

SWFL Pre-Season Cup COMPETITION RULES

September 11-13, 2026

Headquarters: 5490 Lakewood Ranch Blvd – Lakewood Ranch, FL

REGISTRATION & TEAM ELIGIBILITY:

This Tournament shall be open to all teams composed of properly registered youth players (as defined by the rules of the affiliated organization) in all age groups listed in the "Tournament Rules", provided such team is in good standing with its youth association.

- Pre-Tournament Online Check is required for all teams.
- At the field before each game. Teams should be available for check-in with the referee or field marshal 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time.
- Documentation required at initial Pre-Tournament Online Check-In:

Teams from the United States:

- The Players and bench personnel must present picture identification cards issued by the team's federation Organization Member (USYS, US Club, AYSO, USSSA, others)
- Identification cards must be verified, photo attached and laminated (if your association does not allow lamination, cards must be encased in plastic sleeves).
- Teams from a US Youth Soccer National State Association outside of Florida must provide/upload proof of permission to travel (if outside Region III).
- Teams must provide/upload a certified/approved tournament roster from the team's Federation Organization.
- Teams must provide/upload a completed medical release form for every player.
- Teams must provide payment to be accepted.

Teams coming from a Concacaf nation:

- Players must present passports at registration or, if from a nation that the US does not require a passport, proof of entry into the United States that is required by the US.
- Teams are required to have present player picture identification cards.
- Must provide a letter or form from its Provincial or National Association approving the team's travel and participation in the tournament.
- Multiple divisions within an age group are not guaranteed but may be offered when a sufficient number of teams apply to that age group. The decision of the Tournament Committee for the placement of teams within age groups with multiple divisions is final.
- Falsification of player registration forms, team rosters, player passes, or other records used in the tournament will result in immediate disqualification of the team from the competition and shall result in disciplinary action, up to and including disbarment for the individual(s) involved.

PRE-GAME PROCEDURES:

Documentation required for pre-game check-in:

All Teams:

- Teams are required to have in their possession and be able to present player and bench personnel picture identification cards if requested. Rosters signed and verified by tournament officials will suffice.
- Identification cards may be checked against the tournament's generated frozen rosters listed on match reports.
- Teams must have on hand a tournament roster and passes from the team's Federation Organization in case of any discrepancies with the tournament generated game reports.
- U13-U19. The game roster shall have a maximum of 18 players. Players not listed on the game roster are allowed to sit on the bench in the team's opposite uniform or in street clothes.
- Each team is limited to (4) coaches on the bench, all of which must be listed on the team roster. In no case will a team be allowed to participate without a properly registered coach or assistant approved by a tournament official.

- The jersey number of each player should be the same as the player's jersey number on the tournament roster.
- A player who arrives late at the playing field after the pre-game procedure may enter the game once the game's official(s) verify the player is eligible and with the permission of the center referee.
- Only at the pre-game procedure may a player be challenged by an opposing manager/coach. Challenged player(s) will be noted by the Referee on the game report and will be allowed to participate in the game (if said player has been certified as eligible by the Credentials Committee). A late arriving player may be challenged at the time he/she is allowed to participate by the Referee.
- ANY TEAM USING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER WILL FORFEIT ALL TOURNAMENT MATCHES PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. A report will be filed with the offending teams national Organization or National State Association. If you are not sure of a player's eligibility, ask the Tournament Director.

In the case of lost or stolen ID cards the tournament committee reserves the right to use alternate identification or make tournament specific ID cards.

MANDATORY: All teams, except as noted below, are subject to book lodging through the designated travel provider as a condition to compete at the event.

- Teams that are located within a 75-mile driving distance of the tournament headquarters are not required to book.
- All teams over 75 miles are expected to book with the designated travel provider as a condition to compete – no exceptions.
- Addresses used for the determination of the distance will be the physical address of the Club's home fields.
 - Google Maps TM or other approved online mapping services will be used to determine driving distance.

All teams must upload required online check in documents immediately after applying to ensure acceptance. For Clubs/States that do not use Gotsoccer, each team must enter a roster complete with bench personnel into the tournament's on-line tournament system (Gotsoccer). The minimum required information is Name, Date of Birth, player ID number, uniform number and gender. Revisions can be made to the roster up to the Monday prior to the event. This information will appear on the tournament match reports to be used by the referees for check-in on the field prior to each game. Teams failing to input this information are subject to removal from the event.

PLAYER AND AGE ELIGIBILITY:

- For this tournament, the age classifications are as follows:
U8 through U19 Boys & Girls teams
- A team using guest players may have no more than five (5) guest players depending on age group.
 - Guest players must have permission to participate/travel from their National and State Association, Federation or any other USSF affiliated organization. Teams may only have guest/loan players from the same Federation organization, and all players must be legally registered through their respective Federation organization. (i.e., USYS teams can only have players with USYS passes; US Club teams may only have players with US Club passes, etc.)
- Club pass players are allowed and will not count towards the 5-guest player maximum.

BIRTH YEAR CHART

SEASON 2026-27	
Age Group	Birth Range
U8	Aug 1, 2018 – Jul 31, 2019
U9	Aug 1, 2017 – Jul 31, 2018
U10	Aug 1, 2016 – Jul 31, 2017
U11	Aug 1, 2015 – Jul 31, 2016
U12	Aug 1, 2013 – Jul 31, 2014
U13	Aug 1, 2012 – Jul 31, 2013
U14	Aug 1, 2011 – Jul 31, 2012
U15	Aug 1, 2010 – Jul 31, 2011
U16	Aug 1, 2009 – Jul 31, 2010
U17	Aug 1, 2008 – Jul 31, 2009
U18/19	Aug 1, 2007 – Jul 31, 2008

PLAYING UP GUIDELINES

- Players in the U9 to U14 age groups will be allowed to roster up to 2 years, subject to the restriction that no player may participate in any sanctioned competition in which heading is permitted before their 11th birthday.
- Players in the U15 and older age groups will be allowed to roster up to any older age groups. There will be no exception to the above guidelines.
- Players can play for only one more team in the tournament in a different age group respecting the above-mentioned guidelines. Limited to 2 players per team. No player is allowed to participate in more than 2 (two) games per day. It is at the discretion of the tournament staff to determine player eligibility on a roster.

CONCUSSIONS:

- Pursuant to Florida Statutes (FS 943.0438) Florida in 2012 enacted a very stringent Head injury and Concussion Law. If the referee (or assistant referee) believes that, in her/her opinion, a player has suffered a head injury or possible concussion, the match must be stopped IMMEDIATELY.
- The injured player, if able to leave the field on their own, must be escorted to their coach, and the coach must be told that the player cannot return for the duration of the match. If a trainer is brought onto the field because the player is incapacitated, the referee must still notify the coach that the player cannot return to the game. It is the responsibility of the coach and the player's parents or legal guardians to seek medical attention.
- The player may not resume participation until he/she has been cleared by a medical doctor. The Referee HAS NO FURTHER responsibility beyond removing the player from the match in which the player was injured. The referee crew must ensure, that UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES or due to the appeal from any coaching staff that the player is allowed to return to the game.

ORTHOPEDIC POLICY 402.2:

- Orthopedic casts can be worn at any sanctioned FYSA tournament with written approval from a doctor and written permission from a tournament official, final judgement as to its safety is at the discretion of the referee.
- Soft braces can be worn with written approval from a doctor, and judgement as to safety is at the discretion of the referee.

HEADING GUIDELINES:

- Deliberate heading is not allowed in age groups U12 and younger
- If a U12 or younger player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.
- If the deliberate header of a U12 or younger player occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infraction occurred.

LAWS OF THE GAME: All matches must be played in accordance with the FIFA laws of the Game, except as specifically modified as follows in the tournament rules.

LAW 1: Field of Play

U13 - U19 No change per FIFA "Laws of the Game"

U9 & U10 (7v7) and U11 & U12 (9v9) must play in accordance with the US Youth Soccer Official under 12 & 10 Playing Initiatives.

LAW 2: The Ball

U13 and older Size #5

U12 and younger Size #4

LAW 3: Number of Players

* U13 and Older Eleven (11) per side per FIFA - minimum players 7

U11 and U12 Nine (9) per side - minimum players 8

U9 and U10 Seven (7) per side - minimum players 6

SUBSTITUTION TIME:

Substitutions shall be unlimited. Players may substitute at any stoppage of the ball with the referee's permission. The substitute shall not enter the field of play until the player he/she is replacing has left, and then, only after receiving a signal from the referee. When an injured player (inclusive of the goalkeeper) is attended to on the field of play, the player must leave the field of play for treatment and evaluation. A substitution may be made for the injured player.

SUBSTITUTION AGE LIMITS

U9-U19 ages, free substitution is allowed. No national team as designated by the National Associations of FIFA will be accepted to compete at this event.

LAW 4: Players' Equipment Player

Equipment must conform to FIFA rules. All players will wear shin-guards (under socks). A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry). Player equipment shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Affiliate and FIFA rules. *Additionally:*

- a) Screw in cleats are permitted; however, judgment as to their safety is at the discretion of the referee. b) Orthopedic casts can be worn at any sanctioned tournament with written approval from a doctor and written permission from a tournament official, final judgment as to its safety is at the discretion of the referee.
- c) No player is allowed to wear ANY jewelry while participating in the tournament. The only exception that may be allowed is a medical alert bracelet or necklace when taped to the body. The referee shall make the decision as to the safety of the player and the referee's decision is final.
- d) Teams will wear uniforms of matching design and color with a minimum of six (6) inch numbers affixed to the back of the uniform shirt.
- e) The designated home team per the tournament schedule will be required to wear white/light color jerseys. In cases where the schedule does not designate a home team the first team listed on the game report will be considered the home team.
- f) The uniform of the goalkeeper must be distinctly different in color from the basic colors of the competing teams and the referee.

LAW 5: The Referee

The Center Referee for all matches must be certified by the Federation.

Referees are required to submit a completed official USSF or a tournament specific game report to the Site Director containing any information relating to any game incident involving players/coach, spectator misconduct, or injuries.

In the event, the assigned referees fail to appear, and the assignor and/or Site Director fail to provide a replacement, the senior assigned assistant referee shall assume the duties and shall find an alternate assistant.

The game will be played as scheduled and will be deemed official.

LAW 6: The Assistant Referee

Two (2) assistant referees will be used in matches U11 and above. A single center referee with no assistant referees will be used for U9 and U10 7v7 matches.

In the event, the assigned assistant(s) fails to appear; the referee must find suitable replacements.

The game will be played as scheduled and be deemed official.

LAW 7: The Duration of the Match

Due to the extreme heat at this time of year and multiple games played in one day, all games will be played per age group as follows:

POOL PLAY:

U8-U12 2X25 = 50

U13-U14 2X30=60

U15-U19 2X35 = 70

5-minute halftime per each game

No Overtime in Semi's or Finals/ PK's to determine winner of semi or final if tied after regulation.

LAW 8 - 10: No change per FIFA "Laws of the Game".

LAW 11: Offside: U11 - U19: No change per FIFA "Laws of the Game".

U9 - U10: Offside will be called in accordance with the US Youth Soccer Official under 10 Playing Recommendations.

Law 12-17 No change per FIFA "Laws of the Game."

TOURNAMENT & MATCH SCHEDULES

- During the preliminary stage of the tournament teams will play in a World Cup pool play format. Ties shall remain.
- Minimum number of teams at any age/flight is 4; maximum is 32.
- The tournament reserves the right to have multiple flights within an age group.
- All teams are guaranteed a minimum of 3 scheduled games.
- Maximum number of games is 6.
- Teams can play up to 2 games in one day.
- A minimum of one time slot for rest purposes will be scheduled between games.
 - Groups of 6 teams or less will go directly to finals or may play a round robin with no finals. Champion determined by points.
 - Groups of 7 teams or more will have consolation or semi [1] finals and finals.
 - The Wildcard or best 2nd will always be considered the lowest seed. If the teams have the same number of points, the criteria in the "Determination of Group Winners" will be used to break the tie. Playoff pairings will be as shown on the tournament schedule. If the Wildcard is scheduled to play a team they have already played the schedule may be revised for the Wildcard to play the highest seed group winner available. This will only be done if the schedule can be arranged so all playoff matches have teams that have not already played. If this cannot be done, then matches will revert back to the original schedule.

POST GAME PROCEDURES:

- As a mutual courtesy, the tournament committee asks that both teams congratulate each other for a game well played. Manager/Coach of both teams will make sure their respective sideline areas are clean, and all trash is in the containers provided.
- Manager/Coach of each team will confirm the score as reported on the Game report with the Tournament Official and mark their initials on the Game report.
- Referees will return the completed game report, supplemental report for send-offs, injuries and special circumstances to the Site Director (or Tournament Official).

CONTROL OF SIDELINE CONDUCT:

- Players, reserve players, managers, coaches, and fans are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of "The Laws of the Game". The Site Director has the authority and responsibility to remove any person(s) from the tournament for abuses of conduct, in addition to any specific disciplinary action brought about by any other authority.
- Tournament Field Marshals will be present at games to assist.
- Also, these rules will apply:
 - The Site Directors will designate one sideline for players and the opposite sidelines for spectators.
 - Team Managers/Coaches will be responsible for the behavior of their fans. If the referee warns any coach about their fans' behavior, and the behavior does not improve, the coach can be sent off by the referee.

CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE:

- It shall be solely the team's responsibility to determine the status of its players and coaches. Any suspension from a tournament, local league, etc., is the responsibility of the team to notify the Tournament Director of this suspension at the time of the player's check-in.
- Per FYSA Rule 504.1, red card suspension or send off suspensions can only be served with the team with which the suspension was earned in games played by their team. Players may not serve suspensions as "guest players."
- The Tournament Committee shall have a Discipline Committee of three (3) members. This committee will review and rule on all reports of unacceptable conduct by players, managers, coaches, referees, spectators, etc. using the FYSA standards as set by Rules Section 502.
- Any player or manager/coach ejected (red carded) will not complete the game in which the ejection occurred. The ejected player or manager/coach will not participate in the next scheduled tournament game regardless of the cause.
- Depending on the severity of the unacceptable conduct, the Discipline Committee may recommend the suspension of up to the duration of the tournament in accordance with FYSA requirements. The committee's recommendations must be available to the affected parties no later than following the next scheduled match.
- At the conclusion, of the tournament, passes will be returned to the coach, even if the suspension has not been completed. A complete discipline report will be sent to the FYSA office within 72 hours of the tournament's conclusion for possible further discipline.

FORFEITS:

A minimum of seven (7) players (ages U13-U19) constitutes a game.

Games should start at the given start time. In case the team does not have seven (7) players present, there will be a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes grace period before awarding the game to the opponent.

A forfeit will be scored 4-0.

Modified Forfeit Rule: U9-U10 (6) players constitute a game. U11-U12 (8) players constitute a game. In no case shall a team which forfeits a game be declared a flight winner, group winner, division winner or wild card team. The team with the next best record will advance.

PROTEST AND DISPUTES - There will be NO PROTESTS. Decisions by referees may not be appealed. All disputes will be resolved immediately by the Site Director. These decisions will be final.

DETERMINATION OF GROUP WINNERS:

There will be no overtime games in qualifying play. Standings in a group will be determined by the following game points: 3 points for win, 1 for tie, 0 for loss.

The Tournament Committee will use the criteria below in determining the advancement of teams. In the result of multiple teams tied, the criteria will be followed to either 'Advance' or 'Eliminate' a team at which time they will then go to the Two Teams Tied and start with 2nd criteria to determine advancement.

IF TWO TEAMS TIE IN TOTAL POINTS:

FIRST: Head-to-Head result

SECOND: Net goal differential with a maximum of six goals per game.

THIRD: Most goals scored up to six per game.

FOURTH: Least Goals Allowed

FIFTH: Most Shutouts

SIXTH: Penalty Kicks according to FIFA Taking of Kicks from the penalty mark

IF THREE OR MORE TEAMS TIE IN TOTAL POINTS: (except in the case of example 3 below) **FIRST:** Net goal differential with a maximum of six goals per game.

SECOND: Most goals scored up to 6 per game.

THIRD: Least Goals Allowed **FOURTH:** Most Shutouts

FOURTH: Penalty Kicks according to FIFA Taking of Kicks from the penalty mark

Example 1: (4 Team Bracket) Three teams have 6 points and have all defeated each other. Team 1 has a goal differential of +6, team 2 is +4 and team 3 is +2. Team 1 is 1st, team 2 is 2nd, and team 3 is 3rd.

Example 2: (4 Team Bracket) Three teams have 6 points and have all defeated each other. Team 1 has a goal differential of +4, team 2 is +4 and team 3 is +2. Team 3 is 3rd, Team 2 defeated Team 1 therefore team 2 is 1st and team 1 is 2nd.

Example 3: (6 Team Bracket) Three teams have 6 points and Team 1 has defeated the other two. The Team who has beaten the other two will advance. The tie breaking procedure begins for the remaining tied teams with number 1.

DETERMINATION OF SEMI-FINAL (if applicable) AND FINAL GAME WINNERS - In semi-final and final games, if the game is not decided after regulation times, they will go directly to penalty kicks.

EXTERNAL CONDITIONS, WEATHER, ETC. Regardless of weather conditions, players and coaches must be on the field at the scheduled time, ready to play. In case of inclement weather or field conditions, games may:

- Be shortened - The Tournament Director may reduce the length of matches due to weather conditions before the start of a match; all such matches will be considered official.
- Be rescheduled (time and location determined by Tournament Director).
- Go to "Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark." (time and location determined by Tournament Director)
- Be canceled.
- If the Tournament director rules that during the preliminary round "Taking of Kicks from the Penalty mark." will be done due to inclement weather or field conditions, the following rule will apply:
 - Each team will take a maximum of five (5) penalty kicks.
 - At the end of five (5) kicks the game will be scored as a 1-0 win for the team that has scored more penalty kicks, or a 0-0 tie if both teams are tied in penalty kicks at the end of five (5) kicks.
 - In the overall standings, 3 points will be given for the win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.
 - The 1-0 win in penalty kicks will not be counted for or against to determine the tiebreaker for advancement.
 - If regular games have been played in the bracket and the Tournament Director has determined that other games go to penalty kicks due to inclement weather or field conditions, the regular games score will revert back to a 1-0 win or 0-0 tie.

Only referees or tournament directors can suspend a match already started due to weather conditions. Any one single suspension of a match may last no longer than 60 minutes or to the next scheduled game start time whichever is later.

TERMINATED GAMES

Games terminated for other than inclement weather, i.e. violent or uncontrollable situations will not be replayed.

The decision as to the score of such games and whether teams advance will be made by the Tournament Director after receiving reports from game officials.

The decision of the Director will be final and is binding on all parties.

Pool play matches:

In the event a referee terminates a match (different from temporarily suspending), before half time, it will be up to the Tournament Director whether to record the score at the time of the termination or finish the game at a rescheduled time and location.

In the event a referee terminates a match (different from suspending) after half time the score will be recorded, as it was when the game was stopped and declared official.

Play-off matches:

In the event a referee terminates a match (different from suspending) the score will be recorded as it was when the game was stopped.

In the event, a match, other than the final, ends in a tie, the team that earned the most points during the round robin play will be declared the winner. If the teams have the same number of points, the criteria in the DIVISION RANKING CRITERIA will be used to break the tie.

Final Matches:

In the event, a referee terminates a final match (different from suspending) while the teams are tied, co-champions will be declared.

Both teams will receive championship trophies.

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL CEREMONY

Following the completion of each championship game, the two competing teams will present themselves to the Tournament Director for awards.

REFUNDS: After a team has been accepted into the competition, *NO REFUND WILL BE GIVEN* should the team decide to withdraw from the event. Tournament entry fee returns/refunds will be granted, as follows:

- Within five (5) days after notification the team has not been accepted.
- Tournament cancellation (partial refunds could be paid including less all tournament expenses)
- Within ten (10) days of request of withdrawal of the application by a team before acceptance of the application by the tournament.

GENERAL:

- The Tournament Committee, and the host affiliate will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by tournament participants (including, without limitation, for travel, lodging, or meals) if the tournament is delayed, postponed, canceled, or otherwise altered for any reason.
- The Tournament Committee's interpretation of the preceding rules shall be final.
- The Tournament Director(s) reserve the right to decide all matters pertaining to the tournament and may, in their sole discretion, delay, postpone, or cancel the tournament, or otherwise alter the tournament structure (such as the duration of and/or number of games for teams). The decision of the Tournament Director(s) on these matters shall be final and shall not entitle any team to a refund or other return of entry fees paid, except as provided below (subject to any exception set out below, entry fees are non-refundable).
 - If the tournament is canceled for any reason before any tournament matches are played, teams will receive a refund or credit (against entry fees for a future FL Premier FC tournament) in an amount to be determined in the sole discretion of the Executive Committee of the tournament after taking into consideration the non-recoverable costs, expenses, and resources incurred/expended by the tournament.
 - The determination of the amount of the credit/refund, and issuance of any credit/refund, may take up to 180 days after cancellation.
- Outside of complete tournament cancellation, other circumstances may arise in which the FL Premier Spring Showcase tournament, based on the totality of circumstances, decide to provide a refund of some or all of team entry fees (or for particular teams based on impacts from weather and other circumstances). Any such decision to alter the no-refund policy is in the sole and absolute discretion of the FL Premier Spring Showcase, and any such decision shall not constitute a binding commitment with respect to future similar circumstances or other teams.
- If not, enough teams are realized within a single age group, the Tournament Director shall notify the participants as soon as possible. The participants will be given the option to play up or receive a full refund.
- The Tournament Committee has the responsibility to uphold any previous suspension imposed by USYS, and other USSF affiliate organizations as required.
- The Tournament Committee agrees to have a copy of the Tournament Rules at all game sites.

Prohibited items: Smoking is not allowed on the sidelines and other areas as marked at each site.

- Alcohol, drugs, etc. are strictly prohibited at all locations at all times.
- Pets and animals, except seeing eye and other "working" dogs, are not allowed.
- Noisemakers and amplification devices deemed disruptive to play by site and tournament officials are not allowed during play.
- Participants and spectators are reminded to be respectful of all officials and game sites and are reminded to pick up after themselves and utilize the trash receptacles found throughout the complex.
- NO player, parent or coach may approach the referee after a game to discuss the officiating of the game. If this

happens, the offender may be removed from the facility for the rest of the weekend. There is a ZERO tolerance for any referee abuse (verbal or physical).

- All VEOs, Hudls, cameras, recording or other apparatus must be placed on the parent side of the field. No equipment shall be on the side of the teams or referees.

TEAM WITHDRAWAL

- All Registrations must be complete and submitted 30 days prior to first kick-off day of tournament to guarantee consideration.
- All late applications will be put on a waitlist for review.
- Upon acceptance, the fee is non-refundable. If your team is accepted and later withdraws, the entry fee is non-refundable.

RULE - 502

Discipline and Game Conduct

502. DISCIPLINE - GAME CONDUCT

When Discipline/Sanctions are imposed, they must meet the required minimums as specified by FYSA and/or USSF. The Disciplining body must evaluate the incident as to intent, severity and past misconduct to determine the appropriate disciplines/sanctions. More severe disciplines/sanctions shall be imposed for multiple red cards during a season and for misconduct directed towards officials or administrators.

502.1 One Game Suspension:

1. Resulting from a second caution; (i.e., persistent infringement or dissent by word or action).
2. Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area).
3. Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving toward the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick.
4. Serious Foul Play is defined as using disproportionate and unnecessary strength in a manner likely to hurt or injure an opponent; any tackle from behind which endangers the safety of an opponent.

502.2 Offensive or insulting or abusive language:

1. One (1) game suspension -- Offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures not directed.
2. Three (3) game suspension -- Offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures directed toward a player, referee, assistant referee, administrator, spectator or game and /or tournament official.
3. Six (6) game suspension -- Adult directed to a youth referee.

502.3 Violent Conduct:

1. One (1) game suspension (minor infractions) -- dead-ball foul that is neither violent or with intent to harm or injure; attempting to strike, hit or punch.
2. Two (2) game suspension (minor infractions) -- is defined as the aggression of a player towards an opponent with clearly no intent to play or fight for the ball; threatening gestures.
3. Four (4) game suspension (major infractions) -- striking with the intent to injure; fighting; any intentional exposure of the anatomy considered lewd and lascivious; all gestures with any part of the body which implies visual profanity.
4. Six (6) game suspension (major infraction) -- Entering a fight in progress or action resulting in law enforcement being called; entering the field of play and committing any additional offense (e.g., violent conduct, foul or abusive language; this will be in addition to the sanction for the subsequent violation).

502.4 Spitting - 4 (four) game suspension:

Spitting is defined as spitting on or at an opponent or another person as well as spitting onto their own hand prior to shaking hands with their opponent and/or the referees or other game officials.

502.5 FYSA affiliates shall notify the FYSA Office within seven (7) days of any player or coach red card/ejection for violent conduct (major infraction), foul and/or abusive language/gestures directed, spitting, or referee abuse. If the player or coach has two such ejections during a seasonal year or a third within two seasonal years, FYSA will notify the player, coach, affiliate agent of record and reporting affiliate that an additional suspension for thirteen (13) games or six (6) months, whichever is longer be applied to the end of the current suspension. Multiple offenses relating to the same red card/ejection will qualify under this rule. The action may be appealed to the FYSA Protest and Appeals Committee.

502.5.1 Any player who attempts to conceal their identity either before, during or post game, shall be suspended for a minimum of sixty (60) days or eight (8) games whichever is longer.

502.6 GAME OFFICIALS

Misconduct toward a referee may include, but is not limited to, all registered referees, assistant referees, forth officials or other duly appointed to assist. It also includes any unlicensed or unregistered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee under USSF Policy 531, Section 2 and any club assistant referees.

Any act committed before, during, or after a match, even at later times, if it is match related, such as at work or at home may constitute misconduct toward game officials.

502.6.1 REFEREE ABUSE

Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.

Abuse includes, but is not limited to, the following acts committed upon a referee; using foul or abusive language toward a referee (must imply a threat of physical harm) , spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; verbally threatening a referee with remarks that carry imply or direct threats of physical harm.

Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as "I'll get you after the game." or "You won't get out of here in one piece." shall be deemed referee abuse.

Discipline: Minimum sanctions

- a. Six (6) games or three (3) month suspension, whichever is longer.
- b. Spitting at a referee or game official, six (6) games or six (6) month suspension, whichever is longer.
- c. An adult upon a youth referee, minimum of one (1) year suspension.

502.6.2 REFEREE ASSAULT

Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee committed before during, or after a match, even later times if it is match related such as at work or at home. "For the purpose of this rule, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the actions are irrelevant." Assault includes, but is not limited to, the following act committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property (i.e., car, equipment, etc.).

The player, coach, manager, spectator or official committing the referee assault is automatically suspended as follows:

- a. For a minor or slight touching of the referee or the referee's uniform or personal property, at least six (6) months from the time of the assault;
- b. Except as provided in above, for any other assault, at least twelve (12) months from the time of the assault;
- c. For an assault committed by an adult and the referee is seventeen (17) years of age or younger, at least three (3) years; or
- d. For an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least five (5) years.

502.6.3. REFEREE/ASSISTANT REFEREE MISCONDUCT

502.6.3.1 Misconduct, charges or allegations shall be filed immediately with the Site Director or Official in charge of the competition. The complaint shall also be filed in writing to the Local Referee Administrator with copies addressed to the State Referee Administrator within forty-eight (48) hours of identifying the offense. Hearings may be held as specified by the SRA or his/her designees.

502.6.3.2 Failure to act by any Local, Regional or State Referee organization gives jurisdiction to FYSA to conduct hearings, discipline and/or sanction any Referee found to be in violation of FYSA Rules or for any misconduct at any FYSA sanctioned event..

502.7 PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING REFEREE ABUSE AND ASSAULT

Section 1: *Procedures to be followed for any alleged incident of referee assault or abuse for any FYSA sanction club/league/Cup event.*

The referee, or a member of the referee crew (should the referee be incapacitated), will report any incident of alleged referee assault/abuse to the FYSA State Office within seventy-two (72) hours of the incident. The written report submitted must be postmarked within seventy-two (72) hours of the incident (excluding legal holidays) and must include the official game report, supplemental referee report, any other information the referee wants to submit, and the FYSA/US Youth Soccer pass of the player/coach/manager or the name of the non-player under investigation (if known). The FYSA Representative must, in turn, forward the report to the FYSA office. FYSA will in turn notify the SYRA, within 48 hours of receipt of the report.

Upon receipt at the FYSA office, a file will be opened to contain a copy of the initial report and the player/coach's pass, if applicable. The original report will then be immediately forwarded to FYSA's Review and Discipline Committee. The Review and Discipline Committee will make a determination within seven (7) days of receipt of the report as to one of the following: (i) possible referee assault did occur; (ii) possible referee abuse did occur; or (iii) documentation provided did not warrant a determination of either assault or abuse. (FYSA will inform the SYRA as to the determination of the Review and Discipline Committee.)

In the event the Review and Discipline Committee determines a possible referee assault case exists, the Committee will forward its findings to the FYSA office. ***Upon verification of an allegation of assault by FYSA, the person is automatically suspended until the hearing is held on the assault.*** FYSA will immediately notify the applicable RVP with the direction to schedule a hearing on the matter within thirty (30) days. Any delay in scheduling the hearing within the thirty (30) day timeframe must be approved by the chairperson of the FYSA Review and Discipline Committee. ***Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension.***

At the completion of the hearing, the RVP will forward a copy of the findings to the FYSA office and will notify the accused in writing of the findings of the hearing panel. (FYSA will inform the SYRA of the results of the hearing.) FYSA's State Office upon verification that all requirements of Section 600 have been complied with will send a copy of the decision to the FYSA Review & Discipline Committee in order that its file may be also closed

If the accused is found guilty of assault, notification will include information as to the next level of appeal, as per USSF

Bylaw 705 which is directly to the Appeals Committee of the USSF.

In the event the Review and Discipline Committee determines a case of referee abuse exists, the Committee will forward its findings to the FYSA office. FYSA will immediately forward the report along with the player/coach pass, if applicable, to the appropriate RVP who will, based on the report, immediately impose sanctions of not less than a six (6) game or three (3) month suspension, whichever is longer. The RVP may impose greater sanctions for repeat offenders or if the situations warrants; however, sanctions of more than six (6) games or three (3) months will require that a hearing be held, unless waived by the accused. When sanctions are imposed, the RVP will, within seven (7) days, notify the accused in writing of said sanctions and the right of appeal of this decision to FYSA's Protest and Appeal Committee as per FYSA Rule 605 inclusive. The player/coach pass will be forwarded to the FYSA State Office to hold until proper notification of games served is presented. Proper notification is accomplished by way of game reports indicating that a red card/sanction is being served. When such notification is presented, the pass will be immediately returned to the player/coach/manager.

In the event that the Review and Discipline Committee determines that neither referee assault nor abuse occurred, the Committee will notify the FYSA office of such. FYSA will immediately forward the player/coach/manager's pass to the appropriate club/league. If sanctions are required as a result of actions not determined to be that of referee assault or abuse, the club/league will handle these separately and according to FYSA, and/or club/league rules.

If an allegation of referee assault/abuse occurs during a tournament under sanction of FYSA the followings actions are to be completed:

Section 2: Procedures to be followed for any alleged incident of referee assault or abuse for any FYSA Event/Tournament, not covered above

A. For players/coaches not registered to FYSA:

In the event an assault on or abuse of a referee occurs in an tournament/event outside the alleged offender's home state, or from a soccer organization not under the authority of FYSA, the referee shall (A) immediately notify the Event/Tournament Chairman, and (B) forward a copy of the game report, supplemental referee report, and his/her comments on the incident to the Event/Tournament Chairman.

The Event/Tournament Chairmen shall have the right to immediately convene a hearing at the site of the Event/Tournament, at which the alleged offender, the coach of the alleged offender when the offender is a player and the game official should be present. Information presented at this hearing shall promptly be relayed to the alleged offender's National State Association by the Event/Tournament Chairman, both orally and in writing; however, failure to provide written information shall not restrict the offender's home National State Association from taking action with regard to any referee abuse or assault. The Event/Tournament Chairman shall also, within 72 hours of the incident, notify FYSA in writing, by fax, of the incident with copies of all game reports, supplemental reports, and findings as to any hearing held at the Event/Tournament. (FYSA will copy the SYRA on all reports concerning this incident.)

B. For players/coaches registered to FYSA:

For players/coaches under FYSA's jurisdiction, the Event/Tournament will retain the player/coach pass to be forwarded to the FYSA State Office, along with copies of all game reports, supplemental reports, and any other information concerning this incident, within 24 hours of the completion of the Tournament/Event. The review process of the incident will then follow the procedures as outline in Section 1 above.

502.8 ABUSE AND/OR ASSAULT UPON NON-GAME OFFICALS

Abuse and/or assault upon any affiliate member, league/tournament official, FYSA state staff, FYSA board member/official or any other person acting in an official capacity at any FYSA-sanctioned event.

Abuse shall be defined as under Rule 502.6.1.

Assault shall be defined as under Rule 502.6.2.

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING ABUSE AND ASSAULT

Section 1: *Procedures to be followed for any alleged incident of assault or abuse for any FYSA sanction club/league/Cup event.*

The official, or event director, will report any incident of alleged assault/abuse to FYSA, or its designee, (i.e., RC, RVP) within seventy-two (72) hours of the incident. The written report submitted must be postmarked within seventy-two (72) hours of the incident (excluding legal holidays) and must include the official game report, supplemental reports, any other information the parties want to submit, and the FYSA/US Youth Soccer pass of the player/coach/manager or the name of the non-player under investigation (if known). The FYSA Representative must, in turn, forward the report to the FYSA office.

Upon receipt at the FYSA office, a file will be opened to contain a copy of the initial report and the player/coach's pass, if applicable. The original report will then be immediately forwarded to FYSA's Review and Discipline Committee. The Review and Discipline Committee will make a determination within seven (7) days of receipt of the report as to one of the following: (i) possible assault did occur; (ii) possible abuse did occur; or (iii) documentation provided did not warrant a determination of either assault or abuse.

In the event the Review and Discipline Committee determines a possible assault case exists, the Committee will forward its findings to the FYSA office. ***Upon verification of an allegation of assault by FYSA, the person is automatically suspended until the hearing is held on the assault.*** FYSA will immediately notify the applicable RVP with the direction to schedule a hearing on the matter within thirty (30) days. Any delay in scheduling the hearing within the thirty (30) day timeframe must be approved by the chairperson of the FYSA Review and Discipline Committee. ***Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension.***

At the completion of the hearing, the RVP will forward a copy of the findings to the FYSA office and will notify the accused in writing of the findings of the hearing panel.

In the event the Review and Discipline Committee determines a case of official abuse exists, the Committee will forward its findings to the FYSA office. FYSA will immediately forward the report along with the player/coach pass, if

applicable, to the appropriate RVP who will, based on the report, immediately impose sanctions of not less than a six (6) or three (3) month game suspension, whichever is longer. The RVP may impose greater sanctions for repeat offenders or if the situations warrants; however, sanctions of more than six (6) games or three (3) months will require that a hearing be held, unless waived by the accused. When sanctions are imposed, the RVP will, within seven (7) days, notify the accused in writing of said sanctions and the right of appeal of this decision to FYSA's Protest and Appeal Committee as per FYSA Rule 605, inclusive. The player/coach pass will be forwarded to the FYSA State Office to hold until proper notification of games served is presented. Proper notification is accomplished by way of game reports indicating that a red card/sanction is being served. When such notification is presented, the pass will be immediately returned to the player/coach/manager.

In the event that the Review and Discipline Committee determines that neither official assault nor abuse occurred, the Committee will notify the FYSA office of such. FYSA will immediately forward the player/coach/manager's pass to the appropriate club/league. If sanctions are required as a result of actions not determined to be that of official assault or abuse, the club/league will handle these separately and according to FYSA, and/or club/league rules.

If an allegation of official assault/abuse occurs during a tournament under sanction of FYSA the followings actions are to be completed:

Section 2: Procedures to be followed for any alleged incident of official assault or abuse for any FYSA Event/Tournament, not covered above

A. For players/coaches not registered to FYSA:

In the event an assault on or abuse of a official occurs in an tournament/event outside the alleged offender's home state, or from a soccer organization not under the authority of FYSA, the official shall (A) immediately notify the Event/Tournament Chairman, and (B) forward a copy of the game report, supplemental reports, and his/her comments on the incident to the Event/Tournament Chairman.

The Event/Tournament Chairmen shall have the right to immediately convene a hearing at the site of the Event/Tournament, at which the alleged offender, the coach of the alleged offender when the offender is a player and the game official should be present. Information presented at this hearing shall promptly be relayed to the alleged offender's National State Association by the Event/Tournament Chairman, both orally and in writing; however failure to provide written information shall not restrict the offender's home National State Association from taking action with regard to any official abuse or assault. The Event/Tournament Chairman shall also, within 48 hours of the incident, notify FYSA in writing, by fax, of the incident with copies of all game reports, supplemental reports, and findings as to any hearing held at the Event/Tournament.

B. For players/coaches registered to FYSA:

For players/coaches under FYSA's jurisdiction, the Event/Tournament will retain the player/coach pass to be forwarded to the FYSA State Office, along with copies of all game reports, supplemental reports, and any other information concerning this incident, within 24 hours of the completion of the Tournament/Event. The review process of the incident will then follow the procedures as outline in Section 1 above.

RULE - 504

COMPLETING GAME SUSPENSIONS

504.1 Red card suspension or send off suspensions can only be served with the team with which the suspension was earned in games played by their team. Until the suspension is served the player/coach is suspended from any other team(s) to which the player/coach may be registered. Games may not be scheduled to “work off” suspension. Players may not serve suspensions as “guest players” nor may they “guest play” with any other team(s) until such time as the original suspension is served.

1. Issued during league game must be worked off during next scheduled league, Cup or tournament game(s).
2. Issued during President's Cup or Commissioner's Cup, they must be worked off during remainder of the competition. If no competition remains, suspension must be worked off in next scheduled league and/or tournament game(s).
3. Issued during Tournament Play: Tournament Red Card Report filed along with game reports as required by Post-Tournament rules. FYSA office to send copy of Red Card Report and appropriate-game reports to the appropriate RC in the next immediate mail out. RC will notify club of a discipline/sanctions remaining.
4. Issued during "friendly games" must be worked off during the next scheduled league, Cup or tournament game(s). "Friendly games" may not be scheduled to work off game suspensions nor if previously scheduled, used to work off suspension given during league, cup or tournament games.
5. Issued during the US Youth National Championship (State Cup), at any level, shall not be allowed to participate in the next immediately following National Championship (State Cup) game played by the player's team. A player may receive more than one (1) game suspension. Local club/league may issue additional discipline to be served in other than National Championship (State Cup) games.
6. A red card suspension issued during a small sided tournament which can not be served during the event shall be served during the player/coach's next scheduled club, league or cup game(s). For a suspension issued during a normal league/cup game, the player must sit out the first game of any small sided tournament previously entered. The player shall then be able to compete in the remainder of the tournament. The player shall not receive credit for the small sided game(s) against the original suspension.

504.2 Red card suspensions received as a “guest player” may only be served with the player's primary team. If the player's primary team is not active in competition, with the permission of the RVP, the player may serve the suspension with a secondary team if dual rostered. Suspension received as a guest player may carry forward to the player's primary team during the next seasonal year the player is registered.

504.3 Red card or ejection issued due to Referee Assault/Abuse shall require:

1. Player pass, game report and other documents sent to FYSA's State Office within seventy-two (72) hours. (Referee shall also send a copy of the report to the SRA/SYRA.) A determination as to probable cause to proceed to a hearing shall be forwarded to the appropriate RVP.
2. Disciplinary hearing shall be scheduled within thirty (30) days of the notification by the FYSA Review and Discipline Committee. Any delay in scheduling a hearing within the thirty (30) days must be approved by the chairperson of the FYSA Review and Discipline Committee.
3. Player/coach suspended immediately upon receipt by FYSA of the initial rep