

BONNEVILLE YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

RULES AND REGULATIONS

EFFECTIVE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2017

Mission Statement: *The purpose of Bonneville Youth Soccer League is to provide a competitive learning environment through physical challenges, emotional satisfaction, and mental growth. This improves youth soccer within the league's jurisdiction by:*

- 1. Providing developmental players with an enjoyable environment while participating at higher levels of skills and play.*
- 2. Teaching players advanced skills that would allow them to compete successfully at the state, regional, and collegiate level.*
- 3. Providing high quality coaching that supports continuing players' development and improves self-reliance.*

I. RULES OF PLAY

Bonneville Youth Soccer League, Inc. (hereafter "BYSL") shall play soccer in accordance with the Federation Internationale de Football (FIFA) Laws of the game, except as amended for Snake River League play, BYSL Program rules, and by individual tournaments.

II. AFFILIATION

BYSL is a registered Member of the Idaho Youth Soccer Association (hereafter "IYSA") and is affiliated with United States Youth Soccer (hereafter "USYS"). All participants in BYSL are bound by the rules and regulations of IYSA and USYS.

III. CODE OF CONDUCT

1. All players, coaches, parents/guardians, board members, and directors are bound by the applicable BYSL Code of Conduct by reason of their participation in BYSL. An example BYSL Code of Conduct is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Participation in soccer with BYSL, either as a player, coach, board member, and/or director, is a privilege offered and granted to individuals who perform and act responsibly during BYSL activities and in the

running of BYSL. This privilege carries with it an obligation for each individual participating within BYSL to uphold the Code of Conduct.

2. All coaches, board members and directors shall sign a Code of Conduct (either electronically via Got Soccer or on a hard copy) which shall be maintained in BYSLs Got Soccer registration files. Refusal to abide by the Code of Conduct will result in termination of participation privileges.
3. BYSL shall adhere to national and state youth organization policies relative to disciplinary action taken against officials, coaches, teams, players, etc., involved in BYSL programs.
4. In the event of an allegation of misconduct by players, coaches, parents, or other persons participating in BYSL programs, the Board shall form a Disciplinary Committee, comprised of at-least three (3) Board members, one of whom will be designated as chairman, and which may include non-board members. The Board shall notify those persons whose conduct is being reviewed. Those persons will be allowed to present any pertinent information or testimony to the committee for consideration. The committee may require the accused person(s) to appear before the committee to provide testimony. The committee may conduct any other investigation into the matter that it deems reasonable and necessary to make a decision. The committee will decide on any disciplinary action(s) to be taken against the offending individual(s). The chairman of the committee shall inform the Board of their decision and the Executive Director shall be responsible for notifying the accused individual of the decision of the committee, and reporting to the Board of Directors, of any action taken.

IV. PARTICIPATION

1. All coaches, players, managers, volunteers who wish to participate with BYSL must be registered in Gotsoccer.
 - a. *Coaches:* All coaches must submit (1) an Application to Coach, (2) a Coach's Code of Conduct. If the Coach intends to coach a team affiliated with a BYSL Club, BYSL will inform the Club once the required documents have been submitted and processed by IYSA. These forms must be completed and submitted every seasonal year.
 - b. *Managers/Volunteers:* All managers and other volunteers who participate in practices or on the team sideline at matches, must register through Gotsoccer and have their registration processed by IYSA including a background check. . This process must be completed every seasonal year. IYSA will conduct a background check every two years, but may also conduct random checks every year.

- c. *Players:* All players must submit (1) an IYSA-BYSL Registration Form; (2) a Player/Parent Code of Conduct; (3) pay any applicable fees; and (4) if not already possessed by BYSL, proof of age documentation, such as a birth certificate, passport, etc. Fees for U13-U18 teams will be collected by the teams/clubs and submitted to BYSL prior to final registration and issuance of a roster for the team. Fees for YDP and U11/U12 players shall be submitted directly to BYSL with the registration form.
2. No player who fails to pay their registration fees (or make arrangements for payments satisfactory to BYSL) may participate on any BYSL team.
3. The age group that a player is assigned to depends upon the player's age they will turn in a given calendar year. Restrictions on players seeking to "play-up" in an older age division are set forth on Exhibit B. Exceptions to the "play-up" rules require evaluation by BYSL's DOC (or a designated representative), approval by BYSL's Board of Directors, and potential approval by IYSA's Board of Directors.
4. Players may not be registered with BYSL and another IYSA member organization at any given time during the seasonal year unless otherwise noted in specific program rules or approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors upon a showing that it would be in compliance with IYSA rules, to the benefit of the player, and not to the detriment of the player's BYSL team. A player registered with BYSL may also be registered with and/or play with another non-IYSA organized youth soccer association, such as AYSO, YMCA, High School teams, or the City of Idaho Falls.
5. The Board may authorize the formation of a Premier or similarly designated team at each age and gender that is comprised of players selected from other BYSL teams and a limited number of players from non-BYSL teams, subject to IYSA rules, for the purpose of competing at the Idaho State Cup, Idaho Directors Cup, or other tournaments. Such team will be reasonably limited in the number of practices or tournaments to avoid excessive distractions from the players' regular BYSL teams.

V. COACHES

1. The Board of Directors has responsibility for screening and providing approval of all BYSL coaches. After completing all registration and licensing requirements, being approved by the Board of Directors, and passing a background check, coaches may participate in the BYSL program for which they were approved for the seasonal year. If a coach wishes to coach in a different program, the approval process needs to occur for the new program.
2. *Approval of Coaches:* The Board may consider any available information when deciding whether to grant an individual the privilege of coaching within BYSL. Such information may include, but is not limited to qualifications, prior complaints or issues regarding the

coach, number of expected players compared to the number of teams, and/or previous violations of the coaches code of conduct. To be approved a coach must receive affirmative votes from a majority of the board members. Coaches may be submitted to the Board at a regularly scheduled board member or by email.

3. *Licenses:* Head Coaches of teams U11, U12, U13, U14 and U15 (including Junior High) must hold a minimum of a USSF “E” or NSCAA “4” License. Head Coaches of teams U16, U17, and U18 must hold a minimum of a USSF “D” or NSCAA “6” License. Assistant Coaches of teams U16, U17 and U18 must hold a minimum of a USSF “E” or NSCAA “4” License. YDP Coaches must hold a minimum of the USSF “F” license or the NSCAA Level 1 Diploma. Both of which may be taken online.
4. Proof of Licensure must be provided to BYSL’s DOC upon request. The Executive Director shall maintain records of all Coaching Applications and a current license/certification for all active coaches in BYSL. The DOC shall assist the Board of Directors in identifying and screening coaches for all age groups and in locating coaches for groups of players needing a coach.
5. New coaches shall have a one (1) year grace period from date of BYSL approval to coach to obtain an appropriate license.
6. *Concussion Training:* Every BYSL coach must complete the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) Heads UP Concussion training online or an equivalent in person training.
7. *Director of Coaching:*
 - a. BYSL shall have a Director of Coaching (“DOC”), whose duty is to develop and improve coaches so that players maximize their potential at all ages. The DOC shall also be the Director of BYSL’s Club Program, supporting U13 and older play during Spring season. The DOC shall be selected and nominated by the President of BYSL and confirmed by the Board of Directors. The DOC may be but is not required to be a member of the Board of Directors.
 - b. The DOC shall identify training opportunities, organize coach training opportunities, and/or conduct coach training and shall encourage BYSL coaches to participate. The DOC shall ensure that coaches seeking to participate in BYSL meet the minimum license requirements set forth herein.
 - c. The DOC, or a designee, shall evaluate any team or player seeking a variance to the “Play-Up Policy” attached hereto as Exhibit “B.”
8. *Coach Training Budget:* BYSL will maintain a Coach Training Budget set by the Board at the August Board meeting and provide funding for coach training as follows:

- a. Youth module, USSF “E”, USSF “D”, NSCAA “4” and NSCAA “6” coach clinic and licensing fees will be funded completely by BYSL, upon successful completion of the course for all registered BYSL coaches.
 - b. Coaches seeking reimbursement or prepayment of other coach training expenditures shall such as a USSF “C” or a NSCAA diploma shall submit a petition in writing to the DOC, explaining the nature of the training, the costs of the training, and the purpose of the training. Club DOCs shall inform BYSL if they have coaches who will be seeking this type of license for budgeting purposes.
 - c. The DOC may individually review and approve training related expenditures of less than \$150.00 provided there are funds in the budget. Before approving expenditures of more than \$150.00, the DOC must discuss with and obtain approval of BYSL’s President and BYSL’s Treasurer and verify there are sufficient funds in the Coach Training Budget. If deemed advisable by the President, the Treasurer, or the DOC, the Petition shall be presented to the Board of Directors as a whole for consideration and approval. In such instances, approval requires two thirds (2/3) of the Board Members.
 - d. Any BYSL coach that receives prepayment approval and does not complete the anticipated training, will be required to reimburse BYSL, in full, for any amounts prepaid. Any coach with an outstanding balance owed to BYSL will not be found in “Good Standing” and will have their coaching privileges with BYSL suspended until such time as the balance owed is paid in full.
9. *Removal:* A coach, assistant coach or manager of any BYSL team may be removed at any time by a majority vote of the Board for reasons of misconduct. BYSL shall adhere to national and state youth organization policies relative to disciplinary actions taken against any coach.

VI. PLAYERS

1. Players may participate in any program offered by BYSL, subject to age restrictions. Each program is governed by rules specific to the program, which are incorporated herein by reference.
2. BYSL provides the following “BYSL Programs” for player participation and development:
 - a. Youth Development Program (“YDP”) for ages U6, U8 and U10.
 - b. Pre-Club Program for ages U11 and U12.
 - c. Junior High Program for youth at ages determined by Program directors on an annual basis and not necessarily limited to youth of an age to attend area middle schools or junior highs.

- d. Club Program for U13 through U18 players.
3. BYSL will attempt to find a team for any player who registers, but cannot guarantee that all players will be placed on a team. If a player is unable to be placed on a team by BYSL, BYSL shall refund any registration fees paid by the player. If BYSL does place a player on a team, no refund of any fees paid will be given.
4. The guidelines and age groupings for BYSL programs will be consistent with IYSA and USYS policy and direction. BYSL's Board of Directors may establish additional guidelines which do not conflict with IYSA and USYS rules and regulations.
5. BYSL's Registrar or Executive Director will keep a copy of the registration form in Gotsoccer for every BYSL player on file for at least one year from the player's final playing season with BYSL.

VII. FINANCIAL

1. BYSL shall have responsibility for all approved BYSL Clubs and all BYSL teams which are not affiliated with an approved BYSL Club. Such clubs and teams are required to conduct financial matters through BYSL, and to confirm to BYSL financial accountability for funds and resources obtained from parents, players, sponsors, donors, etc.
2. Approved BYSL Clubs shall have responsibility for all teams which are affiliated with their respective club. Such teams are required to conduct financial matters through their affiliated club, and to confirm to the affiliated club, financial accountability for funds and resources obtained from parents, players, sponsors, donors, etc.
3. Teams will not be provided rosters, player cards, or have games scheduled for their team, until the team's coaches, volunteers, and players are registered and have submitted the applicable forms and fees to BYSL and the team is in good financial standing with BYSL.
4. The BYSL tax identification number shall not be used by anyone other than BYSL.
5. No single individual shall have control of the expenditures for the league. Two signatures are required for checking accounts. Any of the following can be signatories for BYSL checks including President, Vice President, Treasurer, Registrar, Executive Director or Secretary. The Treasurer and President shall have authority to transfer funds between existing BYSL accounts without the necessity of a second signature. The Treasurer may establish an interest bearing account if it is in the best interest of BYSL.
6. A contingency fund will exist within the "dedicated funds" account to insure that cash flow needs are met.

7. A financial review of the League finances and accounts is to be accomplished annually by a BYSL board appointed financial review committee This review will be conducted between August 1 and September 31.
8. All BYSL teams and clubs may be subject to a financial audit by BYSL. All BYSL Clubs shall provide a financial and club review to the Board on an annual basis at the October Board Meeting.
9. BYSL will provide funds for travel, lodging, and food for the President, DOC and/or Executive Director to attend annual general meetings of the state organization(s) with which BYSL is affiliated.
10. Fee Waiver Requests for BYSL fees are to be reviewed and approved by the BYSL President and must be made prior to the payment of fees.
11. Sponsorship of BYSL teams is permissible. Advertising of a sponsor must comply with any applicable FIFA, USYS, and IYSA rules and regulations. Placement of a sponsor logo on BYSL team uniforms is allowed with Board approval. Teams/Clubs seeking to place a sponsor logo on their uniform must submit the request in writing to BYSL's President for presentation to the Board. Sponsor logos may also be placed on YDP or Pre-Club program jerseys with approval of the Board. Requests for sponsor logos on YDP or Pre-Club program jerseys must be made to the Director of the Program within which the team(s) play.

VIII. RECRUITING

1. Recruiting of players for teams and clubs and contact with players and their parents or guardians is subject to the rules of IYSA and BYSL, and restricted to certain dates and activities.
2. Anyone who benefits from improper recruiting can be in violation of the recruiting restrictions, i.e., clubs, teams, coaches, administrators, parents or players.
3. The "seasonal year" is defined for IYSA and BYSL as from August 1st to July 31st.
4. The "Recruiting Period" for each seasonal year commences at the following times and under the following conditions, which may be clarified by more specific dates that may be published by BYSL each year:
 - a. Fall U12, Junior High, and Club Program teams – After the conclusion of the spring Snake River League season.
 - b. Spring U12 teams - After the conclusion of the fall Snake River League season.

- c. Teams are allowed to make offers for roster positions, playing opportunities or other commitments during this Recruiting Period.
 - d. Teams shall not restrict a player from discussing options with other teams, and/or attending the BYSL tryouts or jamborees. Parents and players do not have an obligation to commit to a team in order to participate in the BYSL tryout or jamboree.
- 5. No player shall be considered “committed” or “obligated” to a team until the tryouts or team formation date for the specific age group occur for the seasonal year and the player has paid the tryout fee and submitted a coach request via card or Gotsoccer registration. The dates of tryouts and/or team formation dates will be designated by the Board of BYSL each year.
- 6. If applicable, specific recruiting restrictions related to each BYSL Program are contained within the rules for the specific Program.
- 7. The parents or guardians of a player under 18 years of age must be contacted prior to any recruiting communications with a player. The following practices are considered illegal recruiting:
 - a. Recruiting or attempting to recruit any player or player’s parents or guardians with offers of material goods, gifts, free trips, scholarships or any other similar benefits is illegal recruiting. Nothing herein shall prohibit teams or clubs from helping players with fees and equipment when documented financial need exists.
 - b. Using a position of authority to persuade or coerce a player to transfer. This may include adults involved with the Olympic Development Program, adults involved with clinics and soccer schools, adults involved with the Junior High Program, adults involved with high school programs or other non-affiliated programs such as indoor soccer.
 - c. Influences or convinces a player not to attend try-outs with the intent to “reserve” that player for a specific team.
- 8. Any player registered with any IYSA or BYSL team, practicing or playing for a BYSL team, with which they are not registered, is considered illegal recruiting unless permission is given from the team with which the player is registered and such permission is documented.
- 9. *Guest Players:*
 - a. Registered players may “guest play” for other BYSL teams and/or other IYSA teams. The proper procedure for requesting “guest players” for matches, practices or tournaments are as follows:
 - i. FIRST: Contact the current coach of the registered player.

- ii. SECOND: Contact the parents or guardian of the player.
 - iii. THIRD: Contact the player individually.
 - b. After obtaining permission from the player's coach, parents, and the player, the requesting coach should present the most current IYSA Guest Player Form to the BYSL President and/or DOC. The BYSL President and/or DOC may request, and shall be entitled to, verification of approval from the player's coach, parent, and player before signing the form on behalf of BYSL. The requesting coach shall be responsible to obtain any other signatures required by IYSA.
10. Alleged violations of the recruiting restrictions stated herein, or stated in the rules governing specific BYSL Programs, must be reported in writing to BYSL within ten (10) days of the alleged act in violation. When an alleged violation has been reported to BYSL:
- a. The alleged violation shall be reviewed by the BYSL DOC. The DOC shall conduct an initial investigation to determine the relevant facts and whether the allegations can be supported by documentation or additional witnesses.
 - b. If after the initial investigation, the DOC determines that the facts are not supported by documents or additional witnesses, or that the facts do not constitute a violation of BYSL's recruiting rules, the DOC shall dismiss the allegations and no further action shall be taken.
 - c. If after the initial investigation, the DOC determines that the facts are supported by documents or additional witnesses and that the facts do constitute a violation of BYSL's recruiting rules, the DOC shall ask the Board of Directors to form a Disciplinary Committee to review the facts, documentation, and witness (by written statement or testimony) and shall allow the accused individual to present a statement or testimony to the Committee for its consideration and determination.
 - d. Proven violations of the recruiting rules shall be sanctioned as follows:
 - i. *First Offense*: The Coach will be suspended from BYSL related activities for 90 days. The Disciplinary Committee may choose to impose further disciplinary actions.
 - ii. *Second Offense*: The Coach will be suspended from BYSL related activities for 180 days. The Disciplinary Committee may choose to impose further disciplinary actions.

- iii. *Third Offense:* The Coach will be suspended from BYSL related activities for two (2) years. The Disciplinary Committee may choose to impose further disciplinary actions.
- e. “BYSL related activities” includes games, practices, team training, or any Board or Director Position within BYSL or a BYSL approved club.
- f. BYSL Clubs may be held responsible for the actions of their coaches if the Disciplinary Committee finds that the BYSL Club encouraged, participated or willfully ignored their coaches’ inappropriate conduct. Depending on the severity of the conduct, the BYSL Club may be placed on probation, asked to conduct, under the direction of the BYSL DOC, coach ethics training for all of their Club coaches, or in serious cases have privileges of participation in BYSL programs as a club terminated.

IX. BYSL TOURNAMENT

1. BYSL may conduct a tournament each year. The name of the tournament shall be the “Dean Cook Shootout.”
2. The President shall select and present to the Board for approval, an individual to act as the Tournament Director.
3. The Tournament Director shall present to the Board for approval an appropriate date for the tournament to be held, the rules that will be applied to teams participating in the tournament, and the fees to be charged to teams entering the tournament.
4. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for getting the Tournament Sanctioned by IYSA, organizing the tournament, and conducting the tournament, subject to the oversight of BYSL’s President.
5. The Tournament Director will develop a budget to be approved by the Board and provide a financial report periodically to BYSL’s President and Treasurer. The Tournament Director shall provide copies of all receipts and documentation of all expenditures to BYSL’s Treasurer.
6. All registration fees paid by teams shall be provided to BYSL’s Treasurer for deposit into BYSL account(s). The Tournament Director shall be reimbursed or shall be entitled to prepayment of separate, necessary tournament expenses less than \$150.00, without preapproval. For separate tournament expenses which exceed \$150.00, the Tournament Director shall obtain pre-approval from BYSL’s President and Treasurer.

7. The Board may authorize payment, or other compensation, to the Tournament Director, for the Tournament Director's services. The rate and timing of payment, if any, shall be determined by the Board.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

1. The name of the BYSL newsletter shall be the "Far Post." The Far Post shall be published and mailed electronically to the membership three times a year.
2. BYSL intends to ensure that each team has the necessary equipment to operate their soccer team. Clubs must request needed equipment for their teams through the Equipment Director (or if no equipment director has been designated, through the BYSL President). Teams not affiliated with a club must request needed equipment for their team through the Equipment Director (or if not equipment director has been designated, through the BYSL President). If needed and requested, the following equipment may be provided for each team registered within BYSL by the Equipment Director or President without further approval from the Board:
 - a. For U11/U12 and older:
 - i. two soccer balls;
 - ii. one soccer net;
 - iii. two corner flags.
 - b. For U10:
 - i. four soccer balls;
 - ii. a soccer bag;
 - iii. ten cones;
 - iv. five pinnies.
 - c. For U8:
 - i. four soccer balls;
 - ii. a soccer bag;
 - iii. ten cones;
 - iv. five pinnies;
 - v. a pop-up goal.
 - d. For U6:
 - i. four soccer balls;
 - ii. a soccer bag;
 - iii. ten cones;
 - iv. five pinnies;
 - v. and a pop-up goal.
3. Additional equipment, including additional balls, cones, pinnies, etc., may be provided upon request and showing of need. Teams needing additional equipment must make a request in writing to the Equipment Director (or if no equipment director has been designated, the BYSL President), identifying what equipment is

needed and grounds justifying the request. The request shall be presented to the Board for approval either at a regularly scheduled meeting or by email. The Board may approve the request if it determines that there is a special need for the equipment and BYSL sufficient funds are available to fulfill the request.

4. BYSL will pay for the initial certification of any person successfully completing an entry level referee course. Referee reimbursement for registration and instruction will take place after certification by the instructor of the course. and once the referee is either an AR or center for at least five games
5. Each BYSL Club is limited to four (4) affiliated members on the BYSL Board. An affiliated member shall be defined only as a Club Officer, Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or Team Manager of the Club. An individual shall not be considered an affiliated member on the basis that they have a child playing on a team within a BYSL Club.
6. A Board member that has (1) missed three board meetings in a row, without notification to the president, and (2) not participated in League or Board matters, is subject to dismissal from Board membership by a majority vote of the Board members present at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.
7. BYSL requires all teams to have two adults present during all team functions, including but not limited to games, practices, and team parties.
8. The Board of BYSL shall approve BYSL Logo(s) which may be used on BYSL forms, documents, clothing and otherwise by BYSL. BYSL logos shall not be used other than for BYSL approved activities, programs, and actions.
9. The Board of Directors may pass a motion that affects these Rules and Regulations prior to a revision of the entire Rules and Regulations. Such amendments may be recorded in an Appendix for reference prior to the next full revision.

THESE RULES WERE ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2017.

BYSL President

BYSL Secretary

Exhibit A

BONNEVILLE YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE



Code of Conduct-Players, Parents, Legal Guardian

All player and their parents or legal guardians, must agree to, accept, and abide by the rules of the Bonneville Youth Soccer League (“BYSL”) and its programs.

PURPOSE

This code of conduct has been developed to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted ethical and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of soccer within BYSL.

POLICY

Parents, legal guardians, or care-givers, hereinafter referred to as “parents,” who have players participating in any program within BYSL are exercising a privilege afforded them by BYSL. Players participating in any program within BYSL are exercising a privilege afforded them by BYSL. This privilege is offered and granted to individuals who participate in BYSL sanctioned and approved activities. It carries with it an obligation for each individual parent to uphold and promote the stated goals and objectives. Any conduct considered unethical shall be subject to discipline by BYSL.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Parents and players are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner such as to bring credit to him/her, the league and the sport of soccer; and will not bring discredit upon the league or the sport.
- The attitude and conduct of parents and players toward officials, players, coaches and other spectators must be controlled and undemonstrative. Parents and players must never use foul or abusive language before, during, or after the game.
- It is unacceptable for a parent or player to have any verbal altercation with a coach, player or spectator before, during or after the game.
- Parents shall never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of any players.
- Parents must never violate BYSL recruitment or eligibility rules or policies.
- Parents or players must not participate in demeaning dialogue or gestures between officials, coaches, players or other spectators.
- Parents must not attempt to or incite players or other spectators to disrupt the flow of the game.
- Comments regarding officials should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.
- It is unethical for a parent to make a statement or obligation to a prospective athlete or their parents or care-givers which cannot be fulfilled. It is illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play. It is immoral to deliver the same.
- Parents and players have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents to the media should be positive and constructive.
- Respect for the property of others, adherence to rules and guidelines as stated here or by the coach or team manager, and observance of state and federal laws are required for participation in BYSL programs.

DISCIPLINE

- Failure to abide by the above rules and guidelines may result in disciplinary action as determined by BYSL in adherence with BYSL Disciplinary Procedures.

I, the undersigned, have read, understand and agree to abide be the above rules and guidelines. I also agree to accept actions taken for failure to abide by these rules and guidelines.

Name of Parent/Guardian (Print)

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Name of Player (Print)

Signature of Player

Date

Exhibit B

Bonneville Youth Soccer League

Play-up Policy

- I. *Philosophy:* Bonneville Youth Soccer League (BYSL) believes that players develop best at their age-appropriate level. Though uncommon, some talented players are developmentally, physically, and psychologically ready for play at an older age level (a "play-up").
- II. *Play-up requests:*
 - A. Play-up requests must be submitted by a parent/guardian of the relevant player to the BYSL Director of Coaching (DOC) in writing, including by email (doc@byslsoccer.org) or print, and:
 1. acknowledge that the parents/guardians and the player have read this policy,
 2. identify the older age-group where the player desires to play, and
 3. state why the player should be considered for playing up.
 - B. Successful play-up requests to top-tier teams will highlight the development of elite players who may insufficiently develop at their regular age group. Information such as carpooling, friends, or coach preference will largely only be relevant where blended-age club-level teams are formed.
 - C. Play-up requests must be submitted every seasonal year regardless of past evaluations.
- III. *Play-up request evaluation:*
 - A. *Evaluator:* Play-up evaluations will be conducted by the DOC. If a conflict of interest may exist, the BYSL Executive Director will designate a replacement.
 - B. *Evaluation:* Player evaluation preferably occurs during normal tryouts and is supplemented by game observations during the prior season(s). If this cannot happen, the DOC is responsible for ensuring a meaningful setting is provided for player evaluation. Evaluation will be based on the player's developmental, physical, and psychological readiness to play at the older age level, including the player's safety in competing with and against older players, and may also require IYSA approval. The DOC will report the evaluation process and results to parents/guardians, relevant coaches, and the BYSL board. The BYSL Secretary will keep all relevant records.
 - C. *U12 and younger age groups:* Evaluation by the DOC must determine that the player is one of the strongest in their natural age group and that playing in the older age group best supports the development of the player. Only one year play-up requests will be considered.
 - D. *U13 and older age groups based on a unified player pool:* Evaluation by the DOC must normally determine that the player would be one of the strongest in the older age group (e.g., would likely be considered to be in the top half of the top-tier team) and that playing in the older age group best supports the development of the player. Only one year play-up requests will be considered for birth year U13 and U14 players. Two year play-up requests can be made by U15 players, and must be approved by the DOC and subsequently approved by the IYSA DOC or IYSA Technical Director (per current IYSA policy).
 - E. *U13 and older players in a non-unified player pool (currently 2004 and older):* One year play-up requests may be approved at the discretion of the DOC with or without player evaluation. Two-year play-up requests must be approved by the DOC and subsequently approved by the IYSA DOC or IYSA Technical Director (per current IYSA policy).
- IV. *Additional considerations:*
 - A. BYSL may choose to form blended teams from adjacent age groups in order to accommodate team formation (e.g., when there are insufficient players in an age group to form another team at that age or to improve the experience for club level teams). Such situations will not be considered play-ups.
 - B. The BYSL Board may choose to "grandfather" players who have played-up prior to the current revision of this Policy, enabling those players to continue to play with those same teams without subsequent consideration each year.

Appendix

(This Appendix will capture and contain modifications to the BYSL Rules and Regulations as adopted by the Board of Directors throughout the year. Prior to the Annual General Meeting in November, these changes may be incorporated into the body of this document and the updated version of the Rules and Regulations may be adopted at the General Meeting)