

# SYSA COMPETITIVE DIVISION RULES AND REGULATIONS

(revised ~~May 2017~~ September 2018)

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## **A. GENERAL:**

1. All references to Smithfield Youth Soccer Association / Competitive Soccer Division will be indicated as "CSD".

2. All references to parents or guardians will be indicated as "parents".

3. All references to a particular season or indoor session will be indicated by "season".

4. The CSD Division shall be governed by the CSD Board consisting of the following positions: the SYSA Vice President of Competitive, SYSA President, SYSA Membership Secretary, CSD Recording Secretary, CSD Treasurer, CSD

Registrar, SYSA Field Coordinator, Director of Referees, and Director of Coaching.

5. All members of the CSD committee will each have one vote. The CSD Vice President will not cast his/her vote unless it is needed to break a tie.
6. A CSD Committee quorum for meetings and voting will be a minimum of five (5) committee members, unless stated otherwise below.
7. There will be a minimum of ~~six (6)~~ **three (3)** CSD meetings per calendar year.

## **B. PLAYERS:**

1. A player's **birth** year ~~age on August 1st of the season~~ determines his/her age group.
2. It is the intent of CSD to form top teams at the U-14 level and below based on single age divisions.
3. All CSD players and teams will wear the approved uniforms at all games, regardless of whether they are indoor, outdoor, or in a tournament. Under no circumstances may a team wear a uniform during any game other than the approved uniform without the prior approval of the CSD board unless directed to do so by the match referee. Goalkeepers will wear the CSD uniform when not playing the keeper position.
4. The CSD Committee has the right to review all complaints of harassment or inappropriate behavior toward another player, coach, referee, or parent by a member of CSD. CSD retains the right to take appropriate action in such cases.
5. No player will be allowed to practice or play before becoming a currently registered member of SYSA. All players will comply with any and all state mandated release / transfer forms required to place the player on the CSD team roster.
6. If a player is assigned to a particular coach, the player cannot renege and play for another coach.

If a player commits to a CSD team and then breaks that commitment for reasons other than health, the player in question will be prevented from playing for CSD for

the balance of the entire season including the full spring season and any tournaments until November 1st of the year following the infraction. In these instances, head coaches may request of the CSD Board that the player found in violation not be placed on their roster for the following season. The CSD Board will vote on all requests submitted.

7. A refusal to play for any coach in any age division will be considered an automatic "No" to all CSD coaches and that player will not play CSD during that competitive season. If the parent or player does not want to play for a specific coach, that parent must submit a letter to the CSD Vice President at least two weeks prior to start of the first competitive season (indoor or outdoor) that particular team is playing. The letter will be reviewed by the CSD Board, which may take appropriate action if it deems it necessary. Such a petition does not assure the player of being allowed to play for another CSD team.

8. Players currently registered with SYSA and currently on a CSD team roster who desire to withdraw from that team must obtain a signed release form bearing the signatures of the SYSA President, the SYSA Vice President of Competitive, **and of** the SYSA CSD Registrar for approval. The approving SYSA officer cannot be the coach of the teams involved. A player cannot be denied a release. If a player does leave a CSD team after committing to that team, Paragraph 6 of this Section will apply.

### **C. COMPETITIVE SEASON:**

1. CSD will have two (2) competitive seasons: the winter indoor season(s) and the spring season. These shall be considered to be concurrent for administrative purposes. The indoor season will run from approximately November 1st through March 31st of the following calendar year. The spring season will run from approximately April 1st through June 30th of each calendar year. However, teams may participate in tournaments during periods other than these months (including but not limited to fall SuperLiga tournament **or leagues approved by the CSD Board**). All CSD rules, rosters and guidelines will be in force with respect to all tournaments.

2. The rules, regulations and by-laws of the governing State Association and/or the league of competitive competition shall supersede the rules and regulations of CSD.

3. Head coaches may not coach more than one same-age division team at the same time during the same season, indoor or outdoor, even if they are playing at two separate venues. For example, U-10 A (1) and U-10 B (2) would be considered the same age division and may not be entered in two indoor venues, whether they are the same or different venues, or a spring competitive league during the same season.

#### **D. TOURNAMENT RULES:**

1. For CSD purposes, a tournament is defined as:

a) A single day or a single weekend series of games or,

b) A consecutive multi-weekend or weeknights/weekday series of games.

2. CSD coaches wishing to enter tournaments must submit rosters and appropriate travel forms to the SYSA Vice President of Competitive, the SYSA President, or the SYSA CSD Registrar for approval and signature before playing in any tournament. Once signed by SYSA the coach must forward the paperwork to the governing State Association for State approval. No team will be allowed to participate in any tournament without approved rosters, travel papers, and player identification cards (ID's) in the coach's possession on the day of the tournament. The officers authorized to approve and sign rosters are the SYSA President, the SYSA Vice President of Competitive, and the CSD Registrar. No coach may approve and sign his own roster.

3. CSD coaches intending to use a player(s) for a tournament who are currently listed on another Smithfield CSD roster must obtain permission from that player's current head coach before adding said player(s) to the tournament roster. If the other coach agrees to allow the player to participate, the tournament coach will obtain and be responsible for the player's ID during that tournament, and then immediately return it to the originating coach upon completion of the tournament. The current coach must have valid reasons for declining the availability of the player. The CSD Board will settle any resulting disputes.

4. In the event of conflicting tournament dates, the current coach will have the first rights to the player.

The current coach does not have to take all players on his roster. Guest players may be substituted for tournament play, but not ahead of players on the current roster who wish to participate. Exceptions can be requested by

the head coach to the CSD Board for teams of mixed ages that wish to participate in a single-age tournament.

5. The CSD Tournament / Safety Director will be responsible for making tournament information available to coaches. All tournament material (i.e., flyers, tournament applications, tournament schedules, etc.) should be given to the Director since he/she will be the CSD source for all available information.

## **E. REGISTRATION:**

1. A CSD team shall be defined as a team composed of all SYSA registered players and coaches who have the appropriate release / transfer forms required to place the player or coach on the team roster. All coaches and players will be registered with SYSA and will have paid the appropriate fees.

2. ~~All CSD playing fees for the spring SuperLiga season will be determined each year by the CSD Board. The playing fee for indoor soccer will be determined by each head coach after taking into consideration the cost to play in a venue and the number of players on that coach's roster.~~ Teams that do not play **in the Spring SuperLiga or a CSD Board approved league** will be responsible for a fee due to SYSA-CSD, to be determined by the CSD Board, to cover expenses such as field maintenance, insurance, registration, player passes, etc.

3. CSD coaches are responsible for the total completion of all rosters, ID forms for coaches and players, ~~collection of playing fees~~, travel forms (when needed), **SYSA annual registration forms and fees**, birth date proof and any and all information and/or forms deemed necessary by CSD. Incomplete paperwork will not be accepted. Missing documentation and/or improperly assembled paperwork will be considered as incomplete. Teams will not be registered unless all administrative items are in order.

a) The coaches will adhere to all deadlines for submitting appropriate paperwork and fees. CSD reserves the right to decline acceptance of information not submitted by announced deadlines. CSD also reserves the right to subject a CSD coach to a monetary fine if it chooses to accept late paperwork.

Players will not be denied the opportunity to play competitive soccer on the basis of financial hardship. The SYSA Vice President of Competitive has the authority to waive part or all of the player fees upon receiving a written request from the player's coach or the parent of the player. This request must be made prior to the start of each season and will be considered as a part of the

rostering process.

#### **F. YELLOW AND RED CARDS / DISCIPLINE:**

1. All monetary penalties associated with the issuance of red and yellow cards to a CSD coach or assistant coach shall be the responsibility of the offending coach unless the CSD Board decides otherwise. CSD will pay any assessed fines on behalf of SYSA. Fines assessed because of coach's red cards and/or team forfeits will be reimbursed by the coach in question within twenty one (21) days of written notice being sent by the SYSA Vice President of Competitive.

2. Any coach receiving a red card must appear before the CSD Board at the next meeting to explain the circumstances. Coaches may be subject to disciplinary actions at the discretion of the CSD Board for any actions deemed detrimental to the goals of SYSA and/or CSD. These actions may include the suspension of coaching privileges.

3. SYSA and CSD will not tolerate abusive behavior by any player or coach toward an opposing player, coach, referee, parent, or tournament official. Complaints involving such matters that are brought to the CSD Board will be reviewed and may result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the Board.

#### **G. INSURANCE:**

1. SYSA will provide each registered player with medical insurance obtained through the governing State Association or indoor venue if the venue is not sanctioned by the governing Rhode Island organization. Processing of a claim will commence with the submission of the CSD injury incident report form and the State issued injury insurance form. The CSD coach will forward copies of the incident report to the SYSA Vice President of Competitive and the Tournament / Safety Director. All questions will be directed to the SYSA Vice President of Competitive.

2. The governing State Association for Rhode Island provides liability insurance for all coaches, officers and directors of SYSA including CSD.

3. Medical insurance provided through the governing State Association for Rhode Island is considered as excess coverage over the coach / player's own primary medical insurance

## **H. FUND RAISING:**

1. All fundraising events involving CSD teams, tournament or otherwise, must be approved by the CSD Board prior to commencement.

## **I. COACHING ASSIGNMENTS:**

~~1. All coaching assignments will be determined by the CSD Board. The Vice President of Competitive will solicit volunteers to serve as head coach of all CSD team, no later than August 15th of each calendar year. All intents to coach shall be submitted in writing to the Vice President of Competitive by September 1 of each year.~~  
1. All coaching assignments will be determined by the CSD Board. The Vice President of Competitive will solicit volunteers to serve as head coach of all CSD team. **after the request for coaches is sent out by the Vice President of Competitive.**

2. Criteria used by the CSD Board to determine head coaching assignments includes:

### **For New Coaches:**

- Coaching license(s) obtained
- Prior coaching experience
- Prior playing experience
- Volunteer service time with SYSA and/or SYSA-CSD
- Ability to teach the game of soccer to children/young adults
- Appropriate behavior at all SYSA functions including games and practices

### **For returning coaches:**

- Improvement in the overall skill level of the team from one season to the next
- Timeliness and orderliness in submitting paperwork and **in the performance of** other administrative duties
- A proven track record of following SYSA-CSD rules and regulations; an

ability to be selfless when it comes to compromise without complaining.

❖ **When all factors are relatively equal residency in town will be the tie breaker.**

3. Before being included on an approved roster, all assistant coaches must be approved by CSD Board.

4. All coaches will have **the option to pursue** ~~obtained~~ the appropriate coaching license. ~~or be willing to obtain said license as soon as licensing classes are available, in order to be considered for a head coaching position.~~ Coach license fees will be reimbursed by CSD upon presentation of proof that the coach has successfully passed the licensing course.

5. Coaches and assistant coaches must be current members of SYSA. CSD head coaches should have at least one season of experience as a competitive assistant coach or a recreational head coach before becoming a competitive head coach.

6. Coaches are expected to attend all CSD meetings or have their assistant coaches represent them in their absence. If the head coach or an assistant coach cannot attend, then the head coach will be responsible for appointing someone else to represent that team at the meeting. That person will be responsible for any handouts / information given to the teams at that meeting.

7. Coaches submitting an intent to coach do so on the basis that all teams will be competing in at least one indoor session as well as the outdoor spring session. The CSD Committee has the authority to waive this requirement for **any age group** ~~U-19 teams~~ or for other special circumstances. The head coach, **with input from the Vice President of Competitive** will determine whether his/her team will play one indoor session or two, and also the venue where that team will participate.

8. Coaches at the U-14 level and below are responsible and required to conduct regularly scheduled practices, indoors and out.

9. Coaches at the U-14 level and below are expected to participate in at least one outdoor tournament between April 1st and August 31st of each calendar

year. Exceptions will be made for teams when the head coach cannot solicit enough players to participate in a tournament.

10. Failure to fulfill any or all of the above requirements may be grounds for denial of a future coaching position.

#### **J. TRYOUTS and ROSTERS – NON-PREMIER LEAGUE TEAMS:**

1. SYSA-CSD will conduct tryouts in the fall for all teams in the U-14 age divisions and younger that will compete in a non-premier league. (~~typically, SuperLiga~~). Team selection for players aged U-14 and younger will be determined by the process outlined in section J. Tryouts for players aged U-15 and older will be held at the discretion of the head coach of each team. Team selection for players aged 15 and older are also at the discretion of the head coach. Tryouts and team selection for teams competing in a premier league are outlined in section K. CSD conducted tryouts (U14 and younger) will be held according to the following format:

- a) ~~Eight~~ **Two** separate tryouts will be conducted, grouped as follows: U7/U8 boys; U7/U8 girls; U9/U10 boys; U9/U10 girls; U11/U12 boys; U11/U12 girls; U13/U14 boys; U13/U14 girls.
- b) Tryouts will be held at a date and time determined by the Vice President of Competitive. At least ~~three~~ **two** weeks prior to the tryout notification of all U- 14 and younger tryouts will be posted on the recreation schedules for the appropriate age group, posted on the SYSA website, and emailed to all players participating in recreation soccer.
- c) Tryouts will last a minimum of 1 hour and will consist of at least three different soccer activities that can be used to determine a player's ability. Tryout activities and the scoring system used to rate players will be determined by the Vice President of Competitive in consultation with members of the CSD Board.
- d) The Vice President of Competitive will conduct/facilitate all tryouts but

will not serve as an evaluator of players. The VP of Competitive will solicit tryout evaluators from the following group: head CSD coaches, assistant CSD coaches, head recreational coaches, SYSA / CSD Board members. No one may serve as a tryout evaluator in an age group where he/she serves as a CSD or recreation head or assistant coach, or if they have an immediate relative who is trying out in that age group.

2. Roster sizes for each team will be determined by the Vice President of Competitive **using the US Soccer Federations player development initiative recommendations.** ~~and the head coach of each team, with consideration given to the indoor venue and outdoor league of each team.~~ Minimum and maximum limits of the number of players on a roster will be in accordance of the rules of **the US Soccer Federation and when necessary** the league the team is playing in. ~~In cases where roster size cannot be agreed upon, the matter will be brought to a vote of the CSD Board.~~

3. At the conclusion of each tryout the Vice President of Competitive will collect all evaluator rating sheets and compile a list of players in rank order, grouped by single age.

For the U-7 to ~~U-12~~ **U8** age groups, the top ~~10~~ **6** players in each single age will be placed on the **“A” primary** roster for that single age group. ~~(The terms “A,” “B,” and “C” rosters/teams are used only in the CSD bylaws to help differentiate amongst teams) for teams with rosters of 12 or more.~~ For the ~~U-7 to U-12~~ **U9 to U12** age groups, the top ~~9~~ **10** players in each single age will be placed on the **“A” primary** roster for that single age group. ~~for teams with rosters of 11 or fewer.~~ The head coach will then select the remaining players for his/her roster based on the following formula (1 additional player to be selected from the next three highest rated players, or two additional players to be selected from the next five highest rated players, or 3 additional players to be selected from the next six highest rated players).

For the U-13 and U-14 age groups, the top 12 players in each single age will be placed on the **“A” primary** roster for that single age group, with additional players added according to the parameters for the U-7 to U-12 age groups.

4. Players who played CSD the previous season and miss the tryout will be

slotted on the rating sheet according to the previous year's CSD rating and tryout rating, and then dropped ~~five~~ **three** player slots. Players who did not play CSD the previous season and miss the tryout will be slotted according to their most recent rec rating but cannot be placed on the "~~A~~" **primary** team without a rating appeal from the head coach.

5. In cases where the CSD head coach feels a rating does not accurately reflect the ability of a player, the head coach may appeal a player rating according to the following process:

a) The head coach will notify the Vice President of Competitive of the player(s) rating he/she wishes to appeal. The head coach should only initiate an appeal if a rating places a player automatically on or off his/her team and the coach feels that position is not warranted.

b) Upon being notified, the VP of Competitive will contact the evaluators from the appealed players' tryout and ask them to attend a recreational soccer game to re-evaluate the player. A player's tryout rating will only be changed if all evaluators in attendance and the VP-CSD agree to the change, and if the player's rating change results in a minimum change of 5 player positions within the player's single age (i.e., it must be very clear the player's rating does not accurately reflect the player's ability).

**c) All rating appeals must be kept strictly confidential. Notification of an appeal to anyone not part of the appeal process will result in an automatic denial of an appeal.**

6. CSD head coaches may request that a player not be placed on their roster for one or more of the following reasons: a) the player quit that coaches CSD team during the previous competitive season; or b) the player missed an excessive amount of practices/games compared to all other players on that coach's roster during the previous competitive season. The head coach must provide the VP- CSD with written documentation for the request to be considered. The VP-CSD will make a determination prior to a roster being finalized for the current competitive season. Once a roster is finalized, no requests from the head coach will be considered.

7. Once the rosters for the **“A” primary** teams in each single age are established, the remaining players are placed on rosters as follows: If there are enough players to form a second single age team (~~“B”~~ **secondary** team) for both single ages at a given tryout (i.e., enough players to form both a second U-9 and second U-10 team), players will be placed on rosters according to numbers 4 and 5 above. When two single age ~~“B”~~ **secondary** teams cannot be created because of a lack of players in either (or both) single age groups, all players are listed based on rating score, regardless of single age, and placed on a team according to 4 and 5 above. The head coach of the ~~“B”~~ **secondary** team may also appeal the rating of any remaining player based on the criteria in paragraph 6 of this section. CSD will create as many competitive teams as possible based on the number of players and head coaches available.

8. Any U7-U14 coach wishing to add a player to an existing team roster after rosters have been established by SYSA-CSD, must follow the following process:

a) The head coach of an **“A” primary** team that needs an additional player must contact the Vice President of Competitive and inform him/her that their team needs an additional player. The VP of Competitive will contact the family of the highest rated, appropriate single-age player not currently on the **“A” primary** team and offer the playing slot on the **“A” primary** team. Families may choose to either accept or turn down the offer to move to the **“A” primary** team. The VP of Competitive will continue to offer the slot to the next highest rated, single age player until the slot is accepted and the roster spot is filled. ~~“B”~~ **Secondary** level coaches needing to add a player will follow the process above, with offers being made to the next highest rated player. ~~on the “C” team.~~ In cases where the lowest rated team needs a player, they may add any player not currently playing CSD, provided they are in the appropriate age group. All roster transfers are subject to vote by the CSD Board, prior to the transfer being offered to a family. Players cannot be dropped from an approved roster in order to add a new player.

b) No roster transfers will be allowed after the beginning of the third week of that particular session (i.e., coaches needing a player after the third

week of the first indoor session cannot have a new player transferred to their roster until the start of the second indoor session).

9. No coach may approve and/or sign his/her own roster.

10. Players chosen for a competitive roster are considered to be above average in skill and deserving to play at their current competitive level. Therefore, every player on a competitive roster will receive ample playing time in every competitive game unless there is a specific problem preventing the coach from doing so. Such cause would include player injuries or insubordination by the player. This is not intended to imply that all CSD players should receive the exact same amount of playing time in every game.

11. During the indoor season, all head coaches will determine the division/level of play for their team. For the spring season, division/level of play is determined by the head coach and the Vice President of Competitive. It may be possible to have more than one team in any age division at one time. If there are two teams playing in the same division in the spring, the Vice President of Competitive will request that these two teams not play each other during the regular season.

#### **~~K. TRYOUTS and ROSTERS – PREMIER LEAGUE TEAMS:~~**

~~1. All coaches wishing to have a team compete in a premier league that did not compete in a premier league the previous season must send a written request to the VP-CSD declaring the coaches' intent to do so. The CSD Board will review the coaches request and vote to approve/deny the coaches request. No team may compete in a premier league without prior approval of the CSD Board. Coaches who competed in a premier league the previous season do not need to request permission to compete in a premier league the following season. Coaches who previously competed in a premier league, but did not do so the previous season, must request permission from the CSD Board to compete in a premier league.~~

~~2. Head coaches of individual teams will conduct tryouts in the spring for all teams that will compete in a premier league starting in the fall of the same year as the tryout. Team selection will be determined by the process outlined~~

~~in section K. Tryouts and team selection for teams competing in a non-premier league are outlined in section J.~~

~~3. Tryouts will be held at a date(s) and time(s) determined by the head coach of each individual team in accordance with the permitted tryout dates of the premier league in which each team will be competing. Tryout dates should be finalized at least three weeks prior to the first tryout.~~

~~4. Notification of the tryout will be coordinated by the head coach in consultation with the VP-CSD. At a minimum, tryout information will be posted on the SYSA website, and emailed to all age group players participating in recreation and/or competitive soccer. Notification beyond the minimum will be done at the discretion of the head coach~~

~~5. The head coach will conduct a tryout that will last a minimum of 1 hour and will consist of soccer activities that can be used to determine a player's ability. Tryout activities, the scoring system used to rate players, and the use of evaluators, will be determined by the head coach conducting the tryout.~~

~~6. At the conclusion of each tryout the head coach will determine the number of players on his/her roster and the players that will be part of the team. The head coach will forward his roster to the VP-CSD and the CSD registrar. Premier rosters must consist of a minimum of 50% SYSA players. The head coach may select any player for his/her roster, regardless of single age or town of residence, provided having that player on the roster complies with all requirements of the league in which the team will be competing and any applicable state rules and regulations. SYSA-CSD rules regarding players changing age division (section L) do not apply to teams that are approved to compete in a premier league.~~

~~7. Disputes between coaches regarding the selection of players or any other matters will be resolved by the CSD Board. The Board's decision shall be final in all matters.~~

#### **L. K. Players Changing Age Divisions - (U-14 and Below):**

1. If a parent is interested in having their child move to a higher single age division (i.e., a U-12 player to a U-13 team) the parent must submit a written

petition to the SYSA Vice President of Competitive specifically stating the reasons for the request. The petition must be submitted prior to the tryout for the player's current age division and prior to the tryout for the age division the player wishes to play up to. The following rules will be followed for all requests for a player to play up into an older age division:

a) player must try out at their current single-age tryout and at the tryout of the age group the player is requesting to play into. A player who misses either tryout will not be permitted to play up.

b) player must be rated in the top three in their single age at the current year's tryout.

c) player must fall in the top 50% of the team they are trying to play onto (i.e., if the team they are trying to play onto will have 12 players on the roster, the player must rate as one of the top 6 players in that single age).

d) player must receive 2/3 vote of the CSD Board (minimum of 5 voters present) in order to play up.

e) granted requests are valid for one year and may not be reneged once granted.

2. Under no circumstances will a player be allowed:

a) To skip an entire age division, such as going from a U-8 team the prior year to a U-11 team the next year.

b) To play for more than one Smithfield team during any one season or session. The only exceptions to this rule are:

1) If the player is used to help another team for a spring game because that other team is short of players on a particular game day. This would only be done in accordance with the rules of the governing State Association and the applicable league of competitive competition; or

2) The player is being "loaned" for a tournament with the consent of the player's coach.

**M. L. Players Changing Age Divisions (U-15 and Older):**

1. For players with a current age eligible to participate in the U-15 Division and older, a player may play up to the next age group with the approval of that player's prior year's head coach, provided that head coach is still serving as a CSD head coach in that player's age group. If consent is not given by the head coach, the player's parent may submit a written request to the Vice President of Competitive for approval at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the indoor season or session being considered. The CSD Board will vote for such requests by following the voting procedures for players requesting to play up in the U-14 and below age groups.

**N. M. Regional Cup Teams:**

1. Any coach desiring to enter a team in the Regional Cup tournament must obtain approval from the CSD Board prior to submission of the appropriate paperwork. CSD will absorb the basic Regional Cup team entrance fee only if the Board approves such payment.

2. Smithfield Regional Cup teams that earn the right to advance to the regional level will be responsible for paying its own expenses involved in its participation. Fund raising efforts may be utilized as hereinbefore defined.

**O. N. CSD Rules Review:**

~~1. The CSD Rules and Regulations will be reviewed and updated as deemed necessary by the CSD Board, and shall be submitted and set forth to the SYSA general membership for adoption. at the annual SYSA by-law meeting. This review will be conducted at least once every four (4) years. by a subcommittee chosen by the SYSA Vice President of Competitive.~~

2. Copies of current SYSA Constitution and By-Laws including these CSD Rules

and Regulations will be given to each CSD head coach at the beginning of each seasonal year.