**MIAMI VALLEY WEST AREA BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I**

**NAME, ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE**

This organization will be known as MVW Soccer (hereinafter referred to as MVW).

MVW is a non-profit organization exempt from taxation under Section 501C(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

It is the policy of MVW not to discriminate or tolerate discrimination based on race, sex, age, religious beliefs, or physical handicap.

Official notice may be provided to MVW by emailing **MVWSoccer23@gmail.com**  unless otherwise designated by the MVW Board of Directors (“Board”).

MVW will provide MVW Member Districts (“Districts”) with standardized organization and playing rules.

MVW is affiliated with the Soccer Association for Youth, USA (“SAY”), however, MVW reserves the right to modify or supersede the SAY Playing Laws of the Game as the Board deems necessary for MVW league play.  Further, MVW reserves the right to terminate its affiliation with SAY at any time without notice, and to affiliate itself with any youth sport association as approved by the Board.

The purpose of MVW shall be to promote youth boys’ and girls’ soccer in Preble and Montgomery Counties and to further promote the development of leadership, character, sportsmanship, tolerance, discipline and athletic ability, and to nurture youth fitness, volunteerism, and a lifelong love of soccer.

**ARTICLE II**

**MEMBERSHIP AND PLAYER FEES**

**MEMBERSHIP** – MVW is comprised of Member Districts within Preble and Montgomery Counties.  Current Member Districts are: Brookville, Camden/Preble Shawnee, Eaton, Lewisburg/Tri-County North, New Paris/National Trail, New Lebanon, West Alexandria/Twin Valley South, and Valley View.

**PLAYER FEES** – At the March Board meeting each year, the Board shall establish a player fee of $0.00 up to $5.00 per player for the upcoming year.  Each District shall be responsible for paying player fees for all its rostered players participating in MVW league play.  This fee is due at the September Board meeting.  The total player fees required from each District will be determined by the total number of rostered players. A hard copy roster of each team participating in MVW league play shall be submitted at the September Board meeting.

Should a District believe that the player fee would create a financial hardship for its program, it may apply for a waiver.  The waiver application will be required no later than the August Board meeting.  The waiver will be reviewed by the Executive Committee to protect the privacy of each District and a determination will be made.

Any District that does not pay its player fees will be subject to having all MVW league games forfeited and will not be eligible for participation in any MVW tournaments.

**ARTICLE III**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES**– Each District will appoint one representative to the Board. Each District will also appoint one alternate representative to attend meetings in the absence of its representative. Each District is allotted one vote. The District representative will make all decisions for said District at all MVW Board meetings.

**OFFICERS** – The Executive Board will consist of the following officers:  President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.  The officers will be elected by the Board Members (“Directors”) at the December Board meeting, and their term of office will be one year beginning at January Board meeting following their election.

**ELECTION** – Election of officers will be by a vote of the Directors present at the December Board meeting.  The candidate receiving the most votes will be elected to that office.

**VACANCY** – If a vacancy occurs on the Executive Board, the President will appoint, with Board approval, a replacement to serve out the remainder of the term.  If a Board vacancy occurs, the affected District will be asked to appoint a suitable replacement within 30 days.  The Director so appointed will complete that year’s term.

**REMOVAL** – Any officer or Director may be removed from office or the Board for just cause, including non-attendance, by a two-thirds vote of the Board.

**ARTICLE IV**

**DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD** – The Executive Board will manage and direct the business interests of the MVW and shall hold in trust all funds and property of the franchise. Members of the Executive Board must be a representative of a MVW District in good standing.  If, during their term, they resign from their District Board, they must have left in good standing and have the approval of their District to remain on the MVW Executive Board. The District Board must provide a letter of approval for them to remain on the MVW Executive Board.

**PRESIDENT** – The president will schedule all meetings of the Board, set agendas, and preside **over** same.  The president will be responsible for the overall administration of all MVW programs, will review, prepare and submit all MVW reports required by SAY. The president will also perform other duties as may be assigned by the Board and is generally responsible for all appointed positions.

**VICE PRESIDENT** – In the absence of the president, the vice president shall perform all the duties of the president.  The vice president will perform any other duties assigned by the President and will serve as the Chair of the Ethics and Protest Committee consisting of a maximum of four (4) other Directors.

**SECRETARY** – The secretary will keep a record of the proceedings and attendance of all meetings and will prepare minutes from these meetings for distribution to the Board.  The secretary will also record and file all written requests for waivers, grants, etc. and will coordinate and release information to the media for publicity purposes.  Additionally, the secretary will give notice of all meetings and will provide all required notices in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws.

**TREASURER** – The treasurer will receive all funds of MVW and will deposit said funds in the bank designated by the Board.  The treasurer will keep an account of all receipts and disbursements and report the same to the Board at its regular meetings.  Additionally, the secretary will pay all bills of MVW upon order of the Board, will order, receive and distribute all SAY materials and will perform any other tasks assigned by the President.

**ARTICLE V**

**APPOINTED COMMITTEES**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE** – An audit of MVW finances will be made at least once each year by a three-person committee appointed by the Executive Board.  Committee members are to be Directors who are not check signers or bookkeepers for MVW.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES** – The president may also appoint committees as needed.  i.e., Budget, Rules, Fund Raising, Red Card.

**ARTICLE VI**

**MEETINGS**

**REGULAR MEETINGS** – There will be a minimum of ten (10) monthly Board meetings per calendar year.

**SPECIAL MEETINGS** – Special meetings may be called upon request of the President or five (5) Directors.  The meeting notice will state the purpose of the meeting.

**NOTICE** – Notice of meetings or change of scheduled meetings will be given at least 72 hours prior to the date of any meeting.

**QUORUM** – 50% of the Directors will constitute a quorum.  All Directors (including officers) present will have one (1) vote.  The president shall only cast the tie-breaker vote.  No quorum shall be declared without the presence of the president or vice-president in attendance.

**ATTENDANCE** – Attendance is required at all scheduled meetings.  If a Director or their designee misses two consecutive unexcused meetings, the president will contact that District to discuss it. Any action taken by the Board concerning attendance shall be appealable to any other organization or authority.  Continued lack of interest may lead to sanctions or removal from the Board.  Any Director not reporting to the secretary that he or she will not be attending a meeting will be considered as an unexcused absence.

**ANNUAL RULES REVIEW MEETING** – A review of the complete Rules Book, with emphasis on any changes, will be made before MVW league play begins. Preferably, this review will be completed each January.

**CHANGE OR AMEND BYLAWS** – A 30-day meeting notice, and a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Board is required to change or amend the MVW Bylaws.

**ARTICLE VII**

**MEETING FORMAT**

Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern unless otherwise provided by the MVW Bylaws.

Reading of minutes.  (May be waived by general consent)

Reading of reports

Unfinished business

New Business

**ARTICLE VIII**

**DISTRICTS & DISTRICT BOARDS**

MVW is a liaison and facilitator for its Member Districts.  MVW is not responsible for the individual program of any District.  Districts must follow all SAY and MVW rules and guidelines, as well as their individual District By-Laws, to maintain membership in MVW. If an issue arises in a District, it is the responsibility of that District to resolve its issue.  If a District cannot resolve its issue, it may request assistance from MVW.  MVW will not intervene without a request from a District.

If a District asks MVW for intervention, the following procedure is to be utilized.

**DISCIPLINE OF A DISTRICT BOARD OR BOARD MEMBERS** - Being a SAY volunteer is a privilege given by each District Board and not a right. A District Board or District Board Member can be disciplined or removed at any time if 2/3 of the MVW Board determines a District Board or District Board Member has failed to conduct**itself,** himself or herself within the By-Laws of their District and in accordance with the MVW and SAY rules and guidelines. The discipline or removal of a District Board or District Board Member will be done in the following manner.

**A District Board representative must petition the MVW Board.**

**The MVW President will provide detailed information to the MVW Board regarding the issue associated with the District.  The District Board or District Board Member will be given the opportunity to address the MVW Board to provide additional details.**

**Once all involved parties have been given the opportunity to address the MVW Board, an MVW Director must make a motion to move the meeting to a closed session so the situation can be discussed.  Another MVW Director must second the motion.  Once in the closed session, a motion must be made and seconded for the type of action to be taken.  Once the motion is made, a discussion will follow outlining the course of action to be taken.  Once a course of action has been decided a vote will be taken.**

**Once the vote is taken and the course of action is decided, the MVW Executive Board will meet in a closed session with the District Board at issue to execute the decision of the MVW Board.  The decision will be presented in writing to the District Board, and upon conclusion, all present at the meeting will sign the document.**

**ARTICLE IX**

**CODE OF CONDUCT, DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS &**

**DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE**

**GENERAL – Our philosophy is for children to play and learn soccer in a safe and enjoyable environment.  Therefore, the MVW Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Actions and Due Process Procedure has been established.   This policy applies to all MVW Districts, including all coaches, players, spectators, and referees participating in any MVW league or program and is attached hereto as Attachment A.  All information contained in Attachment A is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth herein in full.**

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SOCIAL MEDIA – Spectators, coaches and/or players who are caught posting negative or disparaging comments related to MVW, its Board, Directors, Districts, referees, coaches or players on any social media outlet will be suspended for two (2) games, no questions asked. Any complaints should be brought to a Director and will be addressed with the Board.**

**DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE POLICY CLARIFICATION – The Due Process Procedure provides a defined process for individuals, teams or Districts who feel they have a grievance against either MVW or District decisions or actions.  *This procedure does not affect the existing Protest Procedures involving game incidents as described in the SAY Rulebook, SAY Organizational Rule #9, nor are they intended to be a vehicle for changing or overturning any game situations.***

**ARTICLE X**

**MVW REGULAR SEASON SCORING POLICY**

In the spirit of good sportsmanship, the following policy has been adopted by MVW for all regular season games. No team (player, coach, parent) enjoys being on the losing end of an extremely lopsided game.   MVW has developed some hints and tips to aid coaches in controlling the score and making the soccer experience more enjoyable for everyone.

If a team moves ahead and its coach can see that the score is going to become lopsided quickly, the following are some **suggestions**to help control the score.

No player may take a shot at the goal inside the 18.  If you have a player who continues to do this after you have given the instruction it will be your responsibility to control that player.

Instruct your players that all players must touch the ball prior to scoring.  This will increase their ball handling skills.

Move your talent around on the field.

Instruct your players to use their less prominent foot.  This will increase their footwork.

Instruct your team that only a player who has not scored may take a shot at the goal.

If the score differential drops, the coach may instruct the team to resume play as normal.

If a coach repeatedly runs up the score and does not attempt to control the score of the game, the following actions may occur:

**SECOND REPEAT OFFENSE** - A written and/or oral warning will be issued to you from your District.

**THIRD REPEAT OFFENSE** (and every offense thereafter) - A one (1) game suspension for unsportsmanlike conduct will be issued to the coach(es).

**ARTICLE XI**

**MVW RULES OF HIGHER STANDARD**

MVW will use the SAY Rules and Playing Laws in effect each yearwith the following additions which will supersede the SAY Rules and Playing Laws in all MVW regular season games:

**PLAYING LAWS:**

***Non-Rostered Substitute Players–***

Coaches of traveling teams with too few players may pull up enough players from the league below to allow for two substitute (subs) players per game. ***Non-rostered subs are not permitted in any MVW or State tournament games.***

Subs must be rostered on a MVW team in the division below the team for which he or she is subbing.

Girls teams may only pull up subs from girls teams. Boys teams may pull up subs from boys or girls teams.

Non-rostered subs may only play up one division.  For example, if the Wings age group in 2020 has players born in 2011 and 2010, a sub from Passers must be born in 2012 or 2013.

Non-rostered subs must be brought to the attention of the referee(s) and opposing head coach before the game during check-in.

When non-rostered subs are being utilized in a game, coaches and referees must verify the number of players to ensure the number of players doesn't exceed the number of field players plus two subs.

Unique jersey numbers are not enforced for non-rostered subs, but other requirements, such as having a similar uniform color can be enforced by the referee if needed.

Illegal players (non-rostered players, too young of age, etc) who actually play may draw a yellow card, ejection from the game, and the team and/or player may face revocation of sub privileges by the MVW Board.  If a coach is found to be using illegal players intentionally or otherwise abusing sub privileges, the MVW Board may elect to give the coach a red card and or suspend or otherwise restrict his or her ability to use subs.

Non-rostered subs cannot receive more playing time than rostered players.  If complaints are reported about non-rostered subs receiving more playing time than rostered players, particularly from the parents of the team where the subs were used, it may lead to a revocation or restrictions of non-rostered sub use by that team.

**Trapped 8th Graders** –8th graders that do not meet the age guidelines in the gold matrix will not be able to play without a variance.  Currently there are no variances for trapped 8th graders.  If permitted by the MVW Board, trapped 8th graders may be allowed to play in MVW tournaments, but will not be permitted to participate in the State tournament (per TOAST rules).

**SAY Gold Matrix** – MVW will use the SAY gold matrix to determine valid ages. The Gold Matrix is also used by the State tournament.

**Slide Tackles** – Slide tackles are not permitted in the Passers (U8) and Wings (U10) divisions, even if properly executed.  Slide tackles are permitted in the Strikers (U12) and Kickers (U14) divisions.

**Scores** - Scores will be kept in all regular season games. Standings will not be recorded.

**MVW Tournament Rules**–MVW has adopted rules specific to MVW tournaments which are attached hereto as **Attachment B**.  All information contained in **Attachment B** is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth herein in full.  In any instance of conflicting rules, all MVW Tournaments are governed by the following authority: First by the MVW Tournament Rules, next by the MVW Bylaws, and last by SAY Rules and Playing Laws.

**ORGANIZATION RULES:**

No District may put flyers in any other MVW District’s schools without written permission from that District. Players must play in the district in which they live and go to school. Should your District not have a team in a specific age division, then a player is permitted to play for another MVW district. If a player wishes to play for another District, written permission releasing the child must be obtained from that player’s home District.

Children in the same household, such as step brothers/sisters or children who are in the custody of someone other than a biological parent shall be treated the same as biological siblings and be permitted to be placed on the same team.

Each team shall be eligible to have the children of a head coach and up to two assistant coaches matched to a team.  The maximum number of players allowed in this situation, including “siblings” and “children in the same household” shall be 4 players.  Districts may allow players to remain on the same team for a second year within a division. The core players may stay together, even if there is a coaching change. Players are to be redrawn when they move to a new division. The balance of the team's players will be selected in a blind draw.

A blind draw is an official blind draw, drawn by sex and age only.  There is to be no ranking by ability. Players are to be drawn face down with the goal of equal teams.  Each District must provide draw dates at least one (1) week in advance to the MVW Board. Any Director may attend a District draw for verification purposes. If a Director attends a draw, he or she will verify the results by writing down the names drawn for each roster.

To modify any team draws, a District must contact any Directors who were present for the draw and MVW Secretary.  After that is done, the modification will be forwarded to the MVW Board for any objections.

Districts shall submit compliance documents and fees to SAY and the MVW Board by the SAY deadlines. Any District that has not submitted its required compliance documents (district board list, player registration packet order/player numbers, final reconciliation, rosters) by the final compliance requirement date (when team rosters are due) will be "noncompliant".  Any District that does not pay its MVW tournament fees by the start of the following season will be considered noncompliant. A noncompliant District forfeits its vote on the MVW Board, its participation in MVW tournaments, and its teams' eligibility to be declared MVW Champion or Champion Runner Up. If a District is noncompliant from a previous season, it is ineligible to participate in any MVW regular season games or tournaments. A District’s privileges will be reinstated when it regains compliant status.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Miami Valley West Board of Directors on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

Scott Arndts, President - Miami Valley West

Nicole Wood, Secretary - Miami Valley West

**MIAMI VALLEY WEST AREA AND MVW DISTRICT**

**CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY, DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS, AND DUE**

**PROCESS PROCEDURE**

**COACHES, PLAYERS, SPECTATORS, AND REFEREES –**Our philosophy is for children to play and learn soccer in a safe and enjoyable environment.  Therefore, the following Code of Conduct, established in the **MVW Bylaws Article IX.1**, shall apply to all coaches, players, spectators, and referees participating in any MVW programs. MVW Districts include (Brookville, Camden (Preble Shawnee), Eaton, Lewisburg (Tri-County North), New Paris (National Trail), New Lebanon, West Alexandria (Twin Valley South), and Valley View.Violations of this Code may result in disciplinary action taken by an individual District, as well as MVW.

**MVW DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REPRIMAND COACHES, PLAYERS, SPECTATORS, AND REFEREES FOR INFRACTIONS THEY DEEM VIOLATING THIS CODE OF CONDUCT.  VIOLATIONS COULD RESULT IN PERMANENT REMOVAL FROM MVW AND/OR ITS DISTRICTS, WITHOUT REFUND, AND CAN CAUSE AN ENTIRE FAMILY TO FORFEIT CURRENT AND FUTURE REGISTRATION WITHIN MVW AND ITS DISTRICTS.**

**SECTION I**

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

**COACHES –**The position of the coach or leader of any youth group is an important and serious responsibility.  The children look up to the coach and respect his/her position.  The behavior of the coach is constantly under observation by them, and they will strive to imitate the coach’s actions.  The coach’s opinion and behavior during the game will carry more weight than anyone else’s, even a parent. A responsible coach will conduct himself/herself using the following guidelines.  A good youth soccer coach will:

Know and comply with the Laws of the Game, including SAY, MVW and District rules.  It is recommended that coaches attend a clinic to enhance knowledge of the game.

Teach players the Laws of the Game, including SAY, MVW and District rules.

Make all players, assistants, and spectators aware and knowledgeable of this Code of Conduct and its penalties.

Treat referees with respect at all times.  Calls are based on the best judgment of the referees.

Exhibit excellent conduct during practices and games. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of the players during all team activities, and for the conduct of the spectators at games.

Emphasize good sporting conduct.

Help maintain a climate of safety and enjoyment by discouraging negative remarks and/or harassment of players, coaches, referees, and spectators.

Equally prioritize team morale and soccer skills and tactics.  Be a “fun leader”.  Minimize lectures and maximize demonstrations.  Stress having fun.

Maximize praise and minimize criticism of your players.  Make corrections slowly and calmly in a manner tailored to individual players.

DO NOT use profanity or vulgar language.

DO NOT consume alcohol, smoke, vape or use other tobacco products or illicit drugs on the field or sidelines before, during, and after practices and games.

Coach talented and less-talented players with equal vigor.  All players are to receive at least their minimum required playing time.

Minimize coaching from the sidelines during the game.  Remain in designated coaching areas during games.

Pre-plan practice sessions to be interesting, fast paced, and involve all team members, and minimize down-time.

Consider feedback from players and parents concerning potential problems and ways to improve effectiveness.

Promote fair play at all levels.  Discourage Passers from being in an offside position during games though offsides is not enforced at the Passers level.

**PLAYERS –**All registered soccer players in the SAY program are required to learn the Laws and Rules of SAY soccer, play fair, and assure the safety of themselves and their teammates.  Violation of the Laws of the Game and Code of Conduct will result in discipline and/or penalty.

**SPECTATORS** – All spectators attending MVW events are to comply with this Code of Conduct.

Spectators may not enter the playing field without permission from the referee (including during an injury).

Spectators may not show dissent by words or actions with any decision of the referee.  Absolutely no foul or abusive language, or unacceptable conduct toward the referees, players, coaches, or other spectators will be tolerated.

Spectators must remain in designated spectator areas during all games.  Any failure by a District to strictly enforce spectator areas will not preclude that District from enforcing spectator rules at any time, and without notice.

Spectators may not approach the team sideline area during games without permission from the referee.

**REFEREES**

Referees will always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.

Referees will conduct themselves honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of their position and trust.

Referees will honor their assigned game/match obligation.

Referees will endeavor to attend local meetings and referee clinics to better know the Laws of the Game and their proper interpretation.

Referees will always strive to achieve maximum teamwork with all fellow referees and/or linesmen.

Referees will be loyal to all following referees and linesmen, and never knowingly criticize or promote criticism of them.

Referees will strive to be in their best physical condition to be in position to make the correct calls (supporting the endeavor to be in the right place at the right time).

Referees will endeavor to control the players effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing firmness.

Referees will not make statements about any game except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.

Referees will refrain from using tobacco products, illicit drugs, and alcohol on the sidelines before, during, and after and games.

**SECTION II**

**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

It is against SAY and MVW rules for any coach, player, or spectator to threaten, harass, or intimidate another person in any way.  This includes social media before/during/after any MVW events.  Failure to comply with the SAY & MVW rules, Laws of the Game, and the Code of Conduct, will result in disciplinary action set forth below.  Additionally, immediate expulsion from the game and field area (i.e., out of sight or earshot of the referee), and/or loss of the game by judgment of a referee, MVW Director or District Board Member is possible.  Any physical contact with a coach, player, referee, or spectator could mean action by the District/MVW/SAY, and/or legal action by the individual(s).

At the discretion of a referee MVW Director or District Board Member, coaches and players may be cautioned (yellow card (card not required)) and ejected (red card (card not required)) before, during, or after a sanctioned game.  Spectators may be ejected (no cards) from the field or area of play for any of the following offenses: entering the field without permission from the referee (including during an injury), showing dissent by words or actions with any decision of the referee, including foul or abusive language, or unacceptable conduct toward the referees, players, coaches, or other spectators.

**INFRACTION PENALTY/DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

**Abusive language to an official, player, coach, or spectator:**

First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution.

Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from the game.  One (1) game suspension (next game).

**Foul/threatening language or actions to an official, player, coach, or spectator:**

 Red Card – Ejection from the game.  One (1) game suspension (next game).

**Aggressive physical contact with a player, coach, or spectator, i.e. grabbing the arm, turning the individual around, poking, bumping, hard shoving, hair pulling etc,:**

First Offense: Yellow Card - Caution

 Red Card – Ejection from the game.  One (1) game suspension (next game).

**Aggressive physical contact with an OFFICIAL. i.e. grabbing the arm, turning the individual around, poking, bumping, hard shoving, hair pulling, kicking, striking etc,:**

Red Card – Ejection from the game and expulsion from District and MVW for the season.  Review by the District Board and MVW Board for denial of future enrollment of said family.

**Refusal to leave the playing field and the park after an ejection:**

Two (2) game suspension.

**Any player, coach, or spectator observed using or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol before or during a game:**

First Offense:  Coach given a warning by official.

Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from the game and one (1) game suspension.  Review by the District Board and MVW Board for expulsion from District and MVW.

**Entering the field of play without the permission of the officials:**

First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution.

Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from the game.  One (1) game suspension (next game).

**Constant and excessive verbal harassment of an official, player, coach, or spectator:**

First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution

Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from the game.  One (1) game suspension (next game).

**Instructing players or players playing in a dangerous or unsportsmanlike manner:**

First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution.

Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from the game.  One (1) game suspension for a player. Two (2) game suspension for a coach.

**Instructing players to play in dangerous or unsportsmanlike manner with deliberate intent to harm:**

Red Card – Ejection from the game and two game suspension. Review by the District Board and MVW Board for expulsion from District and MVW.

**Coaches do not remain between the penalty box and mid-field.  Spectators on wrong side of field or behind goal:**

First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution.

Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from the game.  One (1) game suspension (next game).

**Playing an illegal player:**

Game forfeiture and season suspension.

**Instructing players to delay the restart of the game:**

First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution.

Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from the game.  One (1) game suspension (next game).

**Two Cautions (yellow cards) in a single game for the same or different offenses:**

Red Card – Ejection from the game.  One (1) game suspension (next game).

**Three (3) yellow cards within four (4) games – regular season or three (3) yellow cards during an MVW Tournament:**

One game suspension (next game).

**Red card issued after the game – two (2) game suspension.**

If harassment of the referee or coach continues after leaving the playing field, it will result in review by an MVW Red Card Committee.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR COACHES AND PLAYERS:**

The MVW or District Board Review and/or MVW Directors may levy penalties greater than those above if, in their opinion, circumstances indicate a greater penalty is appropriate.

Red Cards that are issued after a game is completed will carry over to the other games.  This includes any coach or player that coaches, assists, or participates in another MVW team/game.

Penalties that are assessed which are longer than the remaining season shall be carried over to the next season that the person participates.

A coach under suspension may not attend or participate in any way as either a coach, assistance coach, or spectator in any game his or her team plays during his/her suspension.  This includes any other teams of other age groups within MVW.

A coach under expulsion is barred from the MVW program indefinitely.  The MVW Board may reinstate a coach only after a favorable review.  An expelled coach may not act in any coaching, managerial, or administrative capacity within the MVW or any MVW Districts.

The violation of any suspension or expulsion will result in the forfeiture of any game participated in and/or the elimination of the team from league play for the remainder of the season.

All red cards or ejections will be noted by the referee and reported to the District Referee Coordinator who will submit a report to the MVW Board and/or Area Referee Coordinator within 24 hours of the offense.

MVW and its Districts reserve the right to send or not send teams to the SAY State Tournament.

**ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR REFEREES:**

All districts will purchase their referee supplies from a soccer supplier.

Current SAY Rulebook.

Red and yellow cards.

Score cards.

All referees who referee MVW league or tournament games shall be at least one (1) age division removed.

Passing grades on the SAY Referee test are as follows:

Probationary Referee (must referee with a qualified adult referee) 70-79.

Qualified Referee 80-89.

Certified Referee – 90-100 – Be certified once score is reached and referee minimum of 10 games and District Referee signs off on you being certified.

Training – 60-69 – only used by districts for in-house games and may require a training upgrade period.

Referee uniforms are coordinated by individual Districts.

Prior to the start of any season, all referee coordinators shall forward a complete list of all their referees who meet the qualification in number 3 above with their names, addresses, phone numbers, and ages to the Area Referee Coordinators (this ensures their eligibility for SAY Soccer Insurance).

Referees shall report all red and yellow cards to their District Referee Coordinator within 24 hours of issuances.  This will ensure proper action has been taken to notify the next opposing team and ensure sanctions/penalties are successfully carried out.

**SECTION III**

**DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE**

***(Adapted from the National Due Process Committee 11/10/1987)***

The Due Process Procedure provides a defined process for individuals, teams or Districts who feel they have a grievance against either MVW or District decisions or actions.  ***This procedure does not affect the existing protest procedures involving game incidents as described in the SAY Rulebook, SAY Organizational Rule #9, nor are they intended to be a vehicle for changing or overturning any game situations.***

A complaint or appeal must be filed, in writing, with 48 hours of the incident complained of or decision being appealed. For an MVW matter, the filing will be with the District Representative.  For District matters the filing will be made with the District President.

A hearing must be held within (5) days of the receipt of the filing by MVW or in the case of a District matter, the District President.  A hearing board composed of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) persons may be specified by MVW or by the District.  However, provision must be made that only disinterested, non-biased parties may serve on the hearing boards at any level.  The complainant and other parties of the complainant’s choice are permitted to attend the hearing and present evidence or agreement.

The person or persons whose decision or actions are being complained of or appealed will also be heard.  The hearing board will render a decision within three (3) – five (5) business days and notify all concerned parties in writing.

If the complaining party is dissatisfied with the decision, it may be appealed to the next level, i.e., to MVW for District matters, to SAY National for MVW matters.  In addition, situations in which MVW does not wish to render a decision, or situations involving more than one District, may also be submitted to the next level.

In the instance of decisions at the District level, a second District hearing board of disinterested non-bias persons not hearing the first appeal shall be appointed to hear the second appeal.

In all cases, appeals must be submitted, heard, and replies must be made in writing within the time frames indicated in Sections 1 and 3.

Cases not covered by the published MVW Code of Conduct and behavior with specified penalties may be appealed to the National Review Board based on procedures established by SAY. A fee of $50.00 is required for any such appeal, to be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

I, the undersigned, agree to follow the Code of Conduct and to comply with all rules, policies, and procedures. I understand that violation of this Code will not be tolerated and that violations will subject me to disciplinary action in accordance to the MVW and MVW Districts Code of Conduct policies, and could include a warning, game(s) suspension, or season suspension, as well as impact my opportunity to manage, coach, or play in future seasons.

I further acknowledge the authority of the Executive Board of Directors of Miami Valley West, and/or my individual MVW District and understand that if permitted to manage or coach, I serve solely at the pleasure of the Board, whose permission may be revoked at any time. My failure to honor the authority of the Board and its Members or Directors or to show them proper respect will be deemed a violation of this Code of Conduct. Accordingly, I understand that I may be called to appear before the Board at any time and that if called, my failure to attend could result in an immediate suspension.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date

**MIAMI VALLEY WEST AREA TOURNAMENT RULES**

**Referee Requirements**:

For all Area Tournament games, host districts must provide **two**certified refs in good standing with the MVW, with at least **one**ref being an adult. A ref may not officiate his or her parent’s game unless both coaches agree in writing (48-hour notice is required). Striker and Kicker refs must be in high school or older. Wings and Passers refs must be at least one full division removed (ie. Wings (Kickers min.); Passers (Strikers min.). Any district unable to provide qualified refs as indicated herein, must contact other MVW districts for assistance in obtaining qualified refs.

**Field Requirements:**

To host an area tournament your field sizes must match that of State.

**Additional Requirements:**

At the start of the Area Tournament each district shall pay $60 per team for the first two games if playing in double elimination tournaments. Any additional games past the first two will be $30 a game payable at the area meeting following tournaments.

The 2022 MVW tournaments brackets will be determined by blind draw during an MVW Area Board meeting.

**The top 2 teams in the DOUBLE ELIMINATION tournament (from each age division) will be offered the opportunity to play in the SAY State Tournament.**

Games will be played at what time works best for MVW scheduling purposes, in a combination of weeknight/weekend games.

**Area Tournament Rules:**

One 5-minute overtime up to the semifinals, and then you get two 5-minute overtime periods. The full 5-minute overtime(s) will be played, even if someone scores. The 5-minute OT(s) are not sudden death. Goalkeepers are allowed. There is a new coin toss before the OT(s) where the home team calls it. It’s important for the referees to denote the 2 team captain’s numbers. Home team is the team at the top of the bracket, regardless of the game location or the team being played. In the semifinals there is only 1 coin toss at the beginning of the first OT. This determines who kicks off first, just like at the start of the regular game. The other team will kick off in the 2nd OT period. This allows both teams to have a chance to kick off.

If there is no winner after the 5-minute OT(s), then there will be penalty kicks. Each team will use 5 players that were on the field at the end of the 5-minute OT period. Goalkeeper substitution is allowed as long as it’s a player that was on the field at the end of play. A new coin toss called by the home team, to determine who kicks first (or second). This is NOT a sudden death PK period. Both teams will use all 5 players to complete the round.

**NOTE**: Kicks from the Penalty Mark Tiebreaker for the Passer (U8) division will be conducted as (without use of a goalkeeper), accuracy kicks will be taken from a spot marked 8 yards from the Pug Goal and centered upon the Pug Goal. All other procedural rules stated above shall apply.

If after the first 5 PK are taken there is no winner, additional **sudden death**periods of kickers will be from different players. If the roster is exhausted, then you can reuse players from the first round. (These reused players cannot be used again until all of the other players have gone at least once.) There will be a new coin toss before the sudden death PK round to see who shoots first (or second). This IS a sudden death PK round. In other words, one player from each team will shoot and if one misses and one makes it, then that's the end of the game. If both kickers miss, or both scores, the next kickers will try and so on until one makes it and one misses.

Only the original 22 players (or fewer) should remain on the field during the shootout. Only the player taking the shot should be near the goal box. No substitutions are allowed during the shootout. Bench players cannot be brought in. No one should be sitting behind the goal, etc.

Coaches are not allowed on the field, unless given permission by the referees.

**Penalty Shots:** A penalty shot cannot be taken until after the referee has blown the whistle. At that point, the referee must ensure that the keeper is on the line and the kicker is ready. If the shot is taken before the whistle is blown, it will not count.

The 50% playing time rule is only enforced during the regular game time (4 full quarters) and is NOT in effect for the OT period(s) or PK period(s).

Timesheets must be kept for the semi-final and final games in each division. Timesheets must be signed by both head coaches and submitted to the MVW Board upon request.  Teams must arrange for their own timekeepers, and timekeepers cannot be a rostered coach for that team.  Timekeepers must sit together at the substitution line on the team side of the field.  It is their responsibility to ensure that both timesheets match.

**Protests:** All protests must be lodged at the time of the incident. Once a game has been restarted, protests will not be accepted. The Head Coach must notify the refs on the field, as well as the opposing coach, using the official words “official protest”. If the Head Coach protests for any reason, the Referees must immediately stop the game, note the time remaining, and request that the Head Coach speak to the Area Rep who will be present at the field. The Area Rep will discuss the situation with the Refs and Ref Coordinators for a final decision. Until the matter has been resolved the game may not continue. The decision of the Area Rep will be final and is not subject to further appeal. All protests will cost the Head Coach $50. If you win the protest, it will be returned. If you lose, the $50 will be sent to the MVW Area Board.

Only rostered players are eligible to play in Area Tournaments.  Non-rostered substitutes are not permitted.

There will be no slide tackles permitted in the Passers and Wings divisions.  Slide tackles will be permitted in the Strikers and Kickers divisions.

All coaches, players, board members, spectators, and anyone else deemed a participant must follow the MVW Code of Conduct.

These tournament rules are established by the ***MVW Bylaws Article XI.1.f***.