



# COASTAL YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## CODE OF ETHICS, CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

January 2026

## COASTAL YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE CODE OF ETHICS

Coastal Youth Soccer League (CYSL) has adopted the Code of Conduct and Zero Tolerance Policy from the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association Board of Directors as part of the Code of Ethics. These policies apply to all coaches, team officials, adult personnel, parents, spectators, players, and other supporters and referees. Abusive and obscene language, violent play/conduct, fighting, and other behavior (including, but not limited to, sarcasm, taunting, bullying, etc) deemed detrimental to the game between the groups as mentioned above will not be tolerated. Briefly:

### PLAYERS

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials, and parents at all times.
- I will remember that soccer is an opportunity to learn and have fun.
- I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and expect everyone to refrain from their use at all soccer games.
- I will do the best I can each day, remembering that all players have talents and weaknesses, just as I do.
- I will treat my coaches, other players and coaches, game officials, other administrators, and fans with respect at all times, regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I will play by the rules at all times.
- I will always control my temper, resist the temptation of retaliation, and exercise self-control.
- I will never use abusive or insulting language and treat everyone with dignity.

### COACHES / VOLUNTEERS

- I will never place the value of winning before the safety and welfare of all players.
- I will always show respect for players, other coaches, League representatives, and game officials.
- I will lead by example, demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship at all times.
- I will demonstrate knowledge of the rules of the game and teach these rules to my players.
- I will never use abusive or insulting language. I will treat everyone with dignity.
- I will not tolerate inappropriate behavior, regardless of the situation.
- I will at all times conduct myself in a positive manner.
- Coaching is motivating players to produce their best effort, inspiring players to learn, and encouraging players.
- My actions on the sidelines during games shall be in the spirit of “good sportsmanship” at all times.
- Profanity, profane gestures, arguing, inciting disruptive behavior by spectators and/or players, or any conduct not in the spirit of good sportsmanship shall require disciplinary action from the League.

The coach is responsible for ensuring all spectators associated with their team follow these codes of ethics relating to all aspects of covered in the MYSA Code of Conduct. The latest policy can be found on this page: <https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/codes-of-conduct/>

Failure to comply with any part of the above CYSL Code of Ethics may result in ethics violations being filed and may result in suspension from participation in CYSL-sanctioned events, for the following periods:

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- **1<sup>st</sup> Offense** – Suspension for a minimum of fourteen (14) days to a maximum of the remainder of the season.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Offense** – Suspension for a minimum of thirty (30) days to a maximum of lifetime expulsion.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Offense** – Suspension of a minimum of one (1) year to a maximum of lifetime expulsion.
- **Additional** penalties may include monetary fines, game cancellations by forfeit, and removal from playoff consideration.

Allegations of a violation of the code of conduct shall afford the individual(s) due process as reviewed by the Standards Committee. Suspensions resulting from violations of the Code of Ethics are to be implemented based on the committee's decision, not retroactively.

Code of Ethics violations are separate from game suspensions assessed by the referee for caution, ejection, or send-offs.

# CYSL CONSTITUTION

## TABLE OF ARTICLES

<b>ARTICLES</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
1. ARTICLE 1, NAME	5
2. ARTICLE 2, PURPOSE	5
3. ARTICLE 3, AFFILIATION	5
4. ARTICLE 4, MEMBERSHIP	5
5. ARTICLE 5, BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	5
6. ARTICLE 6, DUTIES AND DEFINED APPOINTED POSITIONS	6
7. ARTICLE 7, MEETINGS	7
8. ARTICLE 8, AMENDMENTS	8
9. ARTICLE 9, FEES	8
10. ARTICLE 10, BY-LAWS AND GAME RULES	8
11. ARTICLE 11, INDEMNIFICATION	8
12. ARTICLE 12, DISSOLUTION	9
13. CYSL POLICY MANUAL	9

# COASTAL YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

## 1. NAME

1.1. The Organization shall be known as the Coastal Youth Soccer League. Herein referred to as CYSL or League.

## 2. PURPOSE

2.1. The purpose of the CYSL shall be to foster the development of soccer, promote sportsmanship and goodwill between members, and formulate uniform regulations and controls within the Organization.

## 3. AFFILIATION

3.1. The CYSL shall be affiliated with the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA), United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and the International Football Association Board (IFAB).

## 4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1. The geographic area of the League shall encompass the towns of Carver, Cohasset, Duxbury, Halifax, Hingham, Hull, Kingston, Marshfield, Middleboro, Norwell, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, and Scituate.

4.2. Membership of the League shall consist of the following Soccer Associations: Carver YSA, Cohasset YSA, Duxbury YSA, Halifax YSA, Hanover YSA, Hingham YSA, Hull YSA, Kingston YSA, Marshfield YSA, Middleboro YSA, Norwell YSA, Pembroke YSA, Plymouth YSA, Plympton YSA, Sacred Heart YSA, and Scituate Soccer Club. Each Association will have one vote at any CYSL meeting.

4.3. New Associations may be admitted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the CYSL Members. The League will not accept out-of-state clubs or Clubs that field less than three (3) teams.

4.4. Any Association may be expelled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the CYSL Members.

4.5. Any Association may withdraw from the CYSL, providing a formal notice is given in writing by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

5.1. A CYSL Board of Directors shall have one designated Representative from each Member association. Herein referred to as the BOD, Member Associations shall submit and maintain a list of Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Representatives.

5.2. There shall be an Executive Committee of the BOD consisting of a President, first Vice President, second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar, herein referred to as the EC.

5.3. Nominations for EC positions will be accepted during April. Elections to EC positions will take place in the first week of May. Members of the EC shall be elected by a majority vote of the BOD or their designated alternates. Newly elected officers will assume their positions at the conclusion of the spring season.

5.4. All EC Officers shall serve for two (2) years. The President, Second Vice President, and Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years; the First Vice President, Secretary, and Registrar shall be elected in odd-numbered years. Even and odd years are determined by the Spring Season. For example, a season ending in an odd-numbered year (e.g., Spring 2025) constitutes an ODD year election. The President will appoint individuals to fill vacant EC positions until an election is held.

- 5.5. Executive Committee officers may hold appointed, paid administrative positions within the League. However, to prevent a conflict of interest, any Officer holding or seeking such a position must recuse themselves from any discussion, vote, or determination regarding their own hiring, termination, performance evaluation, or compensation. All stipends or compensation for these positions must be fully disclosed and approved annually by the Board of Directors as part of the League budget.
- 5.6. The CYSL Executive Committee appoints the Director of Referee Affairs, who shall be an advisor to the Standards Committee.

## **6. DIRECTORS, TERM OF OFFICE, AND AUTHORITY**

- 6.1. **The President** shall preside at all meetings of the BOD and EC, call all regular and special meetings, appoint and maintain contact with working groups or ad hoc committees, and represent the CYSL at meetings with State and National federations. The President will, subject to the BOD's approval, appoint ad hoc committees as required. The President shall vote only to break ties at regular and special meetings of the BOD. The President shall have the authority to carry out the policies established by the CYSL. In non-urgent instances where disciplinary measures appear appropriate or are recommended, the President will convene a meeting of the Executive Team.
- 6.2. **The First Vice President** shall generally assist the President and assume the President's duties in his/her absence. The First Vice President shall chair the Standards Committee and other committees at the discretion of the President. The First Vice President shall receive all referee reports of misconduct and keep records of such misconduct. The First Vice President shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee.
- 6.3. **The Second Vice President** shall generally assist the President and shall chair the Competition Committee and other committees at the President's discretion. The Second Vice President shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee.
- 6.4. **The Secretary** shall keep an accurate record of all meetings, attend to all correspondence, send notices, and prepare and distribute a current listing of Member Association Representatives, Executive Committee Members, and Committee Chairpersons. The secretary will have the minutes from the previous meeting available at scheduled meetings. The Secretary shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee.
- 6.5. **The Treasurer** shall receive and disburse all monies at the direction of the BOD. He/she must accurately record all funds received and disbursed. He/she must submit a report at all quarterly meetings and when called upon at any BOD or EC meeting. The Treasurer chairs the Finance Committee and shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee.
- 6.6. **The Registrar** shall receive, review, and validate all Grade 3/4 and older team rosters used in connection with team play and register all teams with State/National Associations as may be required by these By-Laws. Before distributing materials, the Registrar shall verify MYSAs affiliations and confirm that registration fees and fines have been collected. The Registrar shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee.
- 6.7. **Non-Voting Appointed Positions:**
  - 6.7.1. **Appointment Process and Term:** The President shall nominate individuals for all Non-Voting positions. The Executive Committee shall vote to approve these nominations. All appointed positions shall serve a one (1) year term, coinciding with the League's fiscal year. All appointments automatically expire on June 30th of each year unless renewed.

- 6.7.2. **Board Oversight:** The Board of Directors retains the authority to overturn any appointment made by the Executive Committee. A motion to overturn an appointment requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors.
- 6.7.3. **Job Descriptions and Procedures:** The specific requirements to hold a role, duties, deliverables, operational timelines, and compensation (if any) for each position shall be detailed in the CYSL Policy Manual. This Manual shall be reviewed and updated by the Executive Committee with Board Oversight. Appointees must agree to the guidelines outlined in the Policy Manual before accepting the role.
- 6.7.4. **Removal:** Appointees serve at the pleasure of the Board. Notwithstanding the one-year term, any appointed officer may be removed at any time, with or without cause, by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.
- 6.7.5. **Data Ownership:** All accounts, passwords, software data, and intellectual property created or managed by these positions remain the sole property of CYSL. Appointees must surrender all access credentials immediately upon the expiration or termination of their term.
- 6.7.6. **Authorized Positions:** The current authorized Non-Voting positions are listed below. The Board of Directors may create additional temporary or permanent positions as deemed necessary.
- 6.7.6.1. **Director of Referee Affairs:** Shall recruit, train, and develop referees within CYSL and serve as the liaison to the Massachusetts State Referee Committee (MSRC).
- 6.7.6.2. **Referee Training Coordinator:** Assist with administrative tasks, including scheduling courses, managing registration, and communicating with trainees.
- 6.7.6.3. **Director of Assignors:** Shall oversee and coordinate the Member Association Assignors. Responsibilities include monitoring game coverage, ensuring compliance with League assigning policies, and serving as the primary liaison for local assignors regarding protocols and disputes.
- 6.7.6.4. **League Statistician:** Shall maintain the official game results, standings, and tie-breaker scenarios for the CYSL season and playoffs.
- 6.7.6.5. **Tournament Director:** Shall be responsible for the planning and execution of the CYSL post-season tournament, including scheduling, referee coordination, and logistics.
- 6.7.6.6. **Webmaster / Technology Director:** Shall maintain the CYSL website, digital assets, and communication platforms to ensure they are secure and up-to-date.
- 6.7.6.7. **Referee Systems Administrator:** Shall oversee the League's referee assigning software, manage user permissions, and support town assignors with technical issues.
- 6.7.6.8. **Schedule Administrator:** Shall generate the comprehensive league game schedule in accordance with the Competition Committee's guidelines and manage schedule integration with league software.
- 6.8. If an EC member does not attend meetings for three consecutive months, the BOD may review and vote to determine if that member should continue in their position.

## 7. MEETINGS

- 7.1. The BOD will meet at least monthly starting in August through June. A meeting schedule will be set for the next 12 months, starting at the August meeting.
- 7.2. The President may call special meetings at any time. The President must call a special meeting, upon written request, from four or more Member Associations. The written request must clearly state the object of the meeting. The President shall be responsible for notifying all BOD members of any special meeting. The 1st Vice President will assume these duties in the absence of the President.

- 7.3. All BOD meetings shall be open except in cases where issues of a personal nature may be the subject.
- 7.4. All BOD and EC decisions will be made by majority vote unless otherwise stated. A quorum for BOD meetings will be 9 voting Association Members and 4 Members for EC meetings.
- 7.5. Except as otherwise provided for in these by-laws, all questions shall be decided by a simple majority of votes. In case of doubt about procedure, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern.
- 7.6. The President shall call a meeting of the EC at any time necessary to conduct League business. The President must hold a meeting within seven (7) days of a written request signed by a minimum of four (4) EC members.
- 7.7. Associations failing to send a representative to two consecutive scheduled CYSL meetings will be fined \$50. An association that continues to miss meetings after this first fine may have the amount of the fine increased for each missed meeting.
- 7.8. **Remote Participation:** Meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee may be held via teleconference, video conference, or other electronic means. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this section shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.
- 7.9. **Action Without a Meeting:** Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board may be taken without a formal meeting if a consent in writing (including email), setting forth the action so taken, is approved by a majority of the voting members. Such consent shall be filed with the records of the meetings of the Board
- 7.10. **Annual General Meeting (AGM):** The regularly scheduled meeting in June/July shall be designated as the Annual General Meeting. The purpose of the AGM shall be the election of Officers, the presentation of the annual financial report, and the approval of the budget for the upcoming fiscal year

## 8. AMENDMENTS

- 8.1. Amendments to the Constitution and/or by-laws may be made at any meeting of the BOD by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the CYSL Members, provided that notice of the proposed change has been submitted in writing to all members of the BOD at least thirty (30) days before the meeting.
- 8.2. Amendments to CYSL Game Rules may be made at any meeting of the BOD by a Two-thirds (2/3) vote of the CYSL Members.

## 9. FEES

- 9.1. Each Member Association shall pay annual fees to CYSL.
- 9.2. Fees and budget shall be determined by the EC and approved by the BOD.
- 9.3. Fees shall be for the sole purpose of meeting operating expenses and verified by the EC.

## 10. BY-LAWS AND GAME RULES

- 10.1. The BOD may, from time to time, enact by-laws and Game Rules, which shall be binding upon all CYSL teams at scheduled CYSL games.

## 11. INDEMNIFICATION

- 11.1. The League shall indemnify and hold harmless any Director, Officer, Committee Member, Employee, or Volunteer of CYSL against any and all expenses, including attorney's fees, judgments, fines, and settlements, actually and reasonably incurred by them in connection with any legal proceeding, whether civil or criminal, in which they are made a party by reason of their affiliation with the League.

- 11.2. This indemnification shall only apply if the individual acted in good faith and in a manner they reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the League.
- 11.3. Indemnification shall **not** extend to any individual who is adjudged to be liable for gross negligence, willful misconduct, or criminal acts in the performance of their duties to the League.

## **12. DISSOLUTION**

- 12.1. In the event of the dissolution of the League, the remaining funds shall be divided among all of the town associations currently members of the League, then in good standing with regard to the payment of the fees to the League. Each organization would receive an equal amount.

## **13. CYSL POLICY MANUAL**

- 13.1. The Executive Committee shall establish and maintain a CYSL Policy Manual (the "Manual"). The purpose of the Manual is to document the day-to-day operational procedures, guidelines, and specific job descriptions necessary for the efficient management of the League.
- 13.2. The Manual shall include, but is not limited to:
  - 13.2.1. Detailed job descriptions, deliverables, and performance expectations for all Non-Voting Appointed Positions as outlined in Article 6.7.
  - 13.2.2. Financial procedures regarding reimbursements and purchasing authority.
  - 13.2.3. Unlike the Constitution, the Policy Manual is a living document. A majority vote of the Executive Committee or Board of Directors may amend it. However, any significant changes to the scope or compensation of Appointed Positions must be reported to the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting.
    - 13.2.3.1. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the CYSL Constitution/By-Laws and the Policy Manual, the Constitution/By-Laws shall govern.

# CYSL BY-LAWS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLES	PAGE
1. STANDARDS COMMITTEE	11
2. COMPETITION COMMITTEE	11
3. LEAGUE-TEAM ORGANIZATION	11
4. TEAM COMPOSITION	12
5. ROSTERS	12
6. TEAM SIZE	17
7. PLAYER POOL	17
8. AGE LIMITS	18
9. SEASONS	18
10. REFEREES & ASSIGNORS	18
11. STANDARDS COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES	18
12. COMPETITION COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES	19
13. PROTEST	19
14. DEADLINES FOR INFORMATION SUBMITTAL	20

## COASTAL YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE BY-LAWS

### 1. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

- 1.1. **Composition:** The Standards Committee shall consist of up to eight (8) members: the 1st Vice President (Chair) and seven (7) elected members. All members must be registered with MYSA.
- 1.2. **Conflict of Interest:** To ensure impartiality, no member (including the Chair) may participate in discussions or votes regarding incidents involving their own Member Association. In the event of the Chair's recusal, the remaining committee members shall select a temporary Chair for that specific hearing.
- 1.3. **Rotation:** To encourage diversity of thought, the Board shall endeavor to rotate at least one committee seat to a new volunteer each league year, subject to candidate availability.
- 1.4. **Voting & Alternates:** A quorum for the Standards Committee shall be five (5) members. Decisions regarding sanctions or fines require a majority vote of the members present. Two (2) alternate members shall be elected to serve when regular members are unavailable or recused.
- 1.5. **Election:** Nominations are accepted in May, with elections held at the annual voting BOD. If nominees exceed vacancies, the top seven (7) vote-getters shall be elected. Terms commence at the conclusion of the spring season.

### 2. COMPETITION COMMITTEE

- 2.1. **Composition:** The Competition Committee shall consist of seven (7) members: the 2nd Vice President (Chair), the CYSL Registrar, and five (5) elected members. Elected members must be Executive Committee officers or Primary Association Representatives. At least one Association member should be changed on the Competition Committee each year.
- 2.2. **Rotation:** To encourage fresh perspectives, the Board shall endeavor to rotate at least one committee seat to a new Association member each league year.
- 2.3. **Election:** Nominations are accepted in April, with elections held during the first week of May. If nominees exceed vacancies, the Board shall vote, and the top five (5) vote-getters shall be elected. Terms commence at the conclusion of the spring season.
- 2.4. **Placement Appeals:** An Association may appeal to the Competition Committee for team placement adjustments.
- 2.5. **Procedure:** Appeals must be submitted in writing and may include relevant supporting data.
- 2.6. **Deadlines:** Appeals must meet deadlines established by the Committee. The Committee reserves the right to adjust deadlines to coincide with the scheduled league meetings.

### 3. LEAGUE-TEAM ORGANIZATION

- 3.1. **Divisions:** The League shall consist of the following divisions:
  - 3.1.1. **MTOC Eligible (D1 & D2):** Teams in Grade 5/6 through Grade 11/12/PG competing in Division 1 and Division 2 are eligible for the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC).
  - 3.1.2. **Spring Division 3 (D3):** During the spring season, a Third Division (D3) shall be established with its own league standings and playoff structure. D3 teams are MTOC-eligible only if specified by MYSA rules for that specific playing year; otherwise, they are strictly regional.
  - 3.1.3. **Dave Coutts Cup (DCC):** All other teams shall compete in the Dave Coutts Cup divisions. These teams are not MTOC-eligible and focus on developmental and balanced competition.

### 3.2. Placement & The Three-Team Rule:

- 3.2.1. **Mandatory Placement:** If a Member Association enters three (3) or more teams in a single gender/age group, at least one (1) team must be entered into an MTOC-eligible division (D1 or D2).
- 3.2.2. **Exceptions:** The Competition Committee may recommend waiving the Mandatory Placement rule based on the Divisional Matrix.
- 3.2.3. **Divisional Matrix:** The Committee shall utilize a matrix based on placement requests, historical results, and scheduling formats to determine placement. This matrix shall be presented to the Board of Directors in February. The Committee retains the authority to adjust placement until the final schedule is published.
- 3.2.4. **Placement Appeals:** An Association may appeal a placement decision to the Competition Committee. Appeals must follow the specific procedures and deadlines outlined in **Article 2.4** of these By-Laws.

## 4. TEAM COMPOSITION

- 4.1. Each Association shall be divided into Girls and Boys Divisions by age groups as specified by the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association. Associations may appeal to the Competition Committee for an exception.
- 4.2. All rostered players shall reside within that town or Association. Requests for player waivers must be brought before the Competition Committee for approval.
- 4.3. Requests from players to play in Organizations other than CYSL must be approved by the Competition Committee.
- 4.4. Players may register for gender-based teams based on their gender identity, per CYSL policies that follow the Mass Youth Soccer Association guidelines.

### 4.5. Temporary Roster Supplementation (Borrowed Players)

- 4.5.1. The use of Borrowed Players allows a team to temporarily include players who are rostered on another CYSL team, provided the use complies with all eligibility, competition level, and reporting mandates, and is subject to the monitoring and enforcement authority of the Standards Committee.
- 4.5.2. The rules governing the temporary supplementation of a team roster through the use of Borrowed Players for the Spring Season are detailed in Article 5 (Rosters).
- 4.5.3. For the Fall Season, Teams must present two copies of the borrowed player's color roster during check-in and are not subject to Article 5.6.

## 5. ROSTERS

- 5.1. **Signatures:** The CYSL Registrar and the Coach must sign all official team rosters (Grade 3/4 and above).
  - 5.1.1. **Validation:** Association Registrars and Presidents must validate all coaching credentials and are fully responsible for the accuracy of the rosters.
- 5.2. **Format:** All rosters must be submitted in the format defined by the CYSL Registrar and must conform to the following mandatory presentation requirements for game day use:
  - 5.2.1. **Color and Photos:** Rosters must be printed in color and must include color photos that meet US passport photo standards for all participating players and rostered coaches.
  - 5.2.2. **Physical Submission:** Teams must provide two physical copies of the league-approved roster to the referee before each game; electronic versions are not accepted.
  - 5.2.3. **Integrity of Rosters:** Rosters are invalidated if they contain handwritten player names or jersey numbers (by the coach) or any other alterations, such as whiteout or tape.

- 5.2.4. When utilizing **Borrowed Players**, teams must submit (2) colored rosters for all borrowed players to the referee during check-in.

### **5.3. Roster Deadlines**

- 5.3.1. **Fall Season:** All rosters must be submitted to the CYSL Registrar 2 weeks before the start of the season.
- 5.3.2. **Spring Season:** Preliminary Rosters for all teams in Grade 3/4 through Grade 7/8, must be submitted to the League Competition Committee by the second League meeting in January.
- 5.3.3. Final Spring Team Rosters for all teams in Grade 3/4 through Grade 7/8, must be submitted to the League Registrar for validation prior to the first CYSL meeting in March.
- 5.3.4. Final Spring Team Rosters for all teams in Grade 9/10 through Grade 11/12/PG, must be submitted to the League Registrar for validation within one week of the final pooling decisions being released by the Competition Committee.
- 5.3.5. Teams in competition for MTOC must submit final rosters to the League Registrar for approval, fourteen (14) days before the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC) roster freeze date as established by the MYSA Leagues Committee and announced at a CYSL league meeting.
- 5.3.6. For Grade 5/6, the permanent roster size is limited to 16 players per MYSA guidelines. For CYSL games, waivers for rosters above this size may be approved by the Competition Committee. However, for MTOC games, the roster size is strictly limited to 16 players.
- 5.3.7. For Grades 7/8 and older, the permanent roster size can be up to 22 players. However, only 18 players are allowed to participate in any MTOC game. Rules for designating players that will play in a game are provided by MYSA in the MTOC Rules and Procedures.
- 5.3.8. The League Registrar may adjust submittal deadlines, but in no event will the deadlines be extended past the beginning of CYSL league play. Changes in deadlines will be announced at a CYSL regular meeting and be recorded in the minutes.

### **5.4. Roster Changes**

- 5.4.1. For the Fall season, all permanent roster changes (additions or transfers) at all grade levels are at the discretion of the Association, provided the additions meet all residency and eligibility guidelines outlined in these By-Laws and Game Rules.
- 5.4.2. For Grade 3/4 teams in the Spring season, permanent roster changes may be made up until the final roster change deadline (5.4.7). Changes for Grade 3/4 teams do not require the approval of the Competition Committee.
- 5.4.3. For all teams Grade 5/6 and older in the Spring season, after the final roster submission deadline (5.3.3 & 5.3.4), all permanent Roster adds and transfers must be submitted to and approved by the Competition Committee. The Competition Committee retains the authority to review and deny any requested roster change.
- 5.4.4. Permanent roster changes (additions or transfers) made after the final roster submittal deadline are strictly limited to three (3) players per team, subject to the exceptions listed in 5.4.5 and 5.4.6.
- 5.4.5. Players who move into a CYSL town during the current soccer year (September 1st through August 31st) may be added to a team roster, up to the maximum roster limit, at any time by submitting a request to the Competition Committee. This exception is not counted against the three (3) player add/transfer limit (5.4.4).
- 5.4.6. If, during the season, a team's viability is threatened due to insufficient player numbers, the Association President may submit a written request to the Competition Committee for approval of additional permanent player adds or transfers beyond the established limit.

5.4.7. The final deadline for all permanent roster changes (adds or transfers) at any level is the last Saturday in April.

5.4.8. Following a review by the Competition Committee, the 2nd Vice President will notify the requesting town and the Registrar of the decision via email. For approved roster changes, the player is allowed to commence play only once the Registrar approves the updated, official roster.

5.4.9. Temporary Game-Day Roster Supplementation

5.4.9.1. The rules defining the temporary use of "Borrowed Players" to ensure minimum game-day numbers (up to 5 additional players) are governed by Article 5.8 (Grade 5/6) and Article 5.9 (Grade 7/8 and older).

5.4.9.2. Borrowed players do not constitute a permanent roster change and are subject to separate rules regarding competition level, commitment to their primary team, maximum usage limits, reporting requirements, and Standards Committee monitoring and approval.

## 5.5. Dual Rostering

**5.5.1. Designation:** With prior approval by the Competition Committee, an Association may designate two teams as a permanent "Dual Rostered Pair."

**5.5.2. Eligibility:** Associations may request Dual Rostering in the following scenarios:

**5.5.2.1. Multiple DCC Teams:** When an Association has multiple teams in the same age group in the Dave Coumts Cup (DCC) Division.

**5.5.2.2. Mixed Levels:** When an Association has teams in the same age group split between MTOC divisions (D1/D2) and the DCC Division.

**5.5.2.3. Single Team:** When an Association has only a single team in an age group (refer to 5.5.3.3 for playing up).

**5.5.3. Dual Roster Slots:** designated teams may identify up to five (5) "Dual Roster" slots on their permanent rosters.

**5.5.3.1. Lateral (DCC to DCC):** If both teams are in the DCC, players filling the dual roster slots can be any player rostered on the other designated team. Both official rosters must be presented to the referee.

**5.5.3.2. Vertical (MTOC and DCC):** When one team is MTOC-eligible and the other is DCC, the specific players filling the dual slots must be approved by the Competition Committee. These players are considered primary to the MTOC roster but may participate in DCC games. Players must be noted on both rosters.

**5.5.3.3. Playing Up (Different Ages):** When teams are in different age groups, the younger players filling dual slots must be within one school grade of the older age group (e.g., a Grade 6 player dual rostering on a Grade 7/8 team). These players must be approved by the Committee and are considered primary to the lower age group roster.

**5.5.4. Violations & Sanctions:** If the Standards Committee determines that dual rostering has been used inconsistently with these guidelines, the following sanctions shall apply:

**5.5.4.1. Forfeit:** Any game in which an ineligible player participated shall be declared a forfeit.

**5.5.4.2. Suspension:** The Head Coach shall be suspended from CYSL games for one (1) year.

**5.5.4.3. Playoff Ban:** The team shall be ineligible for post-season play.

**5.5.4.4. Additional Discipline:** The Standards Committee reserves the right to impose further sanctions based on a review of the circumstances.

**5.5.4.5. Scheduling:** The status of a team as "Dual Rostered" does not grant the Association the right to demand schedule changes. While Associations may request accommodations,

opposing teams and the League are under no obligation to alter game times to accommodate dual-rostered players.

**5.6. Borrowed Players: Division 5/6 (9 vs. 9)**

5.6.1. Division 5/6 teams that do not have 9 players and 2 substitutes available from their CYSL roster for a game may add enough players from a same gender/age group lower division (if no lower division exists, they may recruit players from a level division) to ensure they have a total of 11 players available for the game or up to 5 additional players.

5.6.1.1. In the event that a team has 11 or fewer players on their CYSL roster, a waiver request to the Standards Committee will be required.

5.6.2. A player from a younger same gender/age group must be borrowed from a team at the same or lower competition level (i.e., D1, D2, DCC) unless a waiver is obtained from the Standards Committee in advance. Waiver requests must be submitted to the Standards Committee 3 days before the game.

5.6.3. Grade 5/6 teams playing in a DCC division may not borrow younger players unless a waiver is issued by the Standards Committee.

5.6.4. A younger player who is borrowed must be in the older half of the age bracket. For example, a 4th-grade student used for a 9v9 team.

5.6.5. Borrowed players cannot miss their scheduled game to participate in another CYSL team's game. Failure to participate is subject to discipline as defined in Appendix A.

5.6.6. Teams must submit (2) rosters for all borrowed players to the referee. Rosters must be valid as described above and clearly identify the borrowed players (examples: circles player, highlighted player)

5.6.7. An association must submit the names of the players from the lower division who wish to participate in the playoff games to the Standards Committee by May 31st. The Standards Committee will have the final say on which players can play in the CYSL playoff games, with a maximum of 12 players permitted.

5.6.8. All borrowing of players under this rule is subject to the strict reporting requirements, usage limits, and sanctions (including forfeits and fines) outlined in **Rule 5.8**.

5.6.9. Nothing contained in this section shall have any effect on **By Laws 5.3 or 6** for **Game Rule 5.5**.

**5.7. Borrowed Players: Division 7/8 and High School (11 vs. 11)**

5.7.1. Division 7/8 and high school teams that do not have 11 players and 3 substitutes available from their CYSL roster for a game may add enough players from a same gender/age lower division (if no lower division exists, they may recruit players from a level division) to ensure they have a total of 14 players available for the game or up to 5 additional players. If a team has 14 or fewer players on its CYSL roster, a waiver request to the Standards Committee will be required.

5.7.2. A player from a younger same gender/age group must be borrowed from a team at the same or lower competition level (i.e., D1, D2, DCC) unless a waiver is obtained from the Standards Committee in advance. Waiver requests must be submitted to the Standards Committee 3 days before the game.

5.7.3. A younger player who is borrowed must be in the older half of the age bracket. For example, a 6th-grade student used for an 11v11 team.

5.7.4. Borrowed players cannot miss their scheduled game to participate in another CYSL team's game. Failure to participate is subject to discipline as defined in Appendix A.

- 5.7.5. Teams must submit (2) rosters for all borrowed players to the referee. Rosters must be valid as described above and clearly identify the borrowed players (examples: circles player, highlighted player)
- 5.7.6. An association must submit the names of the lower division players selected to participate in the playoff games to the Standards Committee by May 31st. The Standards Committee will have the final authority to approve the players eligible to play in the CYSL playoff games, with a maximum of 15 players allowed.
- 5.7.7. All borrowing of players under this rule is subject to the strict reporting requirements, usage limits, and sanctions (including forfeits and fines) outlined in **Rule 5.8**.
- 5.7.8. Nothing contained in this section shall have any effect on **By Laws 5.3 or 6** for **Game Rule 5.5**.

## **5.8. Governance of Borrowed Players**

- 5.8.1. **Oversight:** The Standards Committee, in collaboration with the Executive Committee and Association leadership, shall oversee the use of borrowed players to prevent unfair competitive advantages and ensure compliance with Bylaws 5.6 and 5.7.
- 5.8.2. **Mandatory Reporting Procedures:** Associations must inform the Standards Committee of any borrowing by 11:59 PM the day before the game.
  - 5.8.2.1. Notification must be submitted via the official **Google Form** accessible through the **CYSL Website Portal**.
  - 5.8.2.2. The form must be completed in its entirety to be considered valid.
  - 5.8.2.3. Failure to submit a complete form by the deadline constitutes a "Failure to Report" and is subject to the sanctions defined in Rule 5.8.4 and Appendix A.

### **5.8.3. Reporting Violations (Peer Policy)**

- 5.8.3.1. Associations that identify potential violations of these rules by opposing teams are required to report them to the Standards Committee.
- 5.8.3.2. Such reports must be submitted within **seventy-two (72) hours** of the game's conclusion.
- 5.8.3.3. Violations reported to the Standards Committee outside of this 72-hour window may be dismissed without sanction at the discretion of the Committee.

- 5.9. **Adjudication and Sanctions:** The Standards Committee shall review all allegations of borrowed player violations. Upon confirmation of a violation, the Committee shall enforce the following sanctions:

### **5.9.1. Failure to Report Borrowing (Player was eligible):**

- 5.9.1.1. First (1<sup>st</sup>) Offense (per team): \$100 fine.
- 5.9.1.2. Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Offense (per team): Additional \$100 fine and revocation of borrowing privileges for the remainder of the season.
- 5.9.1.3. Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Offense (per team): Automatic game forfeit (recorded as a loss) and ineligible for players.

### **5.9.2. Borrowing an Ineligible Player:**

- 5.9.2.1. First (1<sup>st</sup>) Offense (per team): Automatic game forfeit and \$50 fine.
- 5.9.2.2. Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Offense (per team): Team becomes ineligible for playoffs, and the Head Coach is suspended for a minimum of four (4) games.

### **5.9.3. Unfair Competitive Advantage:**

- 5.9.3.1. The Standards Committee is authorized to investigate and sanction any Association engaging in unfair practices to gain a competitive advantage.
- 5.9.3.2. Violations of "Fair Practice" include, but are not limited to: The excessive use of the borrowing provision by a single team. Over-reliance on specific individual borrowed players.

Borrowed players are missing their own scheduled primary game to participate as borrowed players. Intentional under-rostering of a team to exploit the borrowing rules.

**5.9.4. Usage Limits (Spring Season):**

5.9.4.1. **Individual Limit:** An individual player may be borrowed a maximum of **three (3)** times by the same team.

5.9.4.2. **Team Limit:** A team is permitted to use borrowed players for a maximum of **five (5)** games total per season.

5.9.5. Nothing contained in this section shall override or negate other Bylaws or Game Rules.

**6. TEAM SIZE**

6.1. **Registration Compliance:** All players must be registered with the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) for the current playing year. No player may participate in any game without being registered and rostered. All registrations must include the appropriate age verification and credential approvals.

6.2. **Roster Limits (League Play):** For CYSL league play and playoffs, the following maximum roster sizes apply:

6.2.1. **Grade 3/4:** 13 players

6.2.2. **Grade 5/6:** 16 players (Note: MTOC limit is strictly 16)

6.2.3. **Grade 7/8:** 22 players (Note: MTOC game day limit is 18)

6.2.4. **Grade 9/10:** 25 players (Note: MTOC game day limit is 18)

6.2.5. **Grade 11/12/PG:** 25 players (Note: MTOC game day limit is 18)

6.3. **Waivers:** An Association may apply to the Competition Committee to exceed these roster limits for CYSL play. All requests must be submitted in writing. The Committee must approve any waiver before a player is added. Waivers granted for CYSL play do not apply to MTOC or State Tournament eligibility.

**7. PLAYER POOL**

7.1. **Purpose:** If a Member Association has registered players in an age group but insufficient numbers to field a viable team, it may request that these players be assigned to the CYSL Player Pool for placement on a combined team.

7.2. **Administration:** The Competition Committee shall administer the Player Pool and facilitate the merging of players from two or more Member Associations to create viable teams. Guidelines for these mergers are subject to Board approval.

7.3. **Timeline (Grade 5/6 & 7/8):** To facilitate timely tryouts and uniform ordering, pooling requests for Grades 5/6 and 7/8 should be submitted by **mid-July**. The Committee will process these requests on a rolling basis.

7.4. **Timeline (High School):** For Grades 9/10 and 11/12/PG, pooling decisions will be finalized after the March registration deadline.

7.5. **Compliance:** No player may be assigned from the pool without Competition Committee approval. Any team utilizing unapproved pool players will be referred to the Standards Committee for potential sanctions, including game forfeiture.

## 8. AGE LIMITS

- 8.1. **Guidelines:** Age groups for all divisions (Grade 3/4 through Grade 11/12/PG) shall strictly adhere to MYSA guidelines.
- 8.2. **Waivers:** In accordance with MYSA policy, waivers may be granted for players to play with their school grade classmates despite being age-eligible for an older group. Associations must notify the Registrar of any such waivers upon roster submission. The Registrar reserves the right to refer any waiver to the Competition Committee for final review and approval.

## 9. SEASONS

- 9.1. **Soccer Year:** The League's administrative and fiscal year ("Soccer Year") shall run from September 1 through August 31.
- 9.2. **Fall Season:** The Fall recreational schedule shall generally commence on the second Saturday in September.
- 9.3. **Spring Season:** The Spring competitive schedule shall generally commence on the first Saturday of April, subject to field availability and weather conditions.
- 9.4. **Holidays:** CYSL does not schedule games on Memorial Day weekend.

## 10. REFEREES AND ASSOCIATION ASSIGNORS

- 10.1. **Referee Certification:** Referees shall be registered and certified by the Massachusetts State Referee Committee (MSRC).
- 10.2. **Assignor Certification:** Member Associations are required to utilize MSRC-certified Assignors to schedule officials for their home games.
- 10.3. **Responsibilities and Oversight:**
  - 10.3.1. **Assignors:** Assignors are responsible for ensuring that the referees they assign fulfill their game day responsibilities as defined in the CYSL Game Rules and Policy Manual.
  - 10.3.2. **Associations:** Member Associations are fully responsible for ensuring their designated Assignor performs these responsibilities effectively.
- 10.4. **Mandatory Software:** League-approved software is required for referee assigning of all CYSL games. Failure by an association to use this required software is subject to sanctions as defined in **Appendix A of the CYSL Game Rules**.
- 10.5. **Sanctions:** Failure by Assignors or Referees to perform their required duties shall be subject to sanctions as defined in **Appendix A of the CYSL Game Rules**.

## 11. STANDARDS COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- 11.1. **Authority and Hearings:** The Standards Committee shall hear and rule on all protests, reports of misconduct, and complaints regarding officials, coaches, players, spectators, Member Associations, or their representatives (including those attending the games as fans). The Committee may conduct hearings and request written reports from referees, coaches, and other relevant parties. The Committee is not required to convene a formal hearing for every referral and reserves the right to adjudicate matters and issue rulings based solely on the review of written reports, video evidence, and administrative records.
- 11.2. **Right to Hearing:** Any party (Coach, Player, or Association Representative) under investigation may request a hearing with the Standards Committee. Hearing requests must be submitted during the investigation phase and prior to the notification of sanctions.

- 11.3. **Recusal:** A member of the Standards Committee shall be disqualified from participating, deliberating, or ruling on a matter if that member:
- 11.3.1. Was involved in the specific game as a referee, coach, or other official capacity;
  - 11.3.2. Is a relative of an involved party;
  - 11.3.3. Has a relative playing on an involved team; or
  - 11.3.4. Is affiliated with an involved Association (as defined in Article 1.2).
- 11.4. **Timeline:** The investigation process must begin within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of a properly referred issue. The Chairperson shall notify involved parties promptly. The Committee shall render a final decision within sixty (60) days of the referral.
- 11.5. **Appeals Board Composition:** Decisions of the Standards Committee may be appealed to a CYSL Appeals Board. This Board shall consist of three (3) ad hoc members appointed by the CYSL President, one of whom shall serve as Chair. No member may be affiliated with an Association involved in the appeal.
- 11.6. **Appeals Process:**
- 11.6.1. **Filing:** An appeal must be received by the CYSL President within seven (7) calendar days of the Standards Committee's decision, accompanied by a non-refundable \$100 fee.
  - 11.6.2. The Appeals Board may only review the material upon which the Standards Committee based its decision; no new material may be introduced.
  - 11.6.3. **Governance:** The Board shall be governed by CYSL Game Rules, Constitution, By-Laws, CYSL Manual, and applicable MYSAs/USYS guidelines.
  - 11.6.4. **Decision:** The Appeals Board must issue a decision within thirty (30) days of the filing. The Board may mitigate sanctions, but may not impose sanctions greater than those issued by the Standards Committee.
  - 11.6.5. **Further Action:** Decisions of the Appeals Board are final at the League level and may only be appealed to MYSAs.

## 12. COMPETITION COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- 12.1. The primary purpose of the Competition Committee is to foster balanced competition. The Committee shall determine the placement of teams and seeding within each division in accordance with Article 3. The Committee shall also establish the competitive format (e.g., bracket structure, qualification rules) and seeding for all CYSL Playoffs and Tournaments, while the Tournament Director shall manage the operational execution and scheduling.
- 12.2. **Access to Records:** The Committee shall have the right of access to game records for any team playing under MYSAs affiliation to assist in placement decisions.
- 12.3. **Roster Oversight:** As detailed in Article 5, the Committee retains the authority to review and deny requested roster changes to maintain competitive fairness.
- 12.4. **Player Pool:** The Committee shall administer the CYSL Player Pool in accordance with Article 7.
- 12.5. **Voting Limitation:** If the Committee contains two or more members from the same Member Association, that Association shall collectively have only one (1) vote during Committee proceedings.

## 13. PROTEST

- 13.1. A protest may be filed regarding a violation or misapplication of CYSL By-Laws, Game Rules, or the Laws of the Game.
- 13.2. **Exclusions:** Referee judgment calls (e.g., fouls, offside) and mandatory minimum disciplines resulting from Red Cards are not grounds for protest or appeal.

13.3. **Regular Season Procedure:**

13.3.1. **Notification:** A protest must be communicated via email to the Standards Committee Chair or an Executive Committee member within 72 hours of the incident.

13.3.2. **Formal Submission:** A formal written protest, signed by the Association President, must be submitted to the Standards Committee Chair via email no later than seven (7) days after the incident.

13.3.3. **Protest Fee:** A **non-refundable** fee of \$200.00 must accompany the formal written protest.

13.4. **Playoff Procedure:** Due to the time-sensitive nature of tournament play, the following expedited rules apply:

13.4.1. **Timeline:** An Association must notify a CYSL Official of the intent to protest within two (2) hours of the game's conclusion.

13.4.2. **Submission:** A written protest and payment of the **non-refundable** \$250 fee must be submitted immediately.

13.4.3. **Continuity:** The Tournament Director reserves the right to pause or continue tournament play while a protest is being adjudicated.

**14. DEADLINES FOR INFORMATIONAL SUBMITTAL**

14.1. Towns are required to submit information to CYSL at various times during the season so that brackets and schedules can be created. To facilitate these activities, the following deadlines are defined.  
Preliminary Number of Teams for Fall Season – mid-July

*Final Number of Teams for Fall Season – First Meeting in August*

Fall Schedule – 2 weeks before start of season

*Rosters for Fall Season – 2 weeks before start of season*

Preliminary Club Player Lists – November Meeting

*Fall Scores – December Meeting*

Preliminary Spring Team Numbers and Placement Requests – First January Meeting

Preliminary Grade 5/6 and 7/8 Rosters – Second January Meeting

*Final Spring Team Numbers and Placement Requests – Second January Meeting*

*Final Club Player Lists – Second January Meeting*

Preliminary Brackets – First February Meeting

Requests for Changes to Preliminary Brackets – One Week After First February Meeting

Final Brackets – Second February Meeting

Spring Schedule – First March Meeting

*Final Rosters for Spring Season – First March Meeting*

Preliminary High School Team and Player Numbers – First March Meeting

*Field and Game Time Assignments for Score Reporting – Second March Meeting*

*Final High School Team and Player Numbers – Second March Meeting*

High School Schedule – One Week After Second March Meeting

Approved January 2026

Final High School Rosters for Approval – One Week After Second March Meeting

*High School Field and Game Time Assignments for Score Reporting – April Meeting*

Deadline for Roster Changes – Final Saturday in April

- 14.2. These dates may be adjusted by the appropriate Committees. Associations will be provided with a minimum of two weeks' notice of any deadline changes.
- 14.3. Any associations missing the italicized deadlines will incur a fine of \$50 for every week the information is missing.
- 14.4. A \$300.00 fine will be charged to any Association that withdraws a team from play after week one of either the fall or spring seasons.