

## CHAPTER 4

### RULES OF THE ARKANSAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION (Adopted 8/1/95)

Revision: 07/01/14

#### **4.1 RULES OF THE ARKANSAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

- 4.1.1 These are the General Rules of the Arkansas State Soccer Association (ASSA) and its affiliated local soccer association membership. Where any issue pertinent to these rules is not wholly covered or requires clarification then such issue should be taken up with the chairperson of the Rules Committee or in the absence of that position with the committee chairperson having responsibility over the issue in question.
- 4.1.2 Any information or advice given in this manner shall not be considered as the full ASSA policy or interpretation unless given in writing by the Rules Committee with the consent by the Board of Directors of the ASSA.
- 4.1.3 These Rules shall be considered in conjunction with and a supplementary to the Bylaws and Policies of the United States Youth Soccer (USYS), the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and the United State Adult Soccer Association (USASA) (collectively, the “Rules of the Governing Bodies”.) In those instances where these Rules directly conflict with the Rules of the Governing Bodies, the Rules of the Governing Bodies shall apply. In all other instances, these Rules shall be read in conjunction with the Rules of the Governing Bodies, if applicable, and supplementary and superior to the Rules of the Governing Bodies if permitted.
- 4.1.4 A plea of ignorance of the bylaws, rules and operating guidelines of this association, USSF, USASA, or USYS, is not sufficient and violators may expect appropriate action by the Board of Directors of this association or their designate.
- 4.1.5 This association, USSF, USASA, or USYS, shall not assume nor be liable for, the debts nor financial responsibilities, either implied or incurred, of any of its members, member associations, member teams, coaches or managers.

#### **4.2 MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION**

- 4.2.1 New Associations:
- 4.2.2 In order to create an association, proposed bylaws, accompanied by a check made payable to the ASSA in the amount established by the Board of Directors, must be submitted for approval to the state office. In addition to the bylaws, a statement showing “just cause” – why the new association is necessary in the area, what part of the community is being served and where the association will play and practice.
- 4.2.3 To qualify for membership and association must have at least 50 players.
- 4.2.4 The new association must commit to hosting a coaching and referee course within the first year.
- 4.2.5 Year One: a new club can only register First Touch, Academy, and In-House Recreational players of which 70% must be new players to ASSA.
- 4.2.6 Year Two: The club may add Recreational and Challenge players, of which 70% must come from players previously registered to the club, or are new to ASSA.
- 4.2.7 Year Three: The club may add Classic players, of which 70% must come from players previously registered to the club, or are new to ASSA.
- 4.2.8 Existing Associations: (more than three years old)
- 4.2.9 In order to start a classic program a club must first have an established Recreational program.
- 4.2.10 The first year that a club develops a classic program, 51% of the players on each classic team must come from players previously registered to that club, or are new to ASSA.

- 4.2.11 Except as otherwise required by the Rules of the Governing Bodies, only properly registered players, coaches, and referees shall be permitted to participate in ASSA sanctioned competitions. This includes competitions sanctioned by local member associations.
- 4.2.12 Any team which uses any unregistered player(s) shall automatically forfeit all games in which said player(s) have participated and may also be liable to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the ASSA Appeals and Disciplinary Committee (the “A&D Committee”).
- 4.2.13 Any local soccer association which permits any unregistered player, coach, or referee to participate in any competition shall be subject to such disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the A&D Committee. All Challenge and Classic ASSA registered players will be provided with a player pass. Academy and Recreational players will only be issued player passes upon request of the club’s registrar.
- 4.2.14 A player or coach is deemed to be properly registered with ASSA (and as a result with US Youth Soccer) when such participant has submitted his/her properly complete registration form and any dues required by such local soccer association for registration to the registrar for the local soccer association (the “Local Registrar”).
- 4.2.15 The coach and all other non-players listed on the roster must also complete an online volunteer disclosure form at the time of registration. All referees upon applying for recertification must complete an online volunteer disclosure form. All coaches and all other non-players listed on the roster of Academy, Challenge and Classic teams must complete the online concussion course prior to being placed on a roster. All coaches and all other non-players listed on a Recreational team requesting to travel out-of-state must complete the online concussion course prior to a travel permit is approved.
- 4.2.16 In the event a Local Registrar fails to submit any participant’s registration and dues required by ASSA or ASSA’s registrar (the “Registrar”) in a timely manner (as determined by the Board of Directors) such participant’s registration shall be void. In such instances, however, the player shall be considered to be a “previously rostered player” for National Championship purposes.
- 4.2.17 A player or coach who does not reside in the state of Arkansas or who is registered with an affiliate of US Youth Soccer shall be deemed to be properly registered when such participant is registered pursuant to his/her state’s or affiliate’s’ rules and regulations.
- 4.2.18 If an association has registered all of its players but has not submitted any fees and notification has been sent without results, the board will contact the appropriate league and notify them that it is the board’s recommendation that the association not be allowed to participate in league games. Additionally, the association will not be allowed to vote at the AGM, will not be allowed to register for any State Cup tournament, and no player cards will be issued in the Spring.
- 4.2.19 If an association has registered all of its players and paid for only a portion of the fees and proper notification has been sent without results, the association will be declared in bad standing, will not be allowed to vote at the AGM, will not be allowed to register for any State Cup tournaments, and no player cards will be issued in the Spring.

### **4.3 UNREGISTERED OR NON-SANCTIONED PLAY**

- 4.3.1 Except as otherwise required by the Rules of the Governing Bodies, registered players and their teams that participate in non-sanctioned play either with or against unregistered players may have their registrations with ASSA voided. In such cases they may then apply for reinstatement to ASSA by application via the A&D Committee, a filing fee of \$5 per player must be paid along with the appropriate registration fee. ASSA insurance is void when participating in non-sanctioned play.
- 4.3.2 Non-Sanctioned Play shall include but not be limited to:

- 4.3.2.1.1 Any league not sanctioned by ASSA, USYS, USASA, or USSF
- 4.3.2.1.2 Any tournament not sanction by ASSA, USYS, USASA, or USSF
- 4.3.2.1.3 Any game (friendly, scrimmage or small-sided) with a non-USYS, USASA, or USSF member or affiliate.
- 4.3.2.1.4 Any USYS, USASA, or USSF sanctioned out-of-state league, game or tournament for which the traveling team has not acquired the properly completed “Travel Permit”.
- 4.3.2.1.5 Any in-state league, tournament or game (friendly, scrimmage or small-sided) against any out-of-state team(s) for which the host association, league, club or team has not acquired the properly completed “Application to Host Tournament or Games” form or for which the visiting team has not acquired their own “Travel Permit” from their home association.
- 4.3.2.1.6 Indoor soccer at any facility not sanctioned by the ASSA or USYSA, USASA, or USSF.

#### 4.4 **FRIENDLY AND SCRIMMAGE GAMES:**

- 4.4.1 A friendly game shall be defined as any game between properly registered teams or players that is not associated with any other game or games either played or to be played and does not lead to any championship, trophy, award or recognition.
- 4.4.2 A scrimmage game shall be defined as any game arranged between properly registered players or teams organized in a spontaneous manner but is not controlled by a properly certified or sanctioned referee.

#### 4.5 **TOURNAMENTS:**

- 4.5.1 In order for an association to host a sanctioned tournament it must complete the tournament host permit and pay the appropriate fees. Association must follow ASSA rules and guidelines and offer the recommended small-sided game format. ASSA’s insurance is void for any non-sanctioned tournament.
- 4.5.2 Only full members of ASSA in good standing are allowed to host ASSA sanctioned events.
- 4.5.3 ASSA will not sanction any tournament that is scheduled on the same dates as the Arkansas State Cups.
- 4.5.4 In-House Recreational teams may only participate in a jamboree format tournament. Host association may only charge a minimal fee to cover expenses and no awards other than participation are given.
- 4.5.5 Recreational teams may participate in any sanctioned recreational tournament. Recreational teams are prohibited from participating in Classic or Challenge tournaments.
- 4.5.5.1 The tournament’s sanctioning host permit must state that recreational teams (RT) are allowed to participate.
- 4.5.6 If the tournament is out-of-state a travel permit must be approved by the state office prior to travel. This includes out-of-state friendlies. Travel permits submitted for approval at least seven days in advance are free. A travel permit submitted less than seven days in advance are \$25 and increases to \$50 if not submitted within 48 hours. ASSA insurance is void for any out-of-state travel where a travel permit was not approved. The tournament host permit must accompany the travel permit.

#### **4.6 OTHER SMALL-SIDED GAMES**

- 4.6.1 All regular season small-sided games (modified soccer with less than eleven (11) players on the field) played according to the USYS official laws modified as appropriate to the circumstances by ASSA or the local soccer association.
- 4.6.2 Any such event that also involves play with or between unregistered players will be considered as being non-sanctioned. ASSA insurance is void when competing in non-sanctioned play.

#### **4.7 SUSPENSIONS**

- 4.7.1 ASSA and its members shall honor any and all orders of suspension of teams, players, coaches and referees issued by USSF, USYS, USASA, ASSA or their affiliated members.
- 4.7.2 A team which has used individuals under suspension shall automatically forfeit all games in which the individuals have participated and also be subject to such disciplinary action as the A&D Committee deems appropriate.
- 4.7.3 Member teams or associations that use coaches or referees under suspension shall be subject to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the A&D Committee, including but not limited to being declared as not in good standing with ASSA.

#### **4.8 PLAYING AGE**

- 4.8.1 Except where prohibited by ASSA, USSF, USASA, or USYS rules, players may participate in older age divisions (play up) but may not play in younger age divisions (play down) than their ages dictates.
- 4.8.2 Teams that are formed in mixed age divisions must register with ASSA in the age division corresponding to the age of the oldest registered player.
- 4.8.3 Failure to comply with this rule may result in the offending team forfeiting all the games in which the older player(s) participated. Further, the coach, assistant coach and/or team manager of the offending team, the offending player, the offending player's parents and the local soccer association are subject to suspension for a period as deemed appropriate by the A&D Committee and such other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the A&D Committee.
- 4.8.4 Classic registration: For Classic soccer teams playing 8v8 format, only a maximum of five U10 or below players/team or special event roster or 30% of a pool roster will be allowed to play above their age group.

#### **4.9 AMATEUR (ADULT) REGISTRATION**

- 4.9.1 Registration fees and information must be received at the state office before player cards and rosters will be issued. A player may register on as many amateur teams as he/she chooses.
- 4.9.2 In the event of a player registered on more than one amateur team being in a game conflict the team that the player first registered with shall take priority, becoming the player's primary team. The primary team may waive its right to field the player if they so wish.
- 4.9.3 Any player registered to a team playing in a USSF-recognized national league or inter-regional league shall become primary on that team irrespective of registrations held on other amateur teams.

- 4.9.4 Adult teams must abide by the league rules for which it participates. If a league does not specify whether it requires player cards then the team must have state approved rosters and player cards (laminated with photo) before their first game and all games thereafter or the referee will not officiate the game.

#### **4.10 YOUTH REGISTRATION**

- 4.10.1 Youth registration shall be classified as either:

4.10.1.1 First Touch

4.10.1.2 In-House Recreational

4.10.1.3 Recreational

4.10.1.4 Academy

4.10.1.5 Challenge

4.10.1.6 Classic

4.10.1.7 TOPSoccer

- 4.10.2 All coaches, assistant coaches and team managers must be properly registered with the ASSA. ASSA registered coaches, assistant coaches and team managers will be provided with an ASSA coaches/manager card only after they have completed an online volunteer disclosure form. Background checks will be performed on ALL non-players listed on a roster.

- 4.10.3 All In-House Recreational teams and Recreational teams registered through ASSA must have state approved rosters before their first game and all games thereafter or the referee will not officiate the game.

- 4.10.4 Recreational team (R): is a team that has NOT been selected but is formed by any method an association chooses so as to be consistent with the spirit of recreational soccer and may stay together.

- 4.10.5 First Touch: For players between the ages of 2 – 5. All players are placed on a pool roster. An introductory level based on fun and enjoyment. No player' cards are issued.  
\*Permissible events: In-house only

- 4.10.6 In-House Recreational Teams are permitted to play in local games and in-house tournaments and may travel to jamborees (where only a minimal entre fee is charged and trophies are not awarded). Teams are formed by any method an association chooses so as to be consistent with the spirit of recreational soccer and may stay together. This level plays for the enjoyment of the game. No players' cards are issued by ASSA.

- 4.10.7 Recreational Teams are permitted to play in any recreational league or tournament. Travel Permits for play in tournaments outside the State of Arkansas are required. Teams are formed by any method an association chooses so as to be consistent with the spirit of recreational soccer and may stay together. Player cards are issued by ASSA.  
\*Permissible events: Recreational tournaments (in & out of state) AR Rec. Cup and Jamboree, AR State District Rec. Leagues,  
\*Regulations: 50% playing time required

- 4.10.8 Academy: Teams may register as Academy in the U6 – U10 age groups. All Academy players will be on a club pool roster. To qualify for Academy registration the pool must contain enough players to create a minimum of two separate rosters. Academy teams are permitted to play in academy leagues and tournaments, in and out of the state. A travel permit is required for out-of-state play. Player cards are issued by ASSA.

\*Permissible events: Academy leagues, jamborees, and tournaments (in & out of state), AR State Academy League, AR State Cup Academy division.

\*Regulations: 50% playing time required.

Guidelines for the U10 and below Academy teams:

Academy Concept should be “strongly encouraged” by ASSA, because it works, but should not be mandated. Player development programs are a function of member clubs/association that has the desire, commitment and resources to manage and support a quality development program. This program shall be available to any member association that meets these guidelines.

Academy registration maybe an additional program offered if open to all players within the age group (Academy, In-House and Recreational can be offered in the same age group).

Academy players train and play in-house or other developmental settings/leagues when available in accordance with the club’s philosophy.

Clubs may host play events or tournaments to compete against other club’s academies.

Academy formed teams may participate in out-of-state events/tournaments with a special event roster and travel permit.

Every Academy player must play 50% or more in every game (since individual skill development through the game is the goal there is not excuse to sit players out of any game)

- 4.10.9 Challenge Teams are formed based on the needs of the club. A selection process is permitted. The Challenge age divisions are U11 – U19. Travel permits for play in tournaments outside of the State of Arkansas are required.

\*Permissible events: AR State Cup: Challenge Division, AR State League, Classic and Challenge tournaments.

- 4.10.10 Classic Team: Although usually selected by application, invitation or try-out procedures, is any team except a recreational team. The classic age divisions are U11-U19. Travel permits for play in tournaments outside the State of Arkansas are required.

\*Permissible events: AR State Cup: Championship Division, Region III Premier League, National League, Interstate Leagues, AR State League, Classic and Premier tournaments.

- 4.10.11 All Classic rosters in the U11- U12 age group will be registered as pool rosters.

- 4.10.12 A Classic or Challenge U11 team can have a maximum of five (5) U10 or under players on its team or special event roster. No more than 30 percent of the players on a pool roster will be allowed to play above their age group.

- 4.10.13 Leagues have the prerogative to require teams that participate in its league to register at a higher level in which player cards are issued.

- 4.10.14 TOPSoccer (T): Is a program for players with special needs. The association must first submit written notification that it is forming a TOPSoccer program and receive appropriate training. All players will be registered on a pool roster.

#### 4.11 **MAXIMUM ROSTER SIZE**

4.11.1 For Recreational teams the maximum number of players that can be rostered to any team is the amount that would allow each player to play at least 50 percent of the game; i.e. 3v3 number of players would be six (6). For full-sided games (11v11) the maximum number of players that should be rostered to any team is eighteen (18). In cases of hardship, upon request of a local registrar, the registrar may permit a team to roster more than eighteen (18) players.

4.11.2 U13 – U19 Classic teams are permitted to roster twenty-two (22) players. .

#### **4.12 SECONDARY REGISTRATIONS**

4.12.1 If a player is initially registered to more than one team at the start of a season the player must state his/her primary team at that time, becoming secondary on all others. Once this designation between the primary team and the secondary team is made, it shall be deemed as final unless the team is willing to utilize a transfer under Rule 4.15.1. At the time the player swaps his/her primary and secondary registration. The player is bound to his primary team for the entire seasonal year (August - July) and these games shall take preference over all others. A player may play his/her secondary team only with the consent of his/her primary team coach. (For State Cup restrictions concerning secondary registration please refer to Chapter 8).

4.12.2 A player moving between secondary and primary teams shall be considered a player transfer and one of that team's limited number of incoming player transfers permitted in the seasonal year.

4.12.3 Secondary registration is allowed for players registering on another team in another club. Secondary registration is not allowed within the same club. Secondary registration is only allowed in classic and challenge registration. No player is allowed to be rostered on more than two teams.

4.12.4 Once a youth player has registered on any team during a seasonal year, such player shall be deemed to be a previously rostered player for any National Championships competitions. As a result, any secondary registration is counted as a transfer to the AR State Championship bound team on which the player registers second.

#### **4.13 CLUB PASS:**

4.13.1 Club pass is the ability to place eligible players from within the club on game or tournament rosters without it affecting the team's official roster.

4.13.2 Each club can utilize club pass at the academy, challenge, and classic levels of registration. Only primarily registered players are eligible. A club may club pass a player at the same level of registration or a player registered at an allowable lower level.

4.13.3 Example: A player registered as challenge can club pass on a classic roster but a player registered as classic cannot club pass on a challenge roster. Teams must conform to event rules that may or may not allow club pass.

#### **4.14 PLAYER MOVEMENT, TRANSFER OR RELEASE**

4.14.1 A youth player may move between local association, clubs and team with the agreement of all parties concerned. If a player is transferring to another club, then the Player Transfer Form must be properly completed and appropriately signed before being submitted to the Registrar for final approval.

4.14.2 All teams are limited to:

4.14.2.1 One (1) incoming player transfer in a seasonal year at age U8 and younger.

4.14.2.2 Two (2) incoming player transfers are allowed in a seasonal year at age U10.



4.14.2.3 Three (3) incoming player transfers are allowed in a seasonal year at age U11 - U13.

4.14.2.4 Five (5) incoming player transfers are allowed in a seasonal year at U14 and above.

#### **4.15 INTERSTATE PLAYER TRANSFER & RELEASE**

4.15.1 A player must be registered with an association that is a member of Arkansas State Soccer Association, pay all of the required fees of that association and be in good standing with ASSA in order to request an interstate release to play on a team in another state.

4.15.2 The maximum number of interstate transfers that will be granted for play on a single out-of-state team is: U8: 2 players, U9 –U10: 3 players, U11–U12: 4 players, U13 and above: 5 players.

#### **4.16 TEAM ABANDONMENT**

4.16.1 If a recreational team abandons prior to April 1 of the given seasonal year, the player(s) from the abandoned team may register with another team.

4.16.2 If the player(s) register with a team within the same association, it is considered a “move” not a “transfer”.

4.16.3 If the player(s) choose to register on a team from another association, it is considered a “transfer” and Rule 4.14 applies. (Please see Chapter 8: State Cup Rules for additional information)

4.16.4 A player is permitted to move between two teams only with the agreement of all parties concerned. A properly completed “Player Transfer” form must be submitted to ASSA. Once ASSA has completed the changes to the roster and issued a new player pass (if required) and roster, the player will be allowed to play for the new team.

4.16.5 The team may not release, voluntarily or involuntarily, any player from its roster unless a written request stating the reason why this action has been requested, has been made to and approved by ASSA using the “Player Transfer” form.

4.16.6 Players may be involuntarily released only for the reasons state in the US Youth Soccer Player Policy.

4.16.7 When a player requests a move or a release against the wishes of his team coach the player must show adequate reason why any movement or release would be in the best interests of the player.

4.16.8 If a coach or team representative is approached by a properly registered player of another team, that player’s parent/guardian or other agent to request moving to their team, registering secondary or guest playing with their team, the coach or team representative of the team being approached must inform the player’s properly registered team coach of the approach. The coach must obtain permission to speak with the player or the player’s parent/guardian or agent before any further dialogue can take place.

4.16.9 Should permission be refused, the player, parent/guardian or agent shall become free to talk with the other coach or the coach’s representative once a written record (letter) seeking permission to talk (instigated by the player or player’s parent/guardian) has been delivered (with proof of delivery) to the player’s coach. A file record must be kept for evidence in the case of any appeal or complaint. A player movement will only be allowed once a “Player Transfer” form has been completed by all the parties concerned and following a period of seven (7) days from the date of the initial request to talk as indicated on the proof of delivery.

- 4.16.10 In the event the player's coach (following the period of seven (7) days refuses to agree to the movement, secondary registration or guest play, appeal should be made to the local soccer association having jurisdiction. A copy of the appeal letter should be sent to the A&D Committee. It is in the interest of all parties concerned that an early decision is reached. The local soccer association must rule within seven (7) days of receiving the appeal, or they may immediately defer the decision to the A&D Committee for a ruling within ten (10) days. A formal in-person hearing is not required.
- 4.16.11 Following the outcome of any local soccer association decision, appeal may be made by either party to the ASSA A&D Committee.
- 4.16.12 Following the outcome of any A&D Committee decision further appeal may be made by either party to the Board of Directors.
- 4.16.13 Following the outcome of the initial decision the player concerned will be allowed to play for the team with which he is then properly registered while any further appeal is heard.

#### **4.17 TRYOUTS AND RECRUITING**

- 4.17.1 Recruiting and tryouts are only allowed during the following dates: A local soccer association can hold tryouts for the following seasonal year upon completion of the AR State Cup held in the spring, for the U11, U12 and U13 age groups. For players currently U13 and above, a local soccer association can hold tryouts for the following seasonal year at the conclusion of the US Youth Soccer Regional tournament, for the U14 - U19 age groups.
- 4.17.2 For recreational play recruiting is not permitted at any time. Players can only be rostered to recreational teams by following local association draft procedures.
- 4.17.3 Opening Training Sessions: A guest player form must be completed by any player wanting to participate in any type of event held by other local association.
- 4.17.4 Having any organized club/team event (whether coordinated by a coach, club administrator, or parent) in which players registered with another association are allowed to participate is considered similar to holding a tryout and is considered illegal recruiting, if held outside of the permitted time period for tryouts. The exception to this rules players who have received written permission (guest player form) from his/her coach to attend.

#### **4.18 PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL RECRUITING**

- 4.18.1 If a coach is found guilty either directly or indirectly (by use of a third party or with knowledge that a third party contact is to be made) of illegal recruiting the following punishment shall be imposed.
- 4.18.2 For a first offense the coach shall serve a 30 day ban from coaching on game days and at team practices. The recruited player if having joined the new team must also serve a 30 day ban. No part of the period of 30 days can occur outside of regularly scheduled league or association play. Further, if the violation took place less than 60 days from the date of the respective State Cup for which the team is entered, then the player will not be allowed to participate. Other tournament play is not affected.
- 4.18.3 For a second offense the coach must serve a 60 day ban as described in 4.19.2. The coach is also prevented from coaching at the next ASSA State Cup following completion of the ban. Any ban that is served over the period of the next ASSA State Cup is to run concurrently.
- 4.18.4 For a third offense the coach will be banned from coaching for three (3) years from the date of the offense.

- 4.18.5 In the event a team (through representations of identified persons but not the coach) is found guilty of illegal recruiting the following punishment shall be imposed.
- 4.18.6 For a first offense the recruited player and the team shall be banned for a 30 day period from playing in all regularly scheduled league or local association play. Further, if the recruiting violation took place less than 60 days prior to the ASSA State Cup for which the team was entered, the player will not be allowed to participate.
- 4.18.7 For a second offence the team must serve a 60 day ban as described in 4.19.6. The recruited player and the team may not participate in the next scheduled ASSA State Cup. Any ban served over the period of the ASSA State Cup is to run concurrently. Other tournament play is not affected.
- 4.18.8 For a third offense the team will be banned for three (3) years from all competition and from registering with the ASSA. Individual players, however, may register with other ASSA teams. No more than six (6) players from the offending team's final roster may make up any other ASSA team roster during the period of the ban.
- 4.18.9 In the event specified individuals, other than the coach or the team, are found guilty of illegal recruiting, with or without the knowledge of the coach, the following punishment shall be imposed.
- 4.18.10 For a first offense the recruited player shall be banned from being rostered to the team or local association to which the player was being recruited for the remainder of the current seasonal year and, at the option of the A&D Committee, the following seasonal year. Further, the offending individuals shall be prohibited for a 30 day period or 4 games, whichever is greater.
- 4.18.11 For a second offense of the same or different individuals from the same team, the punishments imposed by section (b) may be imposed and the team shall serve a 60 day ban as described in 4.19.10.
- 4.18.12 In addition, the team may not participate in the appropriate next scheduled ASSA State Cup. Any ban served over the period of the ASSA State Cup is to run concurrently.
- 4.18.13 For a third offense of the same or different individuals from the same team, the team will be banned for three (3) years from all competition and from registering with the ASSA. Individual players, however, may register with other ASSA teams. No more than six (6) players from the offending team's final roster may make up any other ASSA tea roster during the period of the ban.
- 4.18.14 A first offense shall be determined as any offence that does not occur inside of a three (3) year period from the date of any previous offense. Second and third offenses are those which take place within a three (3) year period of any previous offense.
- 4.18.15 **DISCIPLINE: ALL LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS, CLUBS AND TEAMS ARE DIRECTED TO MAKE KNOWN THIS RULE TO EVERY PLAYER, COACH, ADMINISTRATOR AND REFEREE. IN TURN IT IS EXPECTED THAT PLAYERS AND COACHES MAKE KNOW OTHIS RULE TO THE PARENTS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS THAT ATTEND GAMES.**

#### **4.19 RULES INTERPRETATION AND APPEALS & DISCIPLINE**

- 4.19.1 All members and participants in youth and adult soccer within the jurisdiction of the ASSA have requested to participate in our programs. By doing so, these participants have agreed to abide by the Bylaws and Rules of the ASSA and of their local association as well as those of the USYS, USASA, and USSF and its respective divisions.

- 4.19.2 All member associations and leagues are encouraged to form their own Appeals & Disciplinary (A&D) committee and to hold hearings concerning official referee reports of serious misconduct by youth teams, their players, coaches, assistant coaches, other volunteers and spectators. These committees may assess and issue any punishment due. Where such a committee does not exist the A&D Committee will have jurisdiction.
- 4.19.3 When any player, coach, manager, club official or game official assaults or abuses a referee, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall rest with the ASSA A&D committee.
- 4.19.4 Any local association or league ruling may be appealed to the A&D Committee using the appropriate appeals procedures.
- 4.19.5 The rules governing the A&D Committee, its jurisdiction, procedures and post decision relief shall be set forth in separate rules and approved by the Board of Directors.
- 4.19.6 While these rules contemplate specific fines, penalties and sanctions for violations of these rules, the A&D Committee may alter the applicable fine, penalty or sanction when it determines that it is in the best interest of the game to do so.
- 4.19.7 Any local association, coach or player may request in writing an interpretation of these rules by the rules committee, or in its absence, the A&D Committee. The rules committee shall respond in writing to such request and may designate such interpretation as binding or non-binding, and then forward such recommendation to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may approve, disapprove and remand to the rules committee for reconsideration, or disapprove and issue its own interpretation. Any binding interpretation must be followed by the A&D Committee until revised by the Board of Directors.
- 4.19.8 Non-binding interpretations are not binding on the A&D Committee. In most instances, every factual request concerning specific instances shall be issued binding interpretations, while general request for guidance shall be issued non-binding interpretations. Each local association may request one (1) rules interpretation per season year for no charge and thereafter shall be charged \$25.00 per request.

#### **4.20 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

- 4.20.1 Coaches must have the following licenses to be placed on a roster and participate in state cups:
  - 4.20.1.1 All Level 2 recreational team coaches must have at least an “F” License
  - 4.20.1.2 All Level 3 classic or all-star team coaches must have at least a “E” License

- 4.20.2 Coaches of Level 1 teams entering the American Jamboree are highly encouraged to obtain an “F” License or attend an age appropriate coaching clinic. All coaches entering the Champion’s Division of the ASSA State Cup must have obtained a “D” License. All coaches entering the President’s Division of the ASSA State Cup must have obtained an “E” License. All L2 coaches entering the bronze division of the ASSA State Cup must have obtained an “F” License.
- 4.20.3 Exemptions to this rule will only be considered for coaches who can provide proof of some type of equivalency from a coaching organization such as another national State Association, a NSCAA diploma or FIFA recognized international certification. The approval of an exemption is at the discretion of the ASSA Director of Coaching.

#### **4.21 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.21.1 Any soccer goal owned or used by any association affiliated with ASSA must be anchored or secured to the ground in an approved manner so it will not tip over. The safety of the goal will be judged by the referee before each match.
- 4.21.2 Associations will only allow coaches, assistant coaches and team managers who are registered and have submitted a volunteer disclosure form to be responsible for the team during games and practices. Non-registered adults are not allowed to coach at any time.
- 4.21.3 Associations shall abide by the US Youth Soccer “Kidsafe” program.
- 4.21.4 Any adult listed on the roster of an Academy, Challenge or Classic team must complete the online concussion course offered through his/her GotSoccer account prior to being placed on a roster. All adults on a Recreational team requesting permission to travel out-of-state must have completed the online concussion course offered through his/her GotSoccer account prior to permission being granted to travel out-of-state.

#### **4.22 REFEREES**

- 4.22.1 In the compliance with the USSF rules, all referees serving the ASSA and its affiliated member associations shall be registered with the USSF in accordance with current rules and regulations of the USSF National Referee Committee. Referees will complete an online volunteer disclosure form prior to being re-certified.
- 4.22.2 When any referee is alleged to have committed misconduct toward any participant or spectator of a game, the State Referee Committee will hear such allegations and assess any punishments due. The State Referee Committee must rule within thirty (30) days of receiving the complaint or grievance. A report of its findings must be delivered to the A&D Committee within seven (7) days of the hearing.
- 4.22.3 When any referee is alleged to have committed misconduct toward any other referee the State Referee Committee will hear such allegations and assess any punishment due. A report of its findings must be delivered to the A&D Committee within seven (7) days of the hearing. This rule applies to referees regardless of the accused referee’s activities at the time of the incident (player, coach, spectator, administrator, referee, instructor, assessor or other position).

#### **4.23 GAME PROTESTS**

- 4.23.1 Unless otherwise provided by league or tournament rule, there are only four acceptable causes for the protesting of any game after it has been played.
- 4.23.2 A team used an unregistered, ineligible or suspended player.

- 4.23.3 The playing or outcome of any games(s) or its effect on an overall competition (such as standings) was not properly administered under the terms of the Rules of the Competition governing the game or games in question.
- 4.23.4 A team allowed a suspended coach or other suspended person in the team bench area
- 4.23.5 A suspended referee or other suspended official or person (such as in the case of a club linesman or referee assistant or an emergency referee) acted as referee, linesman or referee assistant or as a fourth official.
- 4.23.6 Protest should always be made to the local association or league having jurisdiction over the game(s) in question in accordance with that association of leagues rules of competition. Poor or inadequate refereeing should be brought to the attention of the District Referee Administrator, State Referee Administrator, or State Youth Referee Administrator and the local club or association. NO PROTEST CAN EVER BE HEARD CONCERNING REFEREE DECISIONS COVERED BY THE LAWS OF THE GAME.

#### **4.24 CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 4.24.1 Any person (player, parent, coach, referee, board member, volunteer or any other individual) acting on behalf of or associated with the Arkansas State Soccer Association (ASSA) is expected to conduct themselves appropriately and abide by this Code of Conduct. All ASSA members have a responsibility to act and speak appropriately when representing our association. At all ASSA sponsored activities, in any out of the state Arkansas, the following code of conduct is in effect:
  - 4.24.2 ASSA members will refrain from participating in or encouraging any of the following:
    - 4.24.2.1.1 Assault
    - 4.24.2.1.2 Harassment
    - 4.24.2.1.3 Racial or religious violence
    - 4.24.2.1.4 Sexual violence or harassment
    - 4.24.2.1.5 Taunting or showboating
    - 4.24.2.1.6 Vandalism
    - 4.24.2.1.7 Drug, alcohol and/or tobacco use
    - 4.24.2.1.8 Gambling
    - 4.24.2.1.9 Inappropriate language and/or actions
    - 4.24.2.1.10 Providing false information
    - 4.24.2.1.11 Harassment of other club officials, referees, coaches and/or players
- 4.24.3 ASSA members will be an example of good sportsmanship to all players, coaches and parents and address all players in a positive, encouraging manner.
- 4.24.4 ASSA members will respect and support all coaches, players and officials through words and actions.
- 4.24.5 ASSA members will view opponents as necessary friends that provide players the opportunity to participate.

4.24.6 ASSA members will abide by all established policies and decisions of the ASSA Board of Directors.

4.24.7 Steps that will be taken if a violation has occurred:

4.24.7.1 First offense – a meeting must take place with all involved persons and the ASSA Appeals & Discipline Committee. Punishment will be determined after this meeting has occurred.

4.24.7.2 Second offense – the person in violation will be suspended from any ASSA involvement for a period of time to be determined by the ASSA Appeals and Discipline Committee. Any future return to ASSA involvement is not guaranteed but may be granted, depending on the nature and severity of the infraction. Involvement will then be granted on a probationary basis. Any violation during that probation period will result in permanent suspension from the ASSA.

4.24.7.3 If an offense is severe in nature (extreme, violent and/or dangerous) the ASSA reserves the right to move directly to the consequences of the second offense, after which a meeting may take place.

#### **4.24.8 LITIGATION PROHIBITION:**

4.24.8.1 No ASSA Member, official, league, club, team, player, coach, administrator, or referee may invoke the aid of the courts in the United States or of a State without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organization, and as provided within ASSA or the Federation. This bylaw does not apply to the commencement of an arbitration proceeding under these bylaws or the USOC Constitution and Bylaws or the enforcement of a decision rendered in such a proceeding.

4.24.8.2 For a violation of this bylaw, the offending party shall be subject to suspension and fines, and shall be liable to ASSA or the Federation for all expenses incurred by ASSA or the Federation and their officers in defending each court action, including but not limited to the following:

4.24.8.2.1 Court costs

4.24.8.2.2 Attorney fees

4.24.8.2.3 Reasonable compensation for time spent by ASSA, USYSA, USASA, or USSF officials and employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances

4.24.8.2.4 Travel expenses

4.24.8.2.5 Expenses for holding special ASSA Board or Federation National Council meetings necessitated by the court action.

4.24.8.3 ASSA adopts the policy that ASSA is allowed to take full advantage of rights permitted to it by the laws of the State of Arkansas for non-profit organizations.

#### **4.24.9 LAWSUITS AGAINST THE ASSOCIATION:**

4.25 Any person who files a lawsuit or invokes the aid of the courts on their own behalf or as the representative for another person against ASSA, or its officers, employees, or members or representatives of any of its officers, employees, or members, shall be subject to the sanction of immediate suspension from membership and from all soccer activities within the jurisdiction of ASSA and its affiliates. ASSA may also elect to subject a person who threatens to file a lawsuit or who threatens to invoke the aid of the courts to the same sanctions of suspension.

