform.
- G. It is the responsibility of the coach or manager to submit by **scanning and emailing** to the OSA office a **sit-out verification form** (available on the OSA website). The sit-out form provides the reason for the sit-out (previous game ejections, additional suspension imposed by the LOC, and must be submitted immediately following the match the player or coach sat out. If the required suspensions are not served, additional sanctions may be imposed.
- H. The referee of the match shall have the responsibility of recording infraction(s) on the game form under FIFA Laws of the game Law XII.

13.0 Oklahoma Premier League Registration

- A. Each team playing in the OPL must be properly registered with OSA and all OPL and OSA fees and bond paid in full by the due date(s). Teams in the previous year's President's or State Cup Tournament that have withdrawn from the tournament, forfeited games in the tournament or have won the tournament and been designed the Oklahoma Representative to the Regional Event but do not attend will not be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Premier League.
- B. Each player playing in the OPL shall be registered with USYS prior to participating. Each player shall have a current, laminated USYS player pass with a current photograph affixed.
- C. Effective August 2017, each coach participating in an OPL competition shall be:
 - 1. Registered with OSA with a completed US Youth disclosure statement and approved background check
 - 2. Possess a laminated USYS pass with a current photograph affixed.
 - 3. Meet the OPL minimum coaching licensing requirements set forth below:
 - a. OPL Division Super, OPL, OPL 2 and above (Region leagues, etc) – Coach must possess a USSF National "D" license
 - b. Any other OSA league for players U11 and above – Coach must possess an "E" license
 - d. Grace Period – If a coach is new to a higher division and is coaching in that division for his first time he will have a one-year grace period to obtain the

appropriate license if he does not already possess the appropriate level of license or higher.

- e. Exceptions – Due to the fact that there are multiple licensing organizations in the world which a coach may have participated in, in some cases there can be exceptions made to the above guidelines based on a coach's experience and education. Any exceptions to this rule may only be made with approval from the Director of Coaching or Assistant Director of Coaching for OSA. If a coach wishes to apply for a waiver/exception he should do so directly with OSA's DOC or ADOC.
- D. Each club shall submit in Gotsoccer an official OPL competitive roster for each team playing in the League, which shall consist of:
 - 1. U11 & U12 - 9 vs 9 format, No fewer than 11 players or more than 16
 - 2. U13 – U19: No fewer than 13 players or more than 22. Only 18 players can dress in uniform and participate for any one game
- E. 11U and 12U teams participating in the OPL Super Division in the Spring Season will not be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Presidents Cup Tournament. These team will play in the OSA State Cup Tournament.

14.0 League Play

- A. Teams must be able to start the match within 10 minutes of the scheduled match time. If a team cannot start within 10 minutes of the scheduled match, the other team shall be awarded a victory by forfeit. 'Start the match' is defined as having the minimum number of players appropriately dressed, on the field and ready to play. Merely having the minimum number of players on-site will not be considered sufficient.
- B. If a game is terminated because of weather by the referee or club official, it shall be judged a completed game if the game has reached halftime before the game was terminated. If the match was of lesser duration, then it shall be replayed.
- C. If a referee terminates a match because of player, coach or team conduct, the game score shall be reported, as it was at the time the game was terminated. The LOC will review the causes of termination and determine if the game will be accepted as a complete game, resumed from the point of suspension, or replayed.
- D. If a referee suspends a match due to situations other than described in Sections B or C, the game score shall be reported, as it was at the time the game was terminated. The LOC will review the causes of suspension and determine if the game will be accepted as a complete game, resumed from the point of suspension, or replayed.
- E. Referees and/or club officials do not have the authority to determine the result of an abandoned, suspended or terminated match. The LOC will make this determination once the referee report, game report and any supplementary reports have been received.

15.0 Registration and Recruiting

- A. A player may be rostered on only one team in any competition sponsored by OSA. This rule will be interpreted to include the application of the OSA Club Pass System.
- B. Rules governing rosters and players for competitions leading to the US Youth Soccer National Championships supersede OSA rules outlined in this section.

- C. Formation of teams, recruiting, adding, dropping, releasing and transfers of players shall be controlled by the OSA Competitive Policies.
- D. All players approved to register to an OSA competitive team must be added to the official team roster/game form and stamp-approved by OSA at least 48 hours prior to participating in any sanctioned play.

Approved OCC- all member Competitive clubs 2/1/2018
Approved BOD 2/14/2018

Section C – Club Player Pass Policies

All players develop at their own rate. Greater flexibility regarding individual player development must be given to clubs in order to ensure that they are able to help all their players reach the level of excellence that the player desires to achieve.

A Club Player Pass system allows for more realistic and fluid movement of players between teams and levels of play. This fluid movement allows the player to be challenged at the appropriate level based on their current level of development. This movement will help reduce the 'win at all cost' team first attitude and put the focus of player development back on the individual player.

Definitions for the purposes of the Club Player Pass System:

Club—Shall mean an organization which sponsors and directs the formation and coaching of soccer teams and players registered with the Oklahoma Soccer Association, and which subscribes to these rules with respect to Club Player Pass.

Club Player Pass —A player pass issued by the Oklahoma Soccer Association to allow for easier player movement within a Club.

National Championships Series competitions means the competitions provided for under the United States Youth Soccer National Championship Series Rules and United States Youth Soccer Presidents Cup National Championship Series Rules for the Under 13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 16, Under 17, Under 18, and Under 19 age groups.

Official OSA Roster— the list of players rostered to a team when the team plays its first competition approved by the State Association or its member leagues, Clubs or teams. The roster will be on the official form as provided by Oklahoma Soccer Association.

Registration— the signing of an intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of fees to become a member of Oklahoma Soccer Association.

Rostered - A player is considered rostered to a team not later than when the player first participates for the team in any competition approved by the State Association or its member leagues, Clubs, or teams.

Team - The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and National Championships Series competitions by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to the rosters of both competitions.

Competitive Age- A player must have turned the age of 10 by Dec 31st of the seasonal year to be eligible to participate in CPP. Any player, even if younger than 10 by Dec 31st, rostered to a competitive team is not eligible for CPP.

Below are some general guidelines for Club Player Pass System.

1). Registration

ALL competitive players shall be registered with a Club and receive a Club Player Pass.

2). Rosters

All players shall be considered rostered to a team not later than when the player first participated for the team in any competition approved by the Oklahoma Soccer Association

or its member leagues, Clubs, or teams. This roster will serve as the Official Roster for the State Cup and Presidents Cup Competitions.

Movement of players between teams during the season is unlimited except for the following: The team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and National Championships Series competitions by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to the rosters of both competitions.

Play in Regional Premier Leagues will be governed by the Official Team Roster. CPP is allowed for Regional Premier League Play per Region III rules.

Players may CPP between teams that play in the same division or down only one division. Example – an OPL 1 player can CPP down to OPL 2 but not OPL 3. Players can only CPP within the same gender teams.

U13 and older teams may have a roster of 22 players and may add four (4) age appropriate players from your club using player passes, as long as the roster size does not exceed 22.

U11 and U12 teams may have a roster of 16 and may add three (3) age appropriate players from your club using player passes, as long as roster size does not exceed 16.

4). Game Day

Prior to each game a team representative will present the referee with their game card and player passes.

5). Games per Day

Players would be allowed to participate in no more than 2 games per day.

It is recommended that players participate in no more than 4 games per week. A week is defined as Monday-Sunday.

A player is not permitted to miss a game with their officially rostered team to play with another team under CPP.

6). Player Discipline – Reporting of Misconduct

Player discipline would be tracked and recorded by the reporting of the match referees to Oklahoma Soccer Association. This method would ensure that players and coaches served the appropriate discipline for cards received.

Red Card suspensions must be served in the next game for the player or coach's officially rostered team. This applies to the "automatic one game" suspension a player or coach receives for a red card. Additional sanctions may be identified by the LOC and may be expanded beyond the clause above.

Discipline of players, teams, and coaches participating in the Club Player Pass System and/or an Oklahoma Soccer Association Premier League will be at the sole discretion of the Oklahoma Soccer Association and/or the designated games and discipline committee.

7). Technical Decisions – Player Movement

It is recommended that a Director of Coaching, Technical Director or Coaching Committee oversee the movement of players within a Club.

Technical decisions to move players should involve communication and consultation with the player's parents.

Team coaches should not be allowed to hold back or exploit an individual player's development for the benefit of one particular team.

8). Sanctions/ Discipline

With the acknowledgement that integrity of coaches and Clubs is the integral part of the success of a Club Player Pass System, specific discipline results will not be spelled out. However, the LOC will hear any alleged violations of either the spirit or letter of the Club Player Pass Rules, and make recommendation to the OCC for disciplinary action.

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