

RULES



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Section 01 – General

These Rules and Regulations govern the activities of Long Beach Youth Soccer Organization. Where conflicts arise, these Rules and Regulations will be subordinated to the laws of the United States, the State of California, the City of Long Beach, and the Constitution and Bylaws of Long Beach Youth Soccer Organization, in that order of priority. In these Rules and Regulations, Long Beach Youth Soccer Organization will be referred to as LBYSO, the league, or League 4, District 4, CYSA-S.

A. Applicable Documents

The following documents augment these Rules and regulations, as applicable, and are incorporated into the Rules and Regulations by reference:

1. Constitution and Bylaws, Long Beach Youth Soccer Organization, Long Beach, January 1986.
2. Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, California Youth Soccer Association — South, Anaheim, (latest issue).
3. "Protest, Appeal, and Disciplinary Hearing Procedures", Manual of Operation, California Youth Soccer Association – South Anaheim, (latest issue).
4. Laws of the Game and Universal Guide for Referees, Federation Internationale de Football Association, Zurich; USSF Supplement, United States Soccer Federation, Colorado Springs, (latest issue).

B. Publication of Rules

The Rules and Regulations of LBYSO shall be published annually, before the start of the regular playing season. They shall be distributed to all members of the LBYSO Board of Directors, all coaches, all team parents, and all referees. If these Rules and Regulations are amended during the regular playing season, addenda shall be published and distributed as described in this paragraph. It shall be the responsibility of the LBYSO Secretary to publish and distribute the Rules and Regulations, and any addenda that are required.

C. Amendment of Rules

These Rules and Regulations have been adopted by the Board of Directors of LBYSO and may be amended or revised at any regularly scheduled board meeting, provided that the following requirements have been met.

1. Written Notice

Proposed changes or additions to these Rules and Regulations shall be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing at least one regularly scheduled board meeting prior to any discussion of the proposed changes or additions.

2. Voting Majority

A two-thirds majority of the required quorum present at any regularly scheduled board meeting shall be required for the passage of any changes or additions to these Rules and Regulations.

D. Endorsements

LBYSO shall not provide endorsements of any political candidates or positions, nor allow its files or facilities to be used for such purposes. Endorsement shall be broadly defined as allowing the use of the name or the logo of the league to be affixed to materials that publicize such candidates, or positions, or any verbal implications of official support of the league. LBYSO may allow commercial enterprises to advertise in any official publications, and/or sponsor the league. These advertisements or sponsorships must be approved at any regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting.

E. Financial Disclaimer

LBYSO specifically disclaims financial responsibility for, and shall not assume nor be held liable for, the debts or financial obligations, either express or implied, of any team, or any coach, officer, official, or member of any team, unless the Board of Directors has specifically authorized the debt or financial obligation.

Section 02 - Seasonal Year

The seasonal year for LBYSO shall begin on March 1st and shall end on the last day of February of the following year. The activities of LBYSO during this seasonal year shall include, but not be limited to, the following.

A. Regular Playing Season

The official league recreational playing season of LBYSO shall begin in September of each calendar year and continue as scheduled by the Board of Directors. This regular playing season shall consist of round-robin play between the teams in each of the divisions following a schedule prepared by the Boy's and Girl's Coordinators and approved by the LBYSO Board of Directors. The LBYSO Board of Directors must approve exceptions to this playing season.

B. President's Cup Tournament

Post-season league tournament games, open to all registered teams in the league (the President's Cup Tournament), shall commence following the end of the regular season competition, and shall continue until completion of the tournament, following a schedule prepared by the Boy's and Girl's Coordinators, and approved by the LBYSO Board of Directors.

C. Annual General Meeting

An annual general meeting shall be held in January of each year, under the provisions of the league Bylaws. A new Board of Directors shall be elected each year at this annual meeting.

D. Spring Playing Season

A spring select playing season may be scheduled and run by a Spring Select Coordinator. The Spring Select Coordinator shall be nominated by the Cultural Exchange Chairperson. This person will serve as a member of the Board of Directors, with full voting privileges. This appointment must be approved by a majority vote of the board. The spring season shall consist of round-robin play between the teams in each of the divisions, and may include play with other leagues.

Rules Section 03 – Registration

The registration of players will be open to boys and girls residing in the greater Long Beach metropolitan area who have not reached their twentieth birthday before August 1st of the current seasonal year. Registration to LBYSO as a recreational player and to another league or gaming circuit as a competitive player is not permitted in the concurrent seasonal year.

A. Responsibility

The Registrar shall be responsible for the registration of players.

B. Resolution of Conflicts

Any conflicts or special circumstances that require a decision that is beyond the Registrar's area of responsibility shall be resolved by the Chairperson of LBYSO or his/her designee. The Chairperson's decision on these matters shall be final.

C. Placement Priority

Players registering prior to the draft deadline will be placed on teams through the draft process **Section 5.B.1**. Placement of players whose registrations are received after the deadline is governed by **Section 3.G**. In impacted divisions, players matriculating from the previous year will be given preference over players not participating in LBYSO in the previous year. Former LBYSO players returning will be given preference over new registrants. New applicants who have not preformed skill tests (and thus have no rating) for whatever reasons, are given lowest placement priority. Preference will not be applied to any application tendered in the late registration period. In all divisions, the registrar will make all reasonable efforts to place applicants.

D. Requirements for Registration

Before any youth may play in LBYSO, that youth must have on file with the league a completed player registration form and the registration form must be accepted by the Registrar. Acceptance by the Registrar shall require:

1. Receipt of an LBYSO player registration form signed by a parent or guardian of the player;
2. Receipt of all applicable fees;
3. Receipt of proof of age of the player; and

4. Validation of these materials by the Registrar.

a. Withdrawals

If a player has registered, then withdraws his/her registration, that player may not re-register for the same seasonal year without the approval of the Board of Directors.

E. Proof of Age

A presumption of age may be made for all returning players who played in LBYSO in previous seasons, provided that the Registrar still has a record of the player's age. All new players must submit suitable proof of age, e.g., birth certificate, passport, or baptismal record.

F. Age Challenge

If at any time during the season a reasonable doubt arises about the age of any player, the Registrar has the authority to request proof of age of the player, following the procedure defined below.

1. Oral Request

An oral request for proof of age shall be made to the parent or guardian of the player and the player's coach shall be notified of the request. The date of the request for proof of age and the date that the coach was notified of the request shall be entered on the registration form. Two days will be allowed for a response to the oral request for proof of age.

2. Written Request

If no proof of age has been presented to the Registrar within two days after an oral request has been made, then a written request will be sent to the player's parent or guardian by certified mail or mailgram, with a copy to the player's coach. The written request shall state that if proof of age has not been received by a specific date (preferably a date prior to the next game), the player shall be suspended from participation in games and practice until such proof is received.

3. Failure to Comply

If no proof of age is received after the conditions of **Section 3.F.2** have been met, the parents and the coach shall be notified by certified mail or mailgram, as above, and the player shall be suspended from play until the proof of birth is provided.

4. Coach's Error

If it is determined that a player is playing in the wrong division, and it is further determined that the player's coach knew, or should have known, of the error, all games in which that youth participated may be forfeited.

5. League Error

If a youth is playing in a wrong division and it is determined that this situation was caused by error on the part of the Registrar or the Draft Committee, no penalty shall be imposed, and the situation shall be remedied using the following guidelines. If over half of the season has been played, then the youth will remain on the same team. If less than half of the season has been completed, then every effort shall be made to place the youth in the proper division. The league will bear any expenses for uniforms or equipment for the youth that was placed in the wrong division.

G. Player Replacement

After the completion of the team drafts, late registrants who meet the registration requirements of **Section 3.D**, but who have not been drafted, will be placed on a waiting list. These are youths who cannot be placed on a team, either because there are no openings available, or because the skill rating requirements of the available openings are not reasonably close to the skill rating of the youth. When a team loses a player, that player will be replaced by one of the youths on the waiting list, using the following guidelines.

1. Notification

It is the responsibility of all coaches to notify the Registrar within 48 hours when a player has dropped from the team and the reason for the player dropping. Failure to report dropping players may constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

2. Verification

The Registrar must contact the parents of the player who is dropping to verify that the player is withdrawing.

3. Replacement

Upon verification of a player dropping, the Registrar, Statistician, and responsible Coordinator will select a replacement from the waiting list. This selection will be made based on registration priority, team opening priority, and age and skill rating matching.

H. Refunds

When a player is unable or unwilling to be placed on a team due to circumstances, the league may refund all or part of the player's registration fee, according to the following guidelines. (But see **Section 3.D.4.a**)

1. Written Request

To apply for a refund of a registration fee, the parent or guardian of the subject player must notify the Registrar in writing.

2. Full Refund

A full refund of a registration fee will be given if a player drops out prior to the start of the season, provided that the player returns to the league all outstanding uniforms and equipment received.

3. Partial Refund

A 50 percent refund is given if a player withdraws after the season commences but prior to October 1st, upon return by the player of all outstanding equipment.

4. Deadline

No refunds will be given for players dropping from the league after October 1st.

I. Player Transfer

The transfer of a player from the team to which that player was drafted, to another team in the league, shall be allowed only under special circumstances which are deemed to be sufficient by the Registrar, the Statistician, and the Boy's or Girl's Coordinator (whichever is appropriate).

1. Requirements

All of the following conditions must be met:

- a. Approval of the player and the player's parents or guardians;
- b. Approval of the coaches of both of the teams involved;
- c. Approval of the CYSA-S District Commissioner.

2. Deadline

No transfer of players shall be permitted after the LBYSO official playing season has begun, i.e., after the first game which counts on the teams' records.

Rules Section 04 – Divisions

For the purposes of league play, soccer players are grouped, into Divisions. The requirements and properties of divisions are defined in the following paragraphs.

A. Age Divisions

Age divisions shall be comprised of players who are, before the first day of August of the current seasonal year, in the age classifications given in Table 1. Only in exceptional cases are players allowed to compete in an age division older or younger than their age dictates. These exceptional cases must be approved by both the Chairperson and the Boy's or Girl's Coordinator (whichever is appropriate), giving due consideration to the player's welfare.

Table 1. Summary of LBYSO Age Divisions, Game Durations, and Ball Sizes.

Division	Age	Game Duration	Overtime	Ball size
		(Minutes)	(Minutes)*	
1	Under 20	90	10	5
2	Under 16	80	10	5
3	Under 14	70	10	5
4	Under 12	60	10	4
5	Under 10	50	10	4
6	Under 8	50	10	3
PW	Under 6	30	5	3

*Overtime halves do not apply to LBYSO regular fall season play.

B. Number of Teams

There shall be at least four teams in a division.

C. Boys and Girls

There shall be separate programs for both boys and girls in each age group, except that the board may decide that division PW (players under 6 years old) shall be co-educational.

D. Division Commissioners

The Chairperson shall appoint a Division Commissioner for each division who shall act as liaison between the coaches of the division and the Board of Directors. These individuals will serve as members of the Board of Directors, with full voting privileges. Their appointments must be approved by a majority vote of the board. If necessary, the Division Commissioner shall be responsible for collecting the game scores for the division each weekend, and reporting these scores to the Statistician (**Section 4.E**).

E. Game Results

Winning teams must report game results to their Division Commissioner by 9:00 P.M. on the Sunday evening following the Saturday games. The Division Commissioners will in turn report the game results for the division to the league Statistician.

F. Subdivisions

In divisions which have a large number of teams, A and B subdivisions may be established to facilitate the round-robin play provided that the following criteria have been met:

1. Will only apply to divisions that have 12 or more teams; and
2. Must be specifically authorized by the Board of Directors.

G. Division Standings

The standings of the teams in each division will be determined by a point system. During the regular playing season, teams will be awarded three points for a win, one point for a tie, and no points for a loss. During the regular season, teams will be awarded a ½ point for a normal uneventful sportsmanship score, which shall be accumulated and incorporated into the point totals to determine division standings. Sportsmanship points shall be awarded in accordance with LBYSO Sportsmanship Guidelines and Scoring System, currently in effect. The division champion will be the team with the most points at the end of the regular playing season. Any circumstances, which cause a schedule inequity that would affect division standings, will be resolved by the responsible Coordinator, with final approval given the Chairperson.

1. Division Playoffs

If two or more teams are tied for first place on the basis of total points at the end of the regular playing season, ties will be broken using the following tiebreakers in order:

- a. Head to head competition and cumulative sportsmanship points.
- b. Goals allowed.
- c. Number of shutout wins.
- d. Goal differential.
- e. Coin toss.

Ties for second place will not be broken; each team will receive second place trophies.

2. Subdivision Playoffs

For large divisions that have been subdivided to facilitate division play, each subdivision will receive first and second place awards.

3. Rainout policy

If an entire round of the schedule is rained out, the games will not be made up. If a round is partially rained out, only games with a potential effect on first place will be rescheduled. The rescheduling of games will be arranged by the responsible Coordinator.

H. Participation Awards

All players in LBYSO shall receive participation awards, such as trophies or medallions. Teams that finish first and second in their divisions shall receive distinctive awards for such honors, and the coach from these teams shall receive first and second place awards. Division PW shall not maintain division standings, and all players shall receive the same participation award.

Rules Section 05 - Team Formation

The teams for each playing season are formed prior to the season from the pool of players registered. The purpose of the team draft is to balance the teams in each division of the league, on the basis of the cumulative skills of the players assigned to the teams. A basic assumption of this draft procedure is that reasonably accurate skill ratings can be obtained for virtually all the players in the draft.

A. Responsibility

As provided in the LBYSO Bylaws, the draft committee shall be responsible for conducting the team draft. The draft committee shall consist of the Registrar, who shall be the Committee Chairperson, the Statistician, the Head Coach, the Boy's Coordinator, and the Girl's Coordinator. To facilitate the draft process, this committee, augmented by the LBYSO Chairperson if required, shall have the authority to resolve draft-related conflicts that may arise during team formation.

B. Player Ratings

At the end of the season, all players in LBYSO are rated by their coaches as to their relative skills. These confidential ratings are submitted to the league Registrar for use during the following year's team draft. The league statistician establishes the details of the rating system each season. After receipt of the coach's ratings, the statistician and responsible coordinator will hold meetings with the coaches of every division for the purpose of reviewing the ratings to ensure that they are as accurate and uniform as possible. The guidelines for the rating system are kept as nearly the same from year-to-year as possible. New players are given a skill-rating test to determine the relative skills of these players. The Head Coach is responsible for conducting skill tests. The draft committee may assign ratings to formally rated LBYSO players who return after only one year's absence, based on a standard formula and that player's off-year activity. Players, who have neither a coach's rating, nor a skill test rating by the Head Coach, are entered into the draft as unrated players.

1. Draft Procedure

The team draft for each division is conducted publicly, at a time and place published in the LBYSO Newsletter. The number of teams to be drafted in each division is determined before the draft begins by the LBYSO Registrar based on the number of registered players in the division. Each team in the division will be represented at the draft by the coach, or a stand-in. Teams will be seated by order of their option rating points. The team with the lowest total rating points will sit in the first seat; the next lowest total will sit second, etc. Teams without a coach will be considered to have 0 rating points.

2. Player Ranking

Players will be placed on teams by age group, with the oldest age group first. The oldest age group will be made up of players who played in that division the previous year, or for new players that are in the upper half of the age group. Eighteen and nineteen year old players will be grouped as Division 1 Olders, and sixteen and

seventeen year old players as Division 1 Youngers. In any season, if Division 1 and 2 are combined, the combined division will be drafted in three rounds: Division 1 Olders, Division 1 Youngers and Division 2 (Olders and Youngers combined). The ranking order within the age groups will be coach-rated players from highest to lowest, and then skill-test rated players from highest to lowest, and then unrated players. If a player is a "bring-a-friend", the highest rated player must be drafted first, and the lower rated player moved to ensure that this happens. This is to prevent a coach getting a highly rated player simply by getting a low rated bring-a-friend in a previous round. If an older skill-tested player is a "bring-a-friend" with a younger rated player, that player will be moved and drafted with the younger skill tested players.

3. Placement Order

During the first round, the highest-rated player in the oldest age group will go to the team that sits first in the draft. The next-highest-rated player in the oldest age group will go to the second position team, and so forth. The first round of the draft is completed when each team has received one player. After each round of the draft, the order of the teams receiving players is determined by the sum of the rating points acquired by each team in all previous rounds. That is, the team with the lowest cumulative point total from the prior rounds will get the first player in the next round, and so forth. If two teams have the same rating point total during any round of the draft, then the original selection order will determine the order in which the two teams receive a player.

4. Rating Choices

When there is a combination of rated, unrated and open slots in a round, the teams will be given a choice of selecting either from the pool of players or taking a "pass". Only one pass will be allowed per team for a complete division draft. Throughout the draft, the selecting teams will not be allowed to know the names of the players involved. If an unrated player is selected, the rating point value assigned to the team for that draft round will be the highest point value declined.

5. Player Reservation

The reservation of players for any team shall be limited to three players in divisions playing 11 a side and two players for divisions playing 8 a side. An exception to this rule will be allowed for any coach with more than three children in a division playing 11 a side, or more than 2 children in a division playing 8 a side. In this case the coach may reserve all his children in the same division, but in this case there will be no reservation of players allowed for an assistant coach. This reservation of players is intended to allow a coach and an assistant coach to have their own children as players on their team. However, the reserved players do not have to be the coaches' children. Player reservation requires documented consent of the player's parents or guardian. No player may be reserved if the player does not have a rating. A player new to the league must be skill-tested. No player may be reserved for a team after the first draft has taken place. The only exception to this policy will be for the child or children of an individual who agrees to be the coach of a team that was formed in the draft without, an assigned coach. The total number of points reserved by a coach is limited by the board of directors.

6. Coaches' Preempts

Coaches' children (or reserved players) will be assigned to the coaches' teams in the same round in which they would normally have been placed if they were not reserved players. This placement will constitute that team's selection for the round.

7. Brothers and Sisters

Brothers or sisters (same-sex siblings) will be allowed to play on the same teams as long as they are both eligible to play in the same division, and it does not violate the rules of reservation of players per team. They will be placed on teams during their normal round in the draft process. The second brother or sister will be that team's pick in the round during which the player becomes eligible to be drafted. This policy does not apply after the first draft has taken place.

8. "Bring a Friend"

If the board elects to offer a "bring a friend" program, the two players are drafted in the same manner as siblings (**Section 5.B.6**). The friend must not have played soccer the previous year. The player new to LBYSO must have a rating. The "bring a friend" option may not violate the rules of player reservation per team. This policy no longer applies after the first draft has taken place.

Rules Section 06 – Teams

Within each of the age divisions, players are organized into individual teams. Each team will be directed by a volunteer coach. The coach is permitted to recruit assistant coaches and a team parent to help with the administration of the team.

A. Number of Players

The Draft Committee will establish a maximum number of players per team for each division. This number may not be greater than 18. The number need not be identical for each division. The Board of Directors will be required to approve the placement of more than 14 players on a team in a division playing 11 a side, or 10 players on a team playing 8 a side.

B. Team Names

Team names must conform to the standards of good taste of the Board of Directors and members of LBYSO, and shall bear no resemblance to any religious or national group.

1. Name Registration

There shall be no more than one team in each division with the same name. Team names shall be registered with the Registrar on a first-come, first-served, basis.

C. Team Administration

The administration of each team shall be the responsibility of the coach of the team (specific responsibilities of coaches are outlined in **Section 7 - Coaches.**) The coach will be aided in his/her administration of the team by his/her assistant coaches, and his/her team parent.

1. Team Parent

Each team shall have a duly designated team parent, registered with the Team Parent Coordinator, to facilitate player relations and team administration. The team parent will also be responsible for the team in the event the coach and assistant coach are absent from the game.

D. Player Registration Forms

During practice and at games, coaches or their designated alternates must have their players' original registration forms in their possession, which include original medical releases for the players in case of injury.

NOTE: This is essential in the event of any type of paramedic assistance.

E. Friendly Matches

Practice or friendly games with teams that are not affiliated with CYSA-S or USYSA are not covered by the liability insurance, which the league provides. The exception to this rule is that one-time-only game with out of league; unaffiliated teams can be approved in writing by the District Commissioner for the good of the sport. These games must be reported in advance to the Boy's or Girl's Coordinator, as appropriate.

F. Practices

LBYSO recreational league policy is that, after the first few weeks of the season, each team shall maintain its competitive status in the league with not more than two practices per week with the accumulated practice time not to exceed three hours. If a team has more than one practice in a week, the additional one shall be optional for the players.

1. Available Fields

The available practice fields will be scheduled by the LBYSO Fields Manager to allow each team access to practice facilities each week. Coaches shall refrain from infringing on officially scheduled practices of other teams.

2. Practice Participants

Only registered players are permitted to play in team practices.

3. Player Attendance

Players registering for LBYSO are expected to attend weekly practices and games. Unexcused failure to meet these requirements may result in suspension from play in the league. **(See Section 7.F "Player Discipline".)**

G. Games

Home teams playing the first game of day are responsible for putting up the nets, as indicated on the game schedules supplied by the Boy's and Girl's Coordinators. **Home** teams playing the last game of the day shall remove the nets and return them to the designated location.

1. Field Cleanup

Teams are responsible for field cleanup following their games. Teams must take care of playing fields and adjacent facilities, and make a reasonable effort to remove litter left by their players and spectators.

Rules Section 07 Coaches

LBYSO coaches must practice positive coaching that instructs and encourages players during games and practices. They will train and coach their teams to the best of their abilities, and will encourage clean competition and good sportsmanship. Coaches, and their teams, are subject to LBYSO Sportsmanship Guidelines and Scoring System, currently in effect.

A. Selection

As specified by the LBYSO Bylaws, coaches will be selected by the coach selection committee, composed of the Head Coach; the Boy's Coordinator, and the Girl's Coordinator. Any individual who desires to coach an LBYSO team will be required to submit a written request to the Coach Selection Committee. This request shall include the number of years coached, license held and the team coached the prior season. Consideration will also be given to the disciplinary record and/or behavior of coaches pertaining to **Section 13 - Accountability and Conduct**, wherein the privilege of coaching will be given to coaches whose actions have shown to be in the best interest of youth soccer. All selections made by the committee are final.

1. Age Requirement

The Coach should generally be 21 years of age or older. Any coach younger than 21 must get board approval prior to being given a team.

B. Training

New coaches will be expected to attend either a LBYSO coaches' clinic, or an alternate clinic approved by the league. Returning coaches will be expected to attend clinics as necessary to maintain a high level of soccer coaching competence.

C. Player Supervision

Coaches must assure adult supervision at all practices. If a coach is aware that he or she will be absent or late, another adult must be placed in charge of the practice, or the practice cancelled. Coaches must also assure that no players are left unattended on the field at any time.

D. Misconduct

Coaches are expected to provide good example for the players under their supervision. Under LBYSO Rules, coaches are subject to caution or ejection from league games for misconduct or unsporting behavior. If a coach is ejected from a game, that coach must leave the playing area, which shall be 50 yards or greater from the perimeter of the field, for the remainder of the game. In addition, the coach cannot attend the next game of his team.

E. Quitting Players

Coaches and assistant coaches are not permitted to attempt to influence players to quit. The penalty for such action may be the termination of the individuals coaching assignment.

1. Status

If a coach is unsure of the status of a player who has had repeated unexcused absences, the coach must determine the status by contacting the parents of the player.

2. Reporting

If a player quits, the coach must report the player loss to the league within 48 hours under the provisions of **Section 3.G**.

F. Player Discipline

Any player who repeatedly misses practices without excuse may be disciplined by the coach by having game playing time withheld, provided that the following procedure is complied with.

1. Notice

Coaches must send a written notice to the parents or guardians of any player from whom they intend to withhold game playing time for disciplinary purposes. The coach must also send a carbon copy of such letter to the Chairperson, Boys or Girls Coordinator and the Head Coach. The disciplinary benching of the player cannot take place until the player has had sufficient time after the written notice to attend the next scheduled practice, or to give the coach a valid reason for not attending. If the player does not comply within a reasonable time after the written notice has been sent, then the player becomes a candidate for disciplinary benching.

2. Coordinator Approval

The appropriate Coordinator must approve the disciplinary action, and must provide the coach with a written note verifying the approval. The coach must have the written approval with him at game time to show the referee.

G. Injuries

It is the duty of all coaches to report any injury to, or damage caused by, an LBYSO participant to the Safety Director. The Safety Director will in turn notify the responsible Coordinator.

1. Reimbursement

All coaches shall familiarize themselves with the rules and conditions of the league's accident reimbursement plan, and shall make this information available to the players of the team.

2. Report Forms

Accident report forms are available from the Safety Director.

3. Parent Consent

Before a player who has been injured may return to participant status, a note certifying the player's fitness, signed by the player's parents or guardians, must be presented to and retained by the coach.

Rules Section 08 Referees

Most LBYSO referees are volunteers who do not receive compensation for their efforts. To help the referees perform their job, the Head Referee will provide the referees with a copy of FIFA Laws of the Game, a uniform consisting of a black jersey with white collar and cuffs, black shorts, and black stockings with white tops, a whistle, and red and yellow cards.

A. Assignment

The Head Referee will coordinate the assignment of referees to games. The Head Referee will be responsible to provide the division commissioners with information to assign referees to games. If for any reason, a referee is unable to complete an accepted assignment, he/she is obligated to find a suitable replacement, and notify the Head Referee. Referees must be at least 2 divisions above the division they are to referee. For Example, division 4 players can referee division 6 games; division 3 players can referee division 5 games, division 2 players can referee division 4 games and division 1 players can referee division 3 games.

B. Conduct

All referees must officiate games properly, and show no partiality to any players or teams. Referees are expected to conduct themselves in a mature, responsible manner.

C. Training

All Referees are expected to be thoroughly familiar with the FIFA Laws of the Game and with the special rules applicable to play in LBYSO. New referees will be expected to attend either an LBYSO-sponsored referee clinic, or an alternative clinic approved by the Head Referee. Returning referees will be expected to attend clinics as necessary to maintain a high level of soccer refereeing competence.

D. USSF Certification

As a matter of policy, it is the intent of the league that all LBYSO referees be certified by United States Soccer Federation. To facilitate this goal, the Head Referee will ensure that the USSF Referee Certification Program is made accessible to all LBYSO referees.

E. Authority

Referees are appointed officials of LBYSO in matters regarding the conduct of the game. From the moment the referee enters the field of play, his/her decisions on questions of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned. In LBYSO, the referee can caution players or coaches for misconduct or unsporting behavior or the coach for that of a fans behavior (showing a yellow card), and if they persist, eject them from further participation in the game (showing a red card). In the event that disorder still persists, the referee is empowered to suspend the game until order can be restored, and to terminate the game in the event of grave disorder.

F. Forfeits

If either side fails to have a team on the field, ready to play, within 15 minutes after the scheduled game time, the referee shall declare the match invalid. The minimum number of players required constituting a team for LBYSO play is seven for 11 vs. 11, or 5 for 8 vs. 8. The referee is not permitted to declare either team to be the winner of the game. The responsibility of the referee is to indicate on the game card that one team was present, ready to play, and the other was not. The outcome of the match will be determined by the league.

G. Terminations

If a referee is forced to terminate a game due to grave disorder or irresolvable external problems, such as bad weather, he must send a detailed report of the circumstances to the league within 48 hours. He does not have the authority to decide that either team is disqualified and therefore the loser of the match. The league alone has the authority to determine the outcome of the match.

(See Section 13.C.2.)

1. Termination of a Game for Safety. The referee will be the sole judge when terminating a game for the safety of the participants, however the referee must either terminate or suspend a game due to the following conditions:
 - a. Any thunderstorm with lightning visible from the playing field.
 - b. Any condition that prohibits seeing either goal from mid-field.

Rules Section 09 - Rules Of Competition

League Rules of Competition are a body of rules, which provide for the orderly administration and regulation of league play. These rules extend and modify the FIFA Laws of the Game to account for the special circumstances that exist in the league, including the ages of the players, and the venues available for play. In addition to the rules in this section, the following sections contain material applicable to league Rules of Competition: Section 4.0, Divisions; Section 10.0, Player's Equipment; Section 11.0, Player Substitution; and Section 12.0, Playoff Procedures.

A. Home Team

The team listed first on the schedule shall be the designated home team. The home team is responsible for the field, the nets, and the ball. Also, in the event of a color conflict, the home team must change jerseys. The team listed second on the schedule is the away, or visiting, team. The away team has the privilege of calling the coin toss at the start of the match.

B. Game Cards

Coaches shall have a game card, listing the team name and colors, the coaches' names, the division, the names and numbers of all players, the date, and the scheduled time and field for the game, ready to present to the referee ten minutes prior to scheduled game time.

1. Card Completion

The referee shall complete the game card by indicating on the card all the goals scored, the players substituted each quarter, and the cautions and ejections issued during the game. In the case of either a caution or an ejection, the referee must note the player's name and number, and the reason for the action, on the back of the game card. If the referee terminates a game, he shall note this on the back of the game card, as well as meeting the reporting requirements of **Section 8.G**.

2. Card Turn-in

Game score cards will be signed by the referees and coaches and turned in at the designated location immediately following the game.

C. Participants

Participants at LBYSO-sponsored youth soccer games are encouraged to behave in a positive and supportive manner. Unless otherwise specified, the word participant is used here to include coaches, trainers, staff, players, substitutes, parents, fans, and casual on-lookers.

1. Spectators Locations

Spectators must remain outside the touchlines of the field between the two 18-yard lines (i.e., the extensions to the touchlines of the lines demarking the front edges of the penalty areas). Only photographers, with the permission of the referee, are permitted behind the goal lines. Spectators shall remain at least three feet back from the touch-lines at all times so as to not interfere with play.

2. Entering the Field

During a game, including the times at which the game is stopped to substitute players, no one is allowed onto the field of play without the permission of the Referee.

3. Coaching Limits

During regularly scheduled LBYSO games, coaching of the players, whether by the coaches, or by fans of the teams, is officially limited to an area on the touchline within 10 yards of either side of the halfway line. Absolutely no coaching is allowed at the goal lines. **Team players, coaches and spectators are limited to one side of the field. Home team will have choice of sides.** In Division 1/2 only, due to field conditions, teams will be permitted on the same side of the field. Negative coaching or harassment of players or referees shall be dealt with by the Referee per **Section 9.C.4 (below)**.

4. Misconduct

Coaches are responsible for their own conduct, and the conduct of their players, assistant coaches, staff, and fans, before, during, and after games. Coaches may be cautioned or ejected if their fans fail to maintain reasonable self-control. Should a player or Coach be ejected from the field of play by the referee, that player or coach must leave the area of the playing field. If a player is ejected after the start of the game, that player may not be replaced for the remainder of the game. The player may be replaced in the lineup for the following week's game.

- a. If a player or coach is ejected from a game, a disciplinary action will be taken depending on the seriousness of the offense. The disciplinary action to be taken will be determined by the Head Referee (after consulting the review team), the Head Coach, and the Boy's/Girl's Coordinator. (The Chairperson may appoint an additional person with approval by the board of directors). The final decision maker for the disciplinary action is the Head Referee. Disciplinary action taken can include suspension from 1, 2, 3 or 4 games. A serious offense (such as referee assault) should be referred to the grievance committee. A player or coach who is ejected must serve a minimum of a one game suspension. Any actions taken by a red carded player or ejected coach at the game, before the game, or after the game can lead to another suspension.
- b. If the red card was for the following fouls; violent conduct, intentional spiking, or striking. The penalty shall be 2 games minimum. In each of these cases, the message is a strict no nonsense message. If the player is receiving his/her second red card for the season, then the penalty shall be a 2 games minimum. Fighting shall be considered a serious offense and dealt with by either a 2, 3 or 4 game suspension.
- c. If a player gets a red card, this player must be at the next game to serve out the suspension. If the player leaves early, then this suspension was not served. The player needs to check in at the beginning and at the end of the game to acknowledge that the suspension was served. A board member, a designate person or the game official can do this.

5. Game Conduct

Participants are not permitted to use any type of noise makers such as, but not limited to, horns, whistles, drums, clappers, etc, during or after a match.

D. Forfeits

A minimum of seven (11 V 11) and five (8 V 8) players shall constitute a team. Teams which are unable to have the minimum number of players on the field ready to play within 15 minutes after the scheduled game time shall forfeit the game. The league will award the opposing team the game by a score of 1 to 0.

E. Terminations

Any game terminated by a referee shall be reported to the league within 48 hours. Only the league has the authority to determine the final outcome of the match.

F. Postponed Games

It is mandatory for teams to play all regularly scheduled games unless a valid reason for non-appearance is supplied to the responsible Coordinator. All other games shall be played as scheduled and only the referee in charge, or the responsible Coordinator, shall have the authority to cancel or terminate games. In the case of an unexcused failure to play a regularly scheduled game, the offending team shall forfeit the game. In the case of postponed games, the responsible Coordinator shall have full power to reschedule the game.

G. FIFA Law Modifications

The following modifications to the FIFA Laws will be observed in LBYSO play.

- 1. Charging of Goalkeeper**

Charging of the goalkeeper shall not be permitted within the penalty area at any time.

- 2. Game Durations**

The durations of games in LBYSO are listed in Table 1. Half time intervals shall be a minimum of five, and a maximum of ten minutes, at the discretion of the referee.

- 3. Ball Sizes**

The sizes of soccer balls used in LBYSO games are listed in Table 1.

- 4. Playoff Procedures**

The playing of overtime periods may, upon the direction of the LBYSO Board of Directors, be bypassed for preliminary playoff games due to time and field constraints. Teams will proceed directly to Kicks from the Penalty Mark to determine the outcome of the game.

Rules Section 10 – Equipment

Players participating in a scheduled game are required to wear a jersey of the correct color, with the player's number prominently displayed on the back, shoes, stockings, and shorts or track pants. No player is allowed to enter the game wearing (or carrying) any article which is judged by the referee to be dangerous, either to the player, or to other players. The goalkeeper of each team shall wear a jersey of a color which distinguishes him/her from all the other players and the referees.

A. Shoes

Regulation soccer shoes are recommended, but not required. Gym shoes or sneakers (with or without rubber cleats) are permissible in LBYSO competition. Shoes with toe cleats are not allowed. No bare feet will be allowed. Shoes with metal cleats are not allowed.

B. Shin Guards

Shin guards are mandatory in all LBYSO competition and practices.

C. Jewelry

Jewelry or similar objects, which may pose a danger to the player or others, shall not be worn during play. Earrings in newly pierced ears may be worn, if covered and padded, and if in the referees opinion does not pose a safety problem.

D. Hats and Gloves

No players, except for the goalkeeper, may wear hats or gloves. No players may wear protective helmets. Players may wear head or sweat bands.

E. Orthopedic Casts

No casts of any design, orthopedic casts or hard brace devices are allowed in LBYSO practices or games. Orthopedic casts and hard brace devices are specifically prohibited by CYSA-S Rules and Regulations.

Rules Section 11 – Substitution

All registered players present at the playing field at the start of the game in uniform must be allowed to play for at least half of the game. The exceptions to this rule are players who are not fit to play, due to illness or injury, or who are under disciplinary benching per **Section 7.F.**

A. Quarters

To facilitate player substitution, the game will be broken into quarters for divisions 6 and lower. In these lower divisions, the referee will signal for a brief stoppage of the game approximately half way through the first and second halves of the game for substitutions. Coaches are responsible to play all players for at least two quarters. If the referee notices that a coach is attempting to substitute out a player who has already been out two quarters, the referee shall tell the coach that the substitution will not be allowed, unless the player is unfit to play due to injury or illness, or is under disciplinary benching per **Section 7.F.**

1. Durations

Quarter stoppages will be called only when the ball is out of play. Under FIFA Law VII, "Duration of the Game", the players are guaranteed a game with two equal halves. However, the players are not guaranteed four equal quarters. The quarters may vary slightly in duration.

2. Procedure

Referees shall not stop the game clock during substitutions at quarters. The exception to this rule is: if a coach deliberately attempts to run out the clock by use of substitution time, the clock should be stopped, and the coach warned.

B. Free Substitution

Divisions 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 will use free substitution. Coaches are responsible to play all players for at least half the game. Substitutions will be made in accordance with CYSA-South "Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations", (Section 2.9 Substitutions), except where specified otherwise by LBYSO for a special competition.

1. Permissible Substitutions

Substitutions may be made with referee consent at the following times:

- a. Prior to a throw-in, by the team with possession. See note * below.
- b. Prior-to a goal kick, by either team.
- c. After a goal, by either team.
- d. After an injury, on either team, when the referee stops play.
- e. At halftime.
- f. On a caution, the player must be sub-out. The player may be subbed in at the next available subbing moment. This is not a 5-minute cooling off period.
Only the cautioned player is substituted at that time.

*** NOTE: LBYSO will also observe reciprocating substitution on throw-ins. If the team with possession substitutes the other team may also substitute.**

C. Number of Substitutes

In all divisions coaches may substitute as many players as they wish during either quarter intervals, at the beginning of the second half, or during free substitution, as long as all players on their teams have participated in at least two quarters, or in at least half the game, as is required for that division.

D. Reporting

Players who are substituting out at any time must stand outside the touch-line, near the halfway-line, with their backs to the field so that the referee can note their player numbers, and indicate on the game card that they are out. If the referee notices that a coach is attempting to substitute out a player who has already been out two quarters, he/she shall tell the coach that this substitution will not be allowed, unless the player is unfit to play due to injury or illness, or is under disciplinary benching per **Section 7.F.**

E. Late Arrivals

If a player is not present at the start of a game, the minimum participation guaranteed to the player shall be as follows: (1) players who arrive before the start of the second half are guaranteed to play one quarter, or the equivalent thereof in divisions with free substitution; (2) players who arrive after the start of the second half are not guaranteed any playing time.

F. Overtime Play

During overtime periods, there is no requirement for minimum guaranteed playing time.

G. Failure to Comply

Failure to comply with these substitution rules may result in the team forfeiting the game.

Rules Section 12 – Playoffs

For playoff and tournament games, which cannot end in a tie, the following procedures shall be followed to determine the outcome of games that are tied at the end of regular time. These procedures are based on FIFA recommendations, with exceptions for LBYSO play, as noted.

A. Overtimes

The LBYSO Board of Directors may, as necessary to accommodate field and time constraints, direct that preliminary playoff games ending in a tie bypass the overtime periods as prescribed in this **Section 12.A** and immediately proceed to “Kicks from the Penalty Mark” as prescribed in **Section 12.B**. If overtime is to be played then two equal overtime periods shall be played. Choice of ends and the kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin. The team winning the toss shall have the option of choice of ends or the kick-off. No time interval is required before the overtime periods begin, or between the two overtime periods. Substitutions are permitted before the overtime begins, and between the two overtime periods for quarter play. For divisions using free substitution, substitution is allowed throughout the overtime periods. The duration of the overtime periods for LBYSO are given in Table 1 (**Section 4.A**).

B. Kicks from the Penalty Mark

If the game is still tied at the end of the two overtime periods, the outcome of the game shall be determined by kicks from the penalty mark, as defined in the FIFA Laws of the Game. The FIFA procedure for kicks from the penalty mark shall be followed exactly.

C. Kick Problems

Kicks from the penalty mark are not penalty kicks. However, they are similar to penalty kicks taken after the expiration of regular time. The attempted kick is over when the forward motion of the ball is stopped, whether deflected by the goalkeeper, the uprights, or the crossbar. If the goalkeeper faults before the ball is kicked, the kick will be retaken if it does not score.

Rules Section 13 – Protests

13.0 (a) PROTEST, APPEAL, AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Protests, appeals, and allegations of misconduct leading to disciplinary hearings shall be handled by LBYSO in accordance with the procedures defined in CYSA-S Manual of Operations, "Protest, Appeal, and Disciplinary Hearing Procedures". A grievance committee composed of one director, one referee, one coach, and two additional voting members other than directors, referees, or coaches, shall be appointed by the chairman of LBYSO at the start of each playing season, under the provisions of the LBYSO Bylaws. This grievance committee shall hear and adjudicate protests, review allegations of misconduct and determine the requirement for disciplinary hearings, and hear and adjudicate any disciplinary hearings.

13.0 (b) ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONDUCT

Each coach, administrator, player and any person affiliated with LBYSO, shall be primarily and solely accountable for the conduct of themselves. The LBYSO Board of Directors may charge a violation of this rule should it find any conduct, in any affiliated function, of any member, unacceptable to the best interests of youth soccer.

A. Actions

Actions, which may be pleaded by members of LBYSO, include general grievances, protests, appeals to decisions from hearings, or allegations of misconduct. All of these actions, and termination reports by referees, are described in the paragraphs, which follow.

1. General Grievances

General grievances are not handled through the grievance committee hearing process. A grievance is a complaint of a general nature, which may be heard by the Board of Directors at a regular meeting, provided only that the grievance is submitted to the Board in writing. All such grievances received by the Board shall be read and discussed at the next regular meeting. Any possible remedial action shall be discussed and voted upon by the Board. A letter will be sent to the originator of the grievance stating the final disposition of the grievance.

2. Protests

Protests are usually related to specific games or administrative actions, and must be filed by a representative of one of the teams involved. All protests must be in writing, and must be delivered to the Board of Directors within 48 hours of the game under protest. There is no fee for filing a protest in LBYSO.

3. Appeals

Any appeals to decisions from hearings held in the league must be submitted to the CYSA-S District Commissioner, following the procedures given in the CYSA-S Manual of Operations. The appellant must be a party to the original protest, and must submit a filing fee of \$50.00 with any Appeal to Level 2. An appeal shall not have the effect of staying a previous ruling. Previous decisions shall remain in force pending the result of the appeal.

4. Termination Reports

Whenever a game is terminated by a referee for grave misconduct or irresolvable external problems, the referee is required to send a report of the circumstances to the league within 48 hours. The grievance committee must review the referee's termination report within 48 hours and decide the outcome of the terminated game. In addition, the referee's termination report may contain sufficient evidence of misconduct to serve as a formal allegation of misconduct (**Section 13.A.5 - below**).

5. Allegations of Misconduct

Allegations of misconduct, when found to be valid, will result in misconduct hearings to adjudicate the truth of the allegations. The alleged misconduct must be prohibited by a published rule, regulation, or procedure. The grievance committee shall only hear allegations of misconduct, which are lodged against individuals or entities that fall under the jurisdiction of LBYSO. Only elected or appointed officials of LBYSO may bring charges of misconduct. In matters regarding misconduct occurring during a game, referees are recognized as appointed officials of LBYSO. If the allegations of misconduct are judged to be true, the misconduct hearing will automatically become a disciplinary hearing, with the purpose of determining the disciplinary actions to be taken.

a. Assaults on Referees

In the event of an alleged violation of Rule 29-B, "Assaults on Game officials (Referees, official Linesmen)", CYSA-S Rules and Regulations, the allegation of misconduct does not fall within the jurisdiction of LBYSO. Such an allegation must be submitted to the CYSA-S Board of Directors within 72 hours. There is no fee required for filing this allegation.

B. Pre-Hearing Procedures

Before any hearing is held by the grievance committee, a suitable action must be filed and validated, a hearing date must be set, and the parties to the complaint must be notified of the hearing time and date.

1. Filing Requirements

All actions must be filed in writing, and should include:

- a. The nature and specifics of the complaint;
- b. A listing of the rules or procedures which have been violated; and
- c. A statement of the desired result.

The origin of the protest, appeal, or allegation of misconduct, along with all supporting documents shall be either hand-carried or mailed by registered or certified mail to the appropriate authority within 48 hours. In the case of an appeal of a protest adjudicated by LBYSO, the appropriate authority is the CYSA-S District Commissioner, with one copy of the complaint sent to the LBYSO Board of Directors. In the case of an alleged violation of CYSA-S Rule 29-B (see **Section 13.A.5.a** above), the allegations (or Referee's Report) must be sent to the CYSA-S office for the CYSA-S Board of Directors within 72 hours, and a copy shall be sent to the LBYSO Board of Directors as a notice of the action. All other actions shall be delivered to the LBYSO Board of Directors.

2. Validation Review

When a protest or allegation of misconduct has been received by the LBYSO grievance committee, the committee shall review the complaint to determine its validity. The principal parties shall be identified, their standing in the league shall be verified, and the protestors' status to lodge a protest shall be checked. It shall be determined if specific charges have been made, if the rules allegedly violated are listed, and if the desired result has been stated. This validation review shall be accomplished within 48 hours of receipt of the complaint by the grievance committee. Appeals or alleged violations of CYSA-S Rule 29-B shall be forwarded to the proper authority.

a. Sufficient Complaints

When the validation review has been successfully completed and the complaint has been found to be valid, a hearing date shall be set, and the parties to the complaint shall be notified, as described below.

b. Deficient Complaints

If a complaint is found to be deficient for any reason, it shall be immediately returned to the originator, with a list and explanation of the deficiencies. If the deficiencies are correctable, this shall be indicated to the originator, who may then remedy the deficiencies of the complaint, and resubmit it within 48 hours.

c. Notice Of Hearing

When the complaint has successfully completed the validation review, and a hearing date has been set, the principal parties to the action shall be immediately notified that a hearing of the complaint will be held at a given date, time, and place. This hearing shall be scheduled within a minimum of 7 days, and a maximum of 14 days, following the notification. Notification shall be accomplished by one of the following methods (in order of preference):

1. Telephone, followed by a memo sent by certified or registered mail;
2. Certified mail, return receipt requested;
3. Registered mail;
4. Mailgram, with confirming copy; or
5. Telegrams with confirming copy.

C. Grievance Hearings

Grievance hearings shall be of two general types: hearings to determine the outcome of a game which is in question, such as protest hearings and termination hearings; and hearings concerned with serious misconduct, such as misconduct hearings and disciplinary hearings. The hearing and adjudication of any protest or allegation of misconduct in LBYSO must be completed within 30 days of its filing. Otherwise, the matter may be submitted to the District commissioner without determination.

1. Hearing Procedures

The hearing of a complaint shall be conducted by the grievance committee, following the procedures published in the CYSA-S Manual of Operations. Any member of the grievance committee who has a vested interest in the outcome of the proceedings must excuse themselves from the committee for this hearing. If required, the LBYSO Chairperson may appoint ad hoc members to the committee to replace excused

members. The hearings which are held at the league level (Level 1) may be open hearings, where the principal parties of either side may be allowed to hear the testimony of all witnesses (as long as decorum is maintained), and eyewitness evidence may be presented orally. When all the evidence has been presented by both sides, the committee shall clear the room of everyone except committee members to deliberate this case. The committee shall use a written ballot vote to reach a final decision. Written minutes of the hearing must be taken by a member of the grievance committee.

2. Protests or Terminations

When a game has been protested by one of the parties to the game, or terminated by the referee, and a valid protest or a termination report has been received by the grievance committee, this committee must determine, as the result of a formal hearing, the outcome of the game in question. In general, there are four possible outcomes that the committee can select:

- 1) Let the score of the match at the time of stoppage stand;
- 2) Replay the entire game;
- 3) Declare one of the teams disqualified because of its misconduct, and therefore the loser of the match, and
- 4) Eliminate the game from the playing schedule, so that the two teams involved would have, for the purposes of computing relative standings, one less game for the season.

Some factors to be considered by the grievance committee in their determination of a game outcome are given in the following paragraphs.

a. FIFA Laws of the Game

FIFA Law V, "Referees", states that the referee's decision on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned. Observance of this FIFA law is mandatory in LBYSO, per **Section 8.E**. FIFA Law VII, "Duration of the Game", IBD (1), states that if a match has been stopped by the referee before the completion of the specified time, it must be replayed in full, unless the rules of competition provide for the result of the match at the time of stoppage to stand. This law is advisory for LBYSO.

b. Profit from Misconduct

In LBYSO play, no team shall be allowed to profit from misconduct. For example, if a team that is winning causes the game to be terminated by misconduct; this team must not be declared the winner of the match. Conversely, if a losing team induces a game termination by misconduct, they must not be given a rematch.

c. Misconduct or Discipline

When a valid allegation of misconduct has been received by the grievance committee, a misconduct hearing shall be held to judge the truth of the reported allegations. All available evidence shall be taken, representing both sides of the issue, for the purpose of indicating the innocence or guilt of the parties to the alleged misconduct. The grievance committee shall have broad discretion in deciding the standards of certainty, which they require to sustain the allegations. A disciplinary hearing will be the immediate result of a misconduct hearing, which sustains the allegations. The purpose of the disciplinary hearing, which is an extension of the misconduct hearing, shall be

to determine what disciplinary actions should be imposed against the individuals or entities found to be guilty of misconduct.

d. Notice of Results

After the grievance hearing is completed, the parties to the hearing shall be formally notified of the results of the hearing, following the notification procedure described in **Section 13.B.3**.

D. Legal Actions

Any member of LBYSO who files a lawsuit against LBYSO will be suspended immediately pending the resolution of the lawsuit. Any member or official who is charged with a criminal offense at an LBYSO event will be suspended pending the resolution in the courts. Once a resolution in the courts has been reached, a misconduct hearing may be held, as necessary by the grievance committee.

Rules Section 14 - Spring Select

The principal objective of the Spring Select Soccer Program is to provide advanced training for LBYSO registered players and coaches. The program is intended to provide a higher level of competition than the regular soccer season for those who are interested, dedicated and capable of participating in this type of program. The philosophy and principles of LBYSO shall be maintained in Spring Select Play. Although it cannot be enforced because of the free substitution format, the intention is that every Spring Select player be allowed to play at least half of every game.

A. Spring Soccer Committee

The Spring Select Soccer Program shall be managed and administered by a committee chaired by the Spring Soccer Coordinator. The Spring Soccer Committee shall also include the following members. LBYSO positions shall be nominated by the Spring Coordinator, and approved by a majority of the Board of Directors. The Spring Soccer Committee is responsible for determining the number of LBYSO teams participating in the tournament.

1. Tournament Coordinators

Each non-LBYSO soccer league that participates in the Spring Select Program shall appoint a Tournament Coordinator. The Tournament Coordinator shall be responsible for the eligibility of players within their tournament and shall ensure that all teams participating from their tournament meet all requirements. The Tournament Coordinator is also responsible for assigning fields and referees for home games for teams from that tournament.

2. Head Referee

A Head Referee will be responsible for assigning referees to games played on LBYSO fields. The Head Referee will be responsible for collecting and maintaining all disciplinary reports. The Head Referee will also coordinate referee activities with the Tournament Coordinators as necessary.

3. Spring Division Commissioner

The Spring Division Commissioners will be responsible for ensuring the eligibility of players for their divisions. They shall be responsible for coordinating the draft for the spring teams participating from LBYSO. They will also act as liaison between coaches and the Spring Soccer Committee. There shall be two Spring Division Commissioners, one for the boys divisions, and one for the girls division.

4. Spring Select Statistician

The Statistician will be responsible for generating the spring playing schedule, which must be approved by the Spring Soccer Committee. The Statistician will also be responsible for keeping tournament standings.

B. Coach Selection

Any individual, who desires to coach an LBYSO spring select team, will be required to submit a written request to the Spring Soccer Committee. This request should include:

1. Number of years experience coaching.

2. License held.
3. Team coached during the regular season and ranking of that team.
4. The Spring Soccer Committee will be responsible for picking spring select coaches.

C. Team Selection

Teams selected will either be LBYSO teams, or teams from other leagues. Teams from LBYSO will be selected using a draft. Teams from outside LBYSO will be formed according to the rules from their tournament of registration.

1. Teams from other Tournaments

Teams from outside LBYSO will be invited to participate in our spring soccer season. Each team will be required to submit copies of an official team roster accompanied by a registration fee to cover the costs associated with the tournament. The entry forms must be submitted by the Spring Soccer Committee's designated due date. Each team will be required to be approved for spring play by their league, and to have insurance in force. Each team will have to provide proof of these items if requested by the Spring Coordinator.

2. Eligibility of Players

To participate in the spring select program, a player must have been registered with the league for which they are playing for the fall season. Players will normally compete in the same division they participated in during the fall season. Players may play in a higher division than they played in during the regular season, but may not play in a division lower than their age specifies. Players may only play on one spring select team within LBYSO's Spring Select program.

D. LBYSO Spring Draft

Player selection for Spring Select teams will be accomplished by a player draft. The Spring Soccer Committee will determine the number of players needed to be in the draft based on the number of teams. Each coach will be allowed to retain up to five players from their fall team. Should the Spring Select Committee request two coaches to combine and coach one Spring Select team in either Division 2, 3 or 4, the coaches may, at the discretion of the Spring Select Committee, be allowed to retain up to a total of six players from their combined fall teams. The retention of six players will be allowed only if the retained players do not unfairly distribute the top rated players from the division. The Spring Division Commissioners or appropriate designee will contact the players identified by the Spring Soccer Committee until the draft has an appropriate number of players.

The draft will be an open draft; each coach will be assigned a point total based on the ratings of the players they have retained. The coach with the lowest point total will draft first. If more than one team has the same point count, position will be determined by a blind draw. After the first round, teams will select by point count total, with teams tied in point count selecting in the same order as the first round. Retained players will be assigned to the coaches' teams in the same round in which they would normally have been placed if they were not reserved players. This placement will constitute that team's selection for the round this allows teams that have retained an unequal number of players to still draft in the early rounds when the highest rated players are

still available. A retained player must be placed on the team (selection for a round) prior to a non retained player of an equal or lesser rating being selected by that team. A team may decline to draft any more players once they have a full team. A supplemental draft may be held to allow teams to fill out their rosters one week after the first draft. This will allow teams to fill their rosters in the case of a player declining to play. Once a player is contacted by a coach, they must be given a spot on the team if they decide to play.

1. Rights to a Player

Once a player has been drafted by a team, that coach has the rights to that player for the spring season. If a player decides not to play in spring soccer, the coach retains the rights to that player, and may select a replacement with the approval of the Spring Soccer Committee provided that the replacement player meets the eligibility requirements of **Section 14.C.2**.

2. Fall Consent Form

The coach is responsible for obtaining the fall player registration form for all players on their spring team. In the case that this form is not received from the fall coach, an original copy must be obtained.

3. Team Rosters

A roster of each team must be submitted to the Spring Soccer Coordinator by the designated due date. The following must appear on each team roster:

- a. Team Name and Division.
- b. Team colors (Jersey, shorts and socks).
- c. League designation.
- d. Coaches and assistant coaches' name, address and phone.
- e. Tournament Coordinators name, address and phone.
- f. Players' name, address, phone and birth date.
- g. Location of home field, including map

Teams may be comprised of a maximum of 18 players for teams playing 11 vs. 11 and 15 players for teams playing 8 vs. 8. Players may be added to the roster only with the approval of the Spring Soccer Coordinator. Each team may add up to two players to the roster. A registration fee will be required for each new player added to the roster except in the case of a player replacing another player, already paid, prior to April 1. Once a player is removed from the roster, that player may not be reinstated to that or any other roster. No changes may be made to a roster after April 1.

E. Organization and Calendar

Players should be contacted about participation after the fall ratings meetings. All players for the first draft must be contacted prior to conducting the draft. The first draft should occur prior to the last week in January. Teams from outside of LBYSO must register by the designated due date, and tournament games should start by the first Saturday in March. Games will be played as scheduled by the Statistician. An awards party for each division will be held before the end of June.

1. Awards Ceremony

An awards ceremony will be held at the end of the spring season. This awards ceremony will include participation awards for every player, and medals or trophies for players on top ranked teams.

2. Awards

Medals or trophies will be given to the first place teams in all divisions. In addition if a division has five or more teams, second place medals or trophies will be given. Finally if a division has six or more teams, third place medals or trophies will be awarded.

F. Registration Process

Teams and players will follow the registration process as contained in this section.

1. Registration Fee

LBYSO teams will pay a single registration fee as determined by the Spring Soccer Committee. This fee will be used to cover awards, administration and fields. The coach will be responsible for submitting the registration fees for their team no later than the designated due date. Teams from outside LBYSO will pay a single team registration fee as determined by the Spring Soccer committee. This fee must be paid by the designated due date, and will cover awards, administration and fields.

2. Uniforms

Uniforms are not included in the team registration fee. The expense for and purchasing of uniforms is the responsibility of the coach. LBYSO teams will select team colors at the time of the Spring draft. If there is a conflict in jersey colors of the two scheduled opponents, the home team is responsible for changing to another color jersey.

G. Fields, Equipment and Referees

Each participating tournament shall provide a field(s), which shall be properly marked and maintained by that tournament. The home team will be required to provide a game ball.

1. Referees

It shall be the responsibility of the home league to provide referees for each game. Free substitution will be used in all divisions, with a team allowed to substitute on their goal kick, their throw-in and any kick-off. A team will also be allowed to substitute for an injured player or a player who has received a caution. Finally, a team is allowed to substitute when the opposing team substitutes.

2. Line-Up Cards

Line-up cards must be properly completed and provided to the referee prior to game time. All line-up cards shall be retained by the home team's Tournament Coordinator and shall be available to the Spring Soccer Committee upon request. The Tournament Coordinator must notify the Head Referee of any cautions or ejections during the game.

3. Tournament Standings

The coach of the winning team shall report the game results to the Statistician or designee no later than 24 hours after the completion of the games. In case of tie games, the home team shall call the Statistician or designee. The Statistician will be responsible for keeping tournament standings. Tournament standings will be determined by awarding a team three points for a win, and one point for a tie. No points will be awarded for a loss. In the event of a tie for first, second or third place, the final standings for the awarding of medals will be determined by using the following tie breakers in order:

- a. Head to head competition;

- b. Lowest cumulative point total for disciplinary action;
 - c. Win/loss percentage excluding ties;
 - d. Fewest cumulative goals allowed during the season;
 - e. Cumulative goal differential for the entire season.
 - f. If teams are still tied, the tie will be broken by a toss of the coin.
- 4. Tournament Play**
- All games must be played as scheduled. If a game is terminated by a referee, the Spring Soccer Committee shall determine the outcome of the game. No games will be postponed or re-scheduled except by the Spring Soccer Committee. Each team will be permitted one petition to postpone or re-schedule a game. There will be no games postponed or re-scheduled in the last three weeks of tournament play for reasons other than player safety or inclement weather. If a postponement or re-schedule is granted and mutually accepted by each team, the game must be played within 16 days of the original game date. A grace period of 15 minutes beyond the scheduled game time shall be allowed before a game is considered a forfeit. In case of failure to play a scheduled tournament game, the forfeiting team shall lose by a score of 1-0. If both teams are not ready to play a tournament game at the scheduled game time, both teams will record a loss for the purposes of Tournament standings.

H. Disciplinary Action

Coaches are expected to provide a good example for the players under their supervision. Further, coaches are responsible for their own conduct and the conduct of their players, assistant coaches, staff and fans, before, during and after games. Coaches may be cautioned or ejected if their fans fail to maintain reasonable self-control.

A red card shall, as a minimum, result in a suspension from the next scheduled game. The Spring Soccer Committee reserves the right to impose up to a 4 game suspension on a player or coach depending on the seriousness of the offense. To serve a suspension, the player in question must appear at the next scheduled game. If the player is not present to serve their suspension, it shall be carried over to the next scheduled game. This procedure will continue until the player in question is present at a scheduled game to serve the prescribed suspension. Any player or coach that is ejected from a game is required to immediately leave the vicinity of the playing field. A coach or an assistant coach ejected from a game will not be allowed to coach or be in the vicinity of the team's next scheduled game.

The referee shall list all cautions and ejections on the game card. A point system shall be used for disciplinary action against players and coaches who receive cautions and ejections. The point system shall be cumulative. A caution will be worth 2 points and an ejection 5 points. If a player or coach accumulates 5 points, they will receive automatic suspension for one game. A total of 10 points will warrant another one game suspension. A total of 15 points will be punished by suspension for the remainder of the season. If a player or coach receives a caution and ejection in the same game, they will accumulate 7 points.

1. Protests

No protest of game results will be allowed.