



## APPENDIX A

### TEAM FORMATION POLICY

#### ARTICLE I - PURPOSE

A1.1. Nebraska State Soccer Association (NSSA) Rules and Regulations (Section II.2.a) require that each Affiliate Member have a documented and published Team Formation Policy. All policies on team formation must comply with all applicable NSSA and US Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) rules, policies, and regulations.

A1.2. This document shall be reviewed annually to ensure it is in compliance with all applicable NSSA and USYSA rules, policies, and regulations. The President shall appoint a committee or director to review and update the document and then present to the Board of Directors for approval.

#### ARTICLE II - LEVELS OF COMPETITION

A2. BSC provides a comprehensive soccer program serving the needs of the community. It offers a range of programs designed to meet the technical, tactical, physical and psychological skills and goals of all players. Opportunities exist for anyone that wants to play regardless of age, gender, ability, or desire. As such, teams within the BSC are divided into the following divisions for administrative purposes:

- Micro: U4-U6 teams
- Recreational: U7 through U19 teams
- Competitive: Academy U9-U10 and Competitive U11-U19 teams
- TOPS: Players with special needs of all ages

#### ARTICLE III - DEFINITIONS

A3.1 NSSA Administrative Rules and Regulations provide the following definitions. To avoid confusion, this policy will use these definitions.

A3.1.1. **Affiliate Member.** Any league, association or club that agrees to uphold the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules of Nebraska State Soccer.

A3.1.2. **Tryouts.** An event conducted by an Affiliate Member to evaluate players for placement on teams.

A3.1.3. **Recreational Team.** Any team formed by not using a tryout process and the Affiliate Member makes a good faith effort to place all players that register.

A3.1.4. **Competitive Team.** Any U11 and older team formed on the basis of selection, hereinafter defined as any process (tryouts or coach select), other than a random basis, where players are invited or selected to play on a team and other players are not.



A3.1.5. **Time of Formation.** When an Affiliate Member Registrar creates a team in the Association registration system.

A3.1.6. **Yearly Registration.** The time period of August 1 to July 31 of the following year.

A3.1.7. **Seasonal Registration.** The registration for a fall season or a spring season.

A3.1.8. **Seasonal Year.** Time period from August 1st to July 31st of the following year for the purposes of rules promulgated by the USSF, USASA, US Youth Soccer or Nebraska State Soccer.

A3.1.9. **Open Opportunity.** Period of time where permission of an Affiliate Member Coach (primary coach) is not required for a player to attend the activities of any Affiliate Member.

#### ARTICLE IV - AGE GROUPS

A4.1. **Player Age Group.** A player's age group is based on their birth year at the beginning of the Seasonal Year (August 1<sup>st</sup>). The players Age Group is determined by taking the spring season year and subtracting the players birth year. For example, for the 2020-21 Seasonal Year, a player born in 2010 will be assigned to the U11 Age Group (2021-2010). Players will advance in age groups during the fall registration period.

A4.2. **Team Age Group.** A team's registered age group is determined by the highest Age Group player of its registered and assigned players. The Age Group that a team is placed in is determined by the league in which the team plays; leagues often combine Age Group based on registration numbers. If the league does not have an appropriate age group, the team will be placed in the next higher age group available provided that the policy on "playing up" is not violated.

#### ARTICLE V - TEAM GENDER

A5.1. Teams will consist of players of the same gender; except in the case of the Micro and TOPS programs.

A5.2. When necessary and under special situations as determined by the respective program Director in consultation with the Director of Coaching (DOC), female players may be placed on a male gender team. Male players will not be placed on female gender teams.

#### ARTICLE VI - TEAM SIZE

A6.1. **Roster Size.** The number of players registered on a team is determined, in part, by the league in which the team plays. Different leagues follow different rules on roster size based on small-sided games and full-sided games. Some leagues also have smaller roster sizes based on the number of available players (i.e. 11v11 vs.7v7).

A6.2. **Minimum Roster Size.** The minimum number of players registered to a team will be equal to the maximum number of players allowed on the field during play according to the league in which the team plays.



A6.3. **Maximum Roster Size.** The maximum number of players registered to a team will be equal to twice the number of authorized field players for the team's Age Group. Leagues often define a maximum roster size and that guidance will be followed as long as it does not allow a higher maximum roster size than this policy.

#### ARTICLE VII - PRIMARY & SECONDARY PLAYERS

- A7.1. A player may be registered as a primary player on only one (1) team at any given time.
- A7.2. A team may have players that are registered on the team as primary players or as secondary players provided that the number of primary players is greater than the number of secondary players.
- A7.3. If a player is registered on both a Recreational team and a Competitive team, they must be registered on the Competitive team as a primary player.
- A7.4. Players that are registered as primary players on a Competitive team may only be registered as secondary players on a Recreational team in order to allow the Recreational team to meet the minimum number of players required. In which case, no more than two (2) players that are registered as primary players on a Competitive team may be registered as secondary players on a Recreational team.

#### ARTICLE VIII - RECREATIONAL TEAM FORMATION

A8.1. **Teams.** In accordance with NSSA Rules and Regulations, recreational teams are registered on a seasonal basis. Players may transfer between seasons for any reason and do not need to request transfers in writing or cite a reason.

A8.1.1. **New teams.** Before a new team may be created in the registration system, a coach for the team must be selected in accordance with this policy and the minimum number of players must be available for registering to the team.

A8.1.1. **Returning Teams.** Efforts will be made to keep a team together from season to season if the prior season's coach is returning; a new coach can be found from within the team of returning players; and/or enough players are available to meet the minimum roster size for the team.

A8.1.2. **Insufficient players.** If the minimum number of players is not available to keep a returning team together, one of the following procedures will be followed:

- A8.1.2.1. Players may be moved from other teams to provide the minimum number of players;
- A8.1.2.2. Secondary players may be registered to the team;
- A8.1.2.3. Two teams may be combined to form a single team providing the two teams combined do not exceed the maximum number of players allowed;
- A8.1.2.4. The team is disbanded and the players are placed on other teams.

A8.2. **Player Placement.** In accordance with NSSA Rules, players may be placed on teams according to ability as long as there is not a tryout and every effort is made to place all players. Players may be



evaluated at clinics and academies throughout the year. Player movements, based on ability, will be at the discretion of the Recreational Director, after consulting with DOC when necessary.

A8.2.1. Players from the preceding season will have priority in placement during the regular registration period. After the regular registration period ends, they will receive no preference over others registering for the first time.

A8.2.2. Players may be added to a team until the maximum number of players allowed is reached. When the maximum number of players registered to a team is reached remaining players must be placed on another existing team or a new team must be formed.

A8.2.3. If there are not enough players to form a new team, the players will be added to a waiting list until such time that a new team can be formed or space is available on an existing team.

A8.2.4. Special requests for player placement will be honored if possible. However, the best interest of the player and club take precedence. Specials requests may include, but are not limited to:

A8.2.4.1. A coach may request players, who are within their age group, be transferred to their team by contacting Recreational Director. The Recreational Director will make any final determination to transfer a player. A coach may not recruit or otherwise select players except as specified within this policy.

A8.2.4.2. A coach may not refuse to have a player on the team unless the coach believes it is not in the best interest of the player to be on the team. In which case, the coach may petition that the player be removed and placed on a different team. The Recreational Director, after consulting with DOC when necessary, will make any final determination to remove the player from the team.

**A8.3. Playing up.** At times it may be necessary to have players registered to a team above their Age Group in order to form a viable team or when the player's age group is full.

A8.3.1. The Club Administrator or Recreational Director will obtain the player's parent or legal guardian's consent before a player may be registered to a team above their age group. Requests to play up more than one age group must be approved by the Recreational Director.

A8.3.2. Entire teams may be allowed to play up only in order to allow for competitive game schedules for the affected players and must be approved by the Recreational Director.

**A8.4. Transfers.** A player will be allowed at the most one (1) team transfer during the season.

A8.4.1. A parent or guardian of a player may request a transfer of the player in writing and submitting it to the Recreational Director. Reasons may include:

A8.4.1.1. Irreconcilable differences between the player and other players on the team, with the coach and/or the assistant coach of the team.

A8.4.1.2. A household move or school attendance change which will place the child outside of the formation area of the team.

A8.4.1.3. The parent/guardian has become a coach of a different team than the player's and that is in the same age group as the player's team or does not violate the policy on "playing up".



A8.4.2. A coach may request the transfer of a player off of the team by making a request in writing to the respective Program Director citing irreconcilable differences with the player or the player's parent/guardian.

A8.4.3. In the process of a transfer, the utmost care and consideration will be shown to the player. Direct contact between the involved player and any other BSC member will be held to the minimum necessary to investigate the facts surrounding the transfer (if required).

A8.4.4. Other necessary coordination to affect the transfer will be accomplished through the player's parent/guardian. Harassment, team soliciting, etc. will not be tolerated.

A8.4.5. All placements will normally be made by the Registrar. In the event of an appeal by the Program director or the parents/guardians, the Executive Council will decide the issue. When a transfer is approved due to irreconcilable differences, the affected player will go to the top of the waiting list and will, if possible, be offered a position on the team needing a player.

A8.5. **League Placement.** Micro teams play in the BSC in-house Micro league. All other Recreational teams will be placed in Nebraska Youth Soccer League (NYSL) Level 3. Advanced teams may, at the discretion of the Recreational Director, after consulting with DOC, be placed in NYSL Level 2.

## ARTICLE IX - COMPETITIVE TEAM FORMATION

A9.1. **Teams.** In accordance with NSSA Rules and Regulations, Competitive teams are registered on a yearly basis. The DOC and Competition Director will ensure that the NSSA mandatory "Intent to Form a Team" application is completed and submitted for all teams to be formed for the next Seasonal Year by the prescribed deadline.

A9.2. **Player Placement.** Player placement on Competitive teams will be done via tryouts and coach selection. Tryouts will be conducted in accordance with NSSA Rules. The DOC and Competition Director in association with assigned coaches will be responsible for conducting tryouts.

A9.3. **Playing Up.** Upon evaluation of ability, Competitive players may be assigned (either primary or secondary) to a team above their Age Group at the discretion of the Competition Director, DOC and the affected coaches.

A9.4. **Transfers.** Players are committed to the team for the Seasonal Year and may only transfer in accordance with NSSA transfer policy. Any additions or transfers must not jeopardize any team's eligibility to play in state competition.

A9.5. **League Placement.** U11 and above Competitive teams (Select) shall play in NYSL Level 1. U9 & U10 Competitive teams (Academy) will play in NYSL Level 2 or 3 based on the skill level of the team and results of previous season as determined by the DOC, Competition Director, and team's coach. Any exceptions to the above placement must be agreed to by the Competition Director, DOC and affected coach.



## **ARTICLE X - COACHES & ASSISTANT COACHES**

A10.1. A person may not be registered as the head coach and/or assistant coach on more than two (2) teams at any given time unless approved by the DOC and respective program director.

A10.2. All paid and volunteer coaches and assistant coaches must comply with all club, league, and state training and eligibility requirements to include: background check, SafeSport, and Heads Up Concussion.

A10.3. All Competitive coaches and assistant coaches must be approved by the DOC and Competition Director before registering the team.

A10.4. All Recreational coaches and assistant coaches must be approved by the Recreational Director before registering the team. Coaches and assistant coaches on recreational teams are generally parent volunteers.

A10.5. Coaches and assistant coaches have the right to have their children placed on the team they coach in accordance with player placement and playing up guidance.