

**BYSO RULES OF THE GAME AND REGULATIONS**  
**Current and Approved as of February 2023**

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### **Mission Statement**

**“To encourage, promote and facilitate skills, game ethics and a growing knowledge of soccer among Bandera County youth.”**

**BYSO wishes to equip volunteers for success using this rule book and any other means available to us. This handbook is by no means a replacement for the IFAB Laws of the Game, nor is it all inclusive- the board has discretion in any situation not outlined. Coaches needing assistance should reach out- we would love to help you succeed and we want to see you enjoy your time with the league and your kid(s).**

## **Contact List**

Please use [soccer@banderayouthsoccer.org](mailto:soccer@banderayouthsoccer.org) to initiate all general contact.

Throughout the Rules of the Game, the appropriate Board Member will be listed for individual matters.

**President-** Jamey Haws

**Vice President-** LaNek Sides

**Secretary-** Vacant

**Treasurer-** Vacant

**Registrar (Registration)-** Monique Medina

**Coach Coordinator- U6/U8-** J.R. Fazio

**Coach Coordinator- U11/U15-** Shawn LaBarre

**Director of Referees and Games-** Chris Munguia

**Director of Fields-** Josh Wright

**Director of Safety-** Jason Boyd

**Director of Public Relations-** Vacant

**Director of Concessions-** LaNek Sides

### **Chain of Command**

**1. The Referee is in charge.**

-This means their decisions are final on all decisions.

**2. The Director of Games and Referees is in charge of selection of (and oversight of) all referees on all fields.**

-Any dispute over which Referee is assigned must be taken to the Director of Games and Referees, before the game begins. The Director of Games and Referees will be on sight during games to handle any disputes over the handling of games.

**3. The Director of Coaches (age assigned) is in charge of all coaches on all fields.**

-When feasible the Director of Coaches will join the Director of Referees and Games in issues involving coaches. Any disputes related to play time or other coach issues need to be provided in writing and handling will be led by the Director of Coaches.

## **CURRENT APPROVED COACHES**

**It is the goal of BYSO to field coaches willing to train and improve as coaches and willing to display the same qualities of teamwork and sportsmanlike behavior as we expect of the players.**

**Final season coaching roster maintained by the Coach Coordinator. BYSO has zero obligation to assign a person as a coach just because they submit a volunteer form. All coach applications are received and processed prior to the start of season. Coaches with approval and completed background checks receive written notification from BYSO. Any application received after the close of a season's registration period requires the applicant to provide a written notice to BYSO at [soccer@banderayouthsoccer.org](mailto:soccer@banderayouthsoccer.org)**

***Bandera Youth Soccer Organization***  
**Coach Code of Conduct**

The Board of Directors, of the Bandera Youth Soccer Organization, are concerned about the conduct of all coaches and referees during games and practices at all levels. We want to ensure that interaction with the children, parents, and volunteers involved in the program are fair, positive, and enjoyable experiences. To clarify expectations of coach conduct, we expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct (The term 'Coach' shall include but is not limited to Director of Coaching, Head Coach, Assistant Coach(s), and Team Representative).

**I. Responsibilities to Players:**

1. Coaches must take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of each youth.
2. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or by being forced to play while injured. Coaches must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players.
3. Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws and within the spirit of the game at all times.
4. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.
5. Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from their players regardless of the situation. If a player is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, remove the player from the game or practice and explain that his or her behavior is unacceptable. The player must change the behavior before being allowed to return to the game or practice.
6. Coaches should be a positive role model and set the standard for sportsmanship.
7. Coaches should keep sport in proper perspective with a player's academic education, the demands on a player's time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress.
8. Coaches should continue their own education in the sport in order to be able to educate the players in technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of the game for their level.
9. Coaches should never condone the use of any drugs, alcoholic beverages or any other undesirable activity.
10. Coaches should not provide compensation or inducement to a player.

**II. Responsibilities to BYSO:**

1. Adherence by coaches to all BYSO rules and policies are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of every coach to know and understand these rules.
2. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the Director of Coaches of BYSO.
3. Coaches must report to BYSO any possible violation of the policies of the program, as well as whatever action has been taken.
4. Coaches must ensure the cleanliness of facilities upon completion of his or her activity.
5. Under no circumstances will a coach drop any youth from participation without the action first being approved by the BYSO Board of Directors. BYSO must be notified immediately if any player is temporarily suspended for any reason.
6. A coach should not represent himself or herself as an officer or spokesperson for BYSO to any group, committee or county agency without approval of the BYSO board.
7. A coach should not offer to any other group or organization the use of any BYSO equipment or facilities without approval of BYSO.

**III. Responsibilities to Officials**

1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players, and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game.

2. Officials should be treated with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as 'Referee' and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach, or player.

3. Comments regarding an official should be reported to a BYSO board member.

4. Referees, especially young and inexperienced ones, are like players and coaches, in that they need time to develop. Coaches can play an important role in helping them to improve by allowing them to concentrate on the game. Coaches should help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes, and by offering constructive post-game comments.

#### **IV. Responsibilities of Game Day**

1. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer. Coaches are also responsible to ensure that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws at their level.

2. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude towards players, officials, spectators, opposing players, and coaches. Verbal abuse or physical assault of any kind will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

3. Coaches should be an example of dignity, patience, and positive spirit before, during, and after the game.

4. Before a game coaches should introduce themselves to the referee and the opposing team's coach.

5. During a game coaches are responsible for the conduct of the player's parents. It is imperative that the coach issue a copy of the parent code of conduct prior to the start of the season.

6. While the game is in play coaches shall not address the referee at all (Except to call a time out). Only the flag line men may address the referee to inform him/her of a missed call.

7. Complaints or comments regarding a referee should be reported to the Director of Referees.

The BYSO Board of Directors has the right to conduct hearings pertaining to coach conduct, with the involved parties having the right to be present, on alleged violations of the BYSO Coaches Code of Conduct when properly submitted in writing.

I understand that if I fail to comply with the expectations described above, I will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension. Furthermore, I understand that if my actions are in violation of the law, the BYSO Board of Directors is obliged to immediately notify proper authorities.

## ***Bandera Youth Soccer Organization***

### **Player Code of Conduct**

*All players must read and agree to the following code of conduct before participating in Bandera Youth Soccer. The parent must read to or with the player, and proceeding with registration indicates an agreement by the player and parent to follow these rules.*

1. I will always do my best to follow the rules and play safely.
2. I will do my best to be a good sport, win or lose.
3. I promise not to argue with my teammate, coach, or referee.
4. I promise not to use profanity (swear, foul language) at games or practices.
5. I understand that my coach's decisions are final, and I will accept my coach's decision as a team player.
6. I promise to respect my opponents (other teams). I will do my best to be positive and help make soccer fun.
7. I understand that if I fail to live up to these expectations, my coach, or the BYSO Board of Directors, may remove me from a practice or game and that it is possible that I could lose the privilege of playing Bandera Youth

### **Zero Tolerance**

BYSO enforces a Zero Tolerance Policy regarding behaviors, comments, and actions that endanger or threaten the environment of good sportsmanship and safe play for all soccer participants. These include, but are not limited to the following: Use of language, criticism, abusive or derogatory comments towards referees, players, coaches, team managers, volunteers, commissioners, parents, board members, or any other individual interference with referees, coaches, team managers, or opposing teams.

Important: BYSO actively enforces this policy. All complaints about the above actions will be assessed and dealt with immediately. Individuals violating any aspect of the policy will face an inquiry to determine the facts of any incident, which will be reviewed by the relevant Program Director and BYSO Board Members. Inquiries may lead to disciplinary action, be immediately dismissed from Bandera Sports Complex, maybe permanently banned for the remainder of the season, and/or from the league. BYSO will notify law enforcement officials regarding circumstances involving physical altercations and/or assault or battery of any players, referees, coaches, or parents regardless of the claimed purpose or age of the offender(s).



## **Parent Code of Conduct**

All parents must read the following agreement before their child is allowed to participate in Bandera Youth Soccer. Proceeding with registration indicates their agreement to the following rules.

***As the parent of a Bandera Youth Soccer Organization soccer player, I hereby agree to the following:***

1. I will not force my child to participate in soccer
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I, and my guests, will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators at every game, practice, and other BYSO events.
5. I, and my guests, will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent.
6. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
7. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflict appropriately.
8. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
9. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning.
10. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard.
11. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
12. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all events related to the BYSO.
13. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practice unless I am one of the coaches of the team.
14. My child will remain on the team that he/she was drafted to unless the BYSO board members have approved the move to another team.
15. I will not contact the BYSO Board without first contacting my assigned coach or Coach Coordinator using their preferred means of communication.
16. I will not seat directly behind the soccer goals to view the game since it could be a distraction to players and hinder referees from performing their job.
17. I will not seat on the coaches/team side of the field to view the game.
18. I, and my guest must seat across from the players beaches to watch the game.
19. I will be responsible for picking up and throwing away my trash after the viewing of each game.
20. I will drive the speed limit of 15 miles per hour as I enter and exit Bandera Sports Complex.
21. I will not bring my pet from home. Only Service Animals are allowed into Bandera Sports Complex.

## **HIGH RISK PLAYER POLICIES**

### **SLIDE TACKLE**

\*Slide tackling is not authorized for U11 and below. It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure the players understand this rule. Violations can result in an indirect kick for the opposing team at the location of the foul. Additionally, up to an immediate red card for the player in violation is allowed. Severity of punishment will be determined by the referee. First violation by a single player may result in a caution (yellow card). Any further violations would result in a red card. **SLIDE TACKLING AND SLIDE KICKING ARE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT. COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE TO TEACH THE DIFFERENCE, AND TO TEACH THAT UNSAFE SLIDE KICKS CAN AND WILL BE PENALIZED.** U15 Slide Tackle Rules are addressed under the U15 section of this rule book.

### **HEADERS**

\*Heading (Headers) are not allowed in U6 and U8 age groups.

Intentional headers will result in play being stopped and the player being verbally warned. The opposing team being will be given an indirect kick from the location of the header (for U8), or a throw in (u6). Warnings will be given for all headers, there is no increasing penalty.

### **GOALIE SAFETY**

- **Goalie safety is paramount.** Once the goalie has possession of the ball, defined as two points of contact on the ball, opposing players may not attempt to loosen the ball from the goalie's grasp. Dangerous play is a Red Card potential offense in soccer. It is at the discretion of the Referee if an event transpired where the goalie did not yet have full contact, but the players actions remained dangerous. Play can and will be stopped to protect the goalie.
- If a dangerous play happens, or the safety of the goalie is in question, the referee must immediately stop the play and discuss the rule with the offending player (U8) before deciding on a reset.
- First dangerous play on a goalie violation will result in a caution (yellow card), though based on severity and intent higher punishment may be used. Any further violations will result in a red card (U11 & U15). If a goal results from such a play, the goal will be called back, and the play will result in an indirect kick for the defensive team.

## **BYSO NON-INCLUSIVE SAFETY POLICY**

It is the Policy of BYSO to attempt to always have personnel trained in providing emergency medical treatment and evaluations on the fields for the duration of Game Play. BYSO medical representative's evaluations of a player's ability to safely return to a playing status are final. No outside persons have the ability to override a BYSO medical representative. Referees will work with coaches to form the best resolution possible if no medical persons are available. Player safety is the primary concern- not playing time.

BYSO maintains the right for either a Board designated Safety Representative or a Referee to deem a player injured based on observed physical or emotional reactions. If such a determination is observed, regular injured player stoppage will occur.

In the event of an injured player, **BYSO requires the player to raise a hand, take a knee or remain laying on the ground in order for an injury stoppage to be called.** If a player remains in motion, it is the policy of BYSO that the player is not injured seriously, and the ball remains in play. Any coach or parent who enters the field at this point will be penalized by the referee in accordance with BYSO rules.

- If the player follows injured protocol, or is deemed injured, the referee will immediately stop the game and allow the coach onto the field, along with Safety personnel. The player will be evaluated to determine if it is safe to continue to play. Players with injuries not affecting their ability to walk, may take themselves off of the field for evaluation, allowing a replacement to be brought on and the game to continue.
- Until the Referee, and Safety (when available) make contact with the injured player, no parents or coaches are allowed physical contact with the player. This is a non-negotiable policy to protect the player. Parents and coaches cannot be allowed to treat/move or otherwise intervene with the established BYSO evaluation process.
- While doing everything to avoid physical contact with a parent or outside provider, Coaches, Referees and Safety persons should ensure that such contact is avoided until the player is deemed safe to move. Any player able to stand unassisted may exit the field on their own and receive care. They must be cleared by the referee to re-enter the field; it is at the referee's discretion if Safety or higher medical must evaluate to continue play.
- If the Coach attempts to enter the field or signal parents before the referee signals an injured player stoppage, the Referee will follow procedures for unauthorized entry. If any such infraction occurs, the Director of Games and Referees will be notified.
- If an injury occurs requiring assisted removal from the field, the player must be evaluated by a designated BYSO Safety Representative. If none are on site, both coaches and the referee will work together to determine safety of the player in returning to the field. Great concern and restriction on returning to play must be given to things such as: head/neck injuries, twists with swelling, any complaints of difficulty breathing, sting reactions, etc...

**Players who get blood on their uniform may not return to play with the contaminated uniform during the present game.** After proper washing and drying, the uniform may be used in subsequent weeks. If during a week with multiple games, and the uniform is cleaned, BYSO Safety Representatives may inspect the uniform to determine if it is able to be put back into play. Players with bleeding, not on a uniform, may be removed as an injured player and bandaged before returning to play.

If the injury continues to bleed outside of the bandage, the player will be removed again. If a uniform is exposed to other types of bodily fluids- the uniform may be washed off and presented for reentry inspection.

- ***Anytime there is an issue with uniforms related to fluids, and a coach wishes to switch uniforms- this is allowed. However, any switches (including using the Coach Jersey) must be reported to the referee before entry onto the field to ensure proper tracking.***

While rare, certain injuries do fall into the realm of which BYSO maintains a right to non-return a player to a playing status for the remainder of the game/day. Careful evaluations will be made of injuries, but all actions must be taken in the best interest of the player. If the injury is severe enough, BYSO will require a physician's clearance of the player to return to practice or games. BYSO will ensure that families are properly notified of any such decisions.

Because BYSO remains fully insured, to include an accident policy, BYSO will work to ensure no injured player, unsafe for regular car transport, leaves the field without a higher evaluation by Bandera County EMS and is released or transported by Ambulance if necessary. Financials will be handled after the incident is settled, the player's safety must come first.

## **BYSO LEAGUE RULES OF THE GAME**

BYSO follows International Football Association Board (IFAB) laws for all fields of play. Per IFAB laws, the following rules supersede IFAB laws for the age group they are specified for. All Referees are trained to utilize the following rules, then IFAB. IFAB Laws, and other game information can be found online at: [www.theifab.com/laws](http://www.theifab.com/laws)

**PLAY REQUIREMENTS:** BYSO is a recreational league, as such all players who attend at least the Team's primary practice each week are required to play at least 50% of that weekend's game (INCLUDES TOURNAMENT). If practice is not attended, the player may play at the coach's discretion though coaches are encouraged to ensure all players receive at least some playing time. Continued absences should be reported to the board for monitoring and follow up.

A player who is injured or has no desire to play is exempt from the 50% requirement. Any other reasons for not playing the coach must notify the League so the matter may be reviewed, and action taken. Refusing to play a player for 50% of the game is a violation of this policy and not in keeping with the Coach's Code of Conduct.

**Referee:** The league will schedule and provide a referee for all games. Only league referees will be used for official games. All fields will be staffed with the maximum number of available referees. Any issues with the selection or number of referees must be reported to the Director of Games and Referees before kick-off or the complaint is mute. A score card will be completed by the referee for all games played within BYSO. BYSO referees will submit all scores cards to the appointed board official to record. This card will at minimum, contain the following:

- Division, date, game time
- Team names and final score
- Signature of both Coaches at the completion of the match

**Scores:** Scores will be reported by the referee AND both coaches after a game. *All three signatures must be present on the official scoresheet for the score to be valid for standings.* Games ending in a tie during the regular season will be counted as a tie.

**Subs:** Substitutions will be made throughout the game. Substitutions can ONLY be made when the substituting team has possession of the ball (i.e., your own throw-ins or kicks). If a stoppage occurs as a result of an injury, only the injured player can, and MUST, be substituted. Excessive substitutions may be denied, and play does not resume until replaced players are off the field.

**Equipment:** All players will wear shin guards which are commercially produced and specifically designed to provide protection to the shins. Shin guards must be worn properly: under socks, not on top. Soccer cleats are required. Turf style cleats are permitted. Specifically, baseball and football cleats with toe cleat are not permitted in soccer.

**\*All BYSO teams are responsible for keeping the team area clean following the completion of the game, this includes removing ALL trash, water bottles, chairs, and closing canopies if last game of the day.**

**\*\*Games may be cancelled due to inclement weather; Coaches will be contacted and will be required to notify individual teams. Make up games may be scheduled during weekdays to accommodate all teams.**

## **U6 Division**

**Size of Team:** Minimum number of players is 4, Maximum numbers of players is 7 per team.

**Number of players:** 4 per side of the field.

Teams may field 3 players if only 3 players are present. The other team need not reduce the number of players fielded to match the opposing team. Failure to field a team on game day results in a forfeiture of the match.

**Length of Game:** The game shall be divided into four (6) minute quarters. There shall be 3-minute break between quarters one and two and another 3-minute break between quarters three and four.

(4 x 6-minute quarters with a 3-minute break- maximum of 5 minutes between quarters if agreed between both coaches.)

**Ball Size:** 3

**Referee:** The league will provide a Referee when available. If no referee is available, then both coaches will work together to referee the game. One coach from each team may be on the field at all times. If the coaches are Refereeing the game, then each coach will assume referee control of one half of the field. **If a referee is present, Coaches will stay off the field.**

**Substitutions:** Substitutions will be made throughout the game. Substitutions can ONLY be made when the substituting team has possession of the ball (i.e., your own throw-ins or kicks). If a stoppage occurs as a result of an injury, only the injured player can, and MUST, be substituted. Excessive substitutions may be denied, and play does not resume until replaced players are off the field.

**Goalkeeper:** There will be no goalkeeper. In this division the coaches should encourage all players to be out in the field. If a player will not leave the goal area they should be encouraged to stay 5-6 feet in front of the goal box. **A defender positioned outside of the goal box is allowed and is not considered a goalkeeper. No player in U6 can use their hands at any time during play.**

### **Restarting play:**

When a ball exits the field of play along the touch line (sideline), the ball will be thrown in at the point it left the field of play. When the offensive team kicks the ball out of the field of play across the goal line, the defensive team will throw the ball in at the point where the goal box meets the goal line. When the defensive team kicks the ball out of the field of play across the goal line, the offensive team will throw the ball in where the touch line (sideline) meets the goal line (i.e., at the corner). At no time will the offensive team throw the ball in along the offensive goal line.

**Offside:** There shall be no off-sides.

**Throw--ins:** While executing a throw in, the player must have both feet off the field of play or on the line. A violation occurs when at least one foot is fully on the field of play. Both feet must remain on the ground while executing a throw in. This age group is considered a learning period. The players in this age group are playing soccer for the first or second year and if throw-in violations occur, the coach who is refereeing shall stop play, explain to the player what happened and allow another throw-in (by the same player). Multiple attempts will be granted to the thrower without a change in possession in the interest of learning the game.

\*The ball will be returned to play by an indirect kick taken from the touchline where the ball exited the field of play. **A goal may not be scored directly from an indirect kick for either team.** If the player taking the throw-in (kick) touches the ball again before it has touched another player a throw-in (kick) is awarded to the opposing team (subject to one re-try as noted above).

**Kick-offs:** Kickoffs can go forward or backwards. A goal may not be scored directly from a kick-off for either team. If the player taking the kick-off touches the ball again before it has touched another player an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team.

**Changing Sides:** In an effort to simplify things for U6 and its newer players, no changes will be made in regard to direction of travel at the Quarter Breaks.

### **U8 Division**

**Size of Team:** Minimum number of players 7, Maximum number of players is 10 per team.

**Number of players:** 6 field players + a goalie (maximum). Teams may field as few as two players (plus a goalie) if only three players are present. The opposing team need not reduce the number of players fielded to match the other team. Failure to field a team on game day results in a forfeiture of the match.

**Length of Game:** The game shall be divided into 2 (20) minute halves. There shall be a max of 10-minute break between half time. 3-minute hydration break between the first and second half. (2 x 20-minute halves. 10 minutes between halves.)

**Ball size:** 3

### **U11 Division**

**Size of Team:** Minimum number of players 9, Maximum number of players is 14 per team.

**Number of players:** 8 field players + a goalie (maximum)- based on registration numbers, the league may utilize smaller fielding numbers to better balance teams. Teams may field as few as 4 players (plus a goalie) if only 5 players are present. The opposing team need not reduce the number of players fielded to match the other team. Failure to field a team on game day results in a forfeiture of the match.

**Length of Game:** The game shall be divided into 2 (25) minute halves. There shall be a max of 10-minute break between half time. 3-minute hydration break between the first and second half. (2 x 25-minute halves. 10 minutes between halves)

**Ball Size:** 4

### **U15 Division**

**Size of Team:** Minimum number of players 11, Maximum number of players is 14 per team.

**Number of players:** 10 field players + a goalie (maximum). The league may approve a lower number of players to field based on registration numbers and best team building practices. Any variations will

be provided to all coaches. Teams may field as few as 6 players (plus a goalie) if only 7 players are present. **Teams will field a maximum of 1 less player to match teams missing players at the start of the game.**

**Length of Game:** The game shall be divided into 2 (35) minute halves. There shall be a max of 10-minute break between half time. 3-minute hydration break between the first and second half. (2 x 35-minute halves. 10 minutes between halves.)

**Ball size:** 5

However, given that BYSO is a recreational league, it is encouraged that teams play fairly balanced games. Failure to field a team on game day results in a forfeiture of the match. As soon as a missing player arrives, the team playing down may correct.

**Slide Tackles:** Slide Tackles are allowed in the U15 division. **Coaches are responsible for teaching safe slide tackle practices, implementation, and situational awareness.** Coaches unable to teach slide tackles must notify the league so that proper training can be scheduled. Please note that dangerous slide tackles can result in punishment as severe as an immediate Red Card with send-off.

### LEAGUE WIDE

**Send-Offs:** Send-offs can occur with both players and coaches and automatically include the remainder of the current game. Additional send-off time is defined below.

**Player send-offs** have no automatic loss of playing time, beyond the remainder of the game. At the end of the game, the Referee will review the offense with the Director of Referees and Games. Things including, but not limited to, player history of offense(s), severity of offense and response to send-off will be used to determine the appropriate amount of time the player may not return. In the event it is believed more than a (1) game suspension is needed, the matter must be presented to the board for a closed meeting to be held with the player's parents and coach before a board vote is conducted on the extended no-play status.

**Coach send offs** can vary in length, but as a matter of consistency and to avoid Conflict of Interest matters that arise with some coaches and the board, the following are some pre-set guidelines related to send offs:

-Following (2) yellow cards for offenses such as Dissent, Unauthorized Entry or Unsportsmanlike Conduct a Coach will be sent off for the remainder of the game. A send off by Yellow Card Accumulation will carry through the remainder of the day. Following the conclusion of the day's games the Board will review the matter for further action.

-Following the showing of a Red Card for offenses such as Spitting, Violent Contact, or Foul/Offensive/Abusive Language a coach will immediately be sent-off from the fields. These send-offs carry a one-week penalty attached- meaning the coach may not return the following week, to include tournament. Any appeal to the Board on the no-return policy must be submitted in writing within (24) hours. A second, same-season, offense will trigger an automatic closed board meeting to discuss removal of the affected coach.

**Kick- Offs:** Only two players from the kicking team will be present in the center circle during kick



offs. The first player to touch the ball may NOT touch the ball again until a second player has touched the ball. For age groups U11 and U15, goals MAY be scored directly off a kick-off. For age groups U8 and U6 goals MAY NOT be scored directly off a kick-off.

**Corner Kicks:** The ball must be placed on and kicked from one of the border lines of the corner arc or fully inside the corner arc. Corner kicks are treated as direct kicks and a goal MAY be scored directly from the kick. The kicker may not touch the ball a second time until another player has touched the ball. The opposing team must remain at least 10 yards away from the corner prior to the initial touch of the ball. Neither players nor fans may touch, bend, move, or remove the corner flag during the kick.

**Goal Kicks:** The ball must be placed at any point along the goal area box line prior to the kick. The ball can be placed at any location along this line. The location the ball was sent out of play by the offensive team has no bearing on the location of the placement of the ball. Goal kicks are treated as indirect kicks and goals MAY NOT be scored directly from the kick. The ball does not need to leave the box to be considered in play.

**Throw--ins:** Goals CANNOT be scored directly from a throw-in. Once given the ball, players have 6 seconds to throw the ball in. While executing a throw-in, the player must have both feet off the field of play or on the line. A violation occurs when at least one foot is fully on the field of play. Both feet must remain on the ground and the ball must be thrown completely overhead (no twisting or side motion while executing a throw in. No warnings will be given for the U11 and U15 age groups. Players in the U8 age group are still learning so, if a throw-in violation occurs, the referee shall: stop play and explain the infraction to the player and allow another throw-in (by the same player). If a second violation occurs on the same throw--in, a third will NOT be granted. The team will lose possession and the opposing team will throw the ball in from the same location. Players from the non- throwing team must remain at least six (6) feet from the thrower.

**Game scheduling:** Games will not be rescheduled without the written consent of the Governing Board. Scheduling a referee with the referee coordinator to play a game at an unscheduled time does not constitute officially rescheduling a game. If a team is not present, does not have the minimum number of players to field a team (see above), or at least one of the two official coaches (head or assistant) is not present, the game will be forfeit. (Family/personal schedules preventing the team or either of the coaches from being at an official game is NOT a legitimate reason to reschedule a game). Start times for games will not be delayed due to not having enough players or a coach. If there are not enough players for a team at the scheduled game time, the game will be forfeit.

**Run Away Games:** Should a team lead their opponent by 3 or more goals, the losing team will be permitted, at their sole discretion, to increase the number of players by one "additional player" per point scored in excess of a 2-point differential. Should the differential decrease, "additional players" must be removed from the field to cause the number of "additional players" to always be equal to or less than the (score of the winning team minus the score of the losing team) minus two.

"Additional" Players may fill any position on the field except that of Goalkeeper.

Example:

Team A is winning 3-1 over Team B. The score differential is 2 points.

Team A scores (4-1). The differential is now 3 points, and Team B may add an "additional player" if they choose.

Team A scores again (5-1). The differential is now 4 points, and Team B may now have up to 2 "additional players" on the field.

Team B scores (5-2). The differential is now 3 points. Team B may now only have 1 "additional player" on the field.

Team B scores again (5-3). The differential is now 2 points. Team B must remove any remaining "additional players" from the field.

**Referee:** The league will schedule and provide a referee for all games. Only league referees will be used for official games.

**Equipment:**

1. *Shin guards* will be required at all times and must be UNDER the socks.
2. All jewelry (including earrings) must be removed prior to the start of play. Tape to cover earrings is not an acceptable alternative. Medical tags, if secure, are allowed.
3. Socks must match the color of the jersey or be black and be over the top of the shin guards.

**Coaches:**

- Only 3 registered coaches per team will be allowed to be on the player's side of the field.
- No additional coaching is allowed to be conducted from the spectator side of the field. Any parent attempting to coach or direct players will be asked to stop, told to stop, then ejected from the game.
- Any coach on the player side of the field must have submitted to a background check within the last 1 year.
- Sideline participation is limited to positive, instructional, and encouraging comments.
- Assist the referee in ensuring that spectators and team members abstain from making negative comments and complaints about officiating. Should an incident requiring action occur- ask, tell and eject will be followed and the Director of Games and Referees will be notified.
- Coaches are only authorized between the center line and their own penalty box. Coaches are not authorized between the forward edge of the penalty box and the end line.

**Video Recording:**

No video reviews of plays will be conducted. This is due to the fact that games are not recorded in their entirety and calls are not evenly reviewed by electronic means. As such, selective video reviews will not be made.

### **Spring 2023 Bandera Youth Soccer Player Draft System**

1. The BYSO Draft Committee will be staffed by at least 3 Board Members, led by the Vice President or President in the Vice President's absence.
2. The intent is to allow our veteran coaches, players and their families to remain together in small numbers that help foster relationships, but do not allow team domination to occur. New coaches do face a partial imbalance their first season, but time and time again the new coaches have held their own.
3. Prior to any draft process, the Draft Committee will review the prior season and a placeholder will be given to each prior season team. The placeholder may be used in the same age bracket draft, or be moved up (1) age bracket. It can never go down or split between the original division and a partial move up to a higher division.
4. The Head Coach has preference for the placeholder, but if he does not return the Assistant Coach may use the placeholder. If the Assistant Coach does not return the head coach may nominate a new coach to use the placeholder. The purpose here is to help some of the teams and their players grow together as they prepare for school leagues.
5. All Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches, new or returning, are entitled to (1) of their OWN children automatically on draft day. If a coach has more than (1) child, each additional does count against the returning players. The Draft Committee will review all claimed children to ensure appropriately placed before draft.
6. All U6/U8 chip holders may turn in their chip at an arranged time (1) day before draft and select (2) players that were on their previous team. U11 and U15 may pick (3) players from the previous team also at an arranged time. If a Coach coached (2) age brackets (i.e. u11 and u15) the previous season, on his older bracket he may use one of his previous season picks on a child that is moving up brackets.
7. All pre assigned kids will be removed from the draft roster prior to draft day. At the start of the draft, a copy of draft rules, a copy of the Coach Code of Conduct, and the Draft Availability will be provided. All siblings will be identified on the roster. Any special bulk pick requests will go through the board for approval, prior to the draft. Any matters not covered in these rules will be settled by the Draft Committee, not the masses.
8. All coaches will be given a time, date and location to meet for their appropriate bracket. Each coach receives a lottery number that results in their order of participation. At the draft, coaches are guaranteed only their own child and their assistant coach's child (in addition to placeholder kids). The draft will continue until all players are picked. Coaches have 48 hours to notify each player of their assigned team.

**Spring 2023 - Bandera Youth Soccer Player Draft System**  
**U6 Division**

1. The BYSO Draft Committee will be staffed by at least 3 Board members, led by the Vice President or President in the Vice President's absence.
2. The intent is to allow our veteran coaches, players and their families to remain together in small numbers that help foster relationships, but do not allow team domination to occur. New coaches do face a partial imbalance in their first season, but repeatedly the new coaches have held their own.
3. Prior to any draft process, the Draft Committee will review the prior season and a placeholder will be given to each prior season team. The placeholder may be used in the same age bracket draft or be moved up (1) age bracket. It can never go down or split between the original division and a partial move up to a higher division.
4. The Head Coach has preference for the placeholder, but if he does not return the Assistant Coach may use the placeholder. If the Assistant Coach does not return the Head Coach may nominate a new Head Coach to use the placeholder.
5. All Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches, new or returning, are entitled to (1) of their OWN children automatically on draft day. If a coach has more than (1) child, each additional does count against the returning players. The Draft Committee will review all claimed children to ensure they are appropriately placed before draft.
6. All U6 chip holders may turn in their chips at an arranged time (1) day before the Draft and select (2) players that were on their previous team. Coaches moving up divisions or coaching multiple divisions may pick players from a lower division to play on their higher division team.
7. Coach Requests will be honored at the start of the Draft. Each Coach, as it is their turn to pick, has first right to coach requests. Once a Coach begins to pick from the draft pool, any remaining Coach Requests for that Coach drop into the draft pool. Any player trades between Coaches must be completed before the last player is selected. **Coaches will have a max of three minutes to pick from the draft pool.**
8. At the start of the Draft, a copy of Draft Rules, a copy of the Coach Code of Conduct, and the Draft Availability will be provided. All siblings/go-together players will be identified on the Roster. Any special bulk pick requests will go through the Board for approval, prior to the draft. Any matters not covered in these rules will be settled by the Draft Committee, not the masses.
9. All Coaches will be given a time, date, and location to meet for their appropriate bracket. Each Coach receives a lottery number that results in their order of participation. At the draft, Coaches are guaranteed only their own child/children and their Assistant Coach's child/children (in addition to placeholder kids.) The draft will continue until all players are picked. Coaches have 48 hours to notify each player of their assigned team. U6 will use a snake method for picking players – I.E., 4, 3, 2, 1, 1, 2, 3, 4 until roster is exhausted.

## *Spring 2023- Bandera Youth Soccer Player Draft System*

### U8/U11/U15 Division

1. The BYSO Draft Committee will be staffed by at least 3 Board members, led by the Vice President or President in the Vice President's absence.
2. The intent is to allow our veteran coaches, players and their families to remain together in small numbers that help foster relationships, but do not allow team domination to occur. New coaches do face a partial imbalance in their first season, but repeatedly the new coaches have held their own.
3. Prior to any draft process, the Draft Committee will review the prior season and a placeholder will be given to each prior season team. The placeholder may be used in the same age bracket draft or be moved up (1) age bracket. It can never go down or split between the original division and a partial move up to a higher division.
4. The Head Coach has preference for the placeholder, but if he does not return the Assistant Coach may use the placeholder. If the Assistant Coach does not return the Head Coach may nominate a new Head Coach to use the placeholder.
5. All Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches, new or returning, are entitled to (1) of their OWN children automatically on draft day. If a coach has more than (1) child, each additional does count against the returning players. The Draft Committee will review all claimed children to ensure they are appropriately placed before draft.
6. All U8/U11/U15 Coaches may pick from (0) to any/all returning players from their previous season team. Any non-picked players return to the draft pool. Coaches moving up divisions or coaching multiple divisions may pick players from a lower division to play on their higher division team.
7. Coach Requests will be honored at the start of the Draft. Each Coach, as it is their turn to pick, has first right to coach requests. Once a Coach begins to pick from the draft pool, any remaining Coach Requests for that Coach drop into the draft pool. Any player trades between Coaches must be completed before the last player is selected. **Coaches will have a max of three minutes to pick from the draft pool.**
8. At the start of the Draft, a copy of Draft Rules, a copy of the Coach Code of Conduct, and the Draft Availability will be provided. All siblings/go-together players will be identified on the Roster. Any special bulk pick requests will go through the Board for approval, prior to the draft. Any matters not covered in these rules will be settled by the Draft Committee, not the masses.
9. All Coaches will be given a time, date, and location to meet for their appropriate bracket. Players will be picked by Coaches starting with the last place Coach of the previous season. I.E., 4<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> and repeating, this will not be a snake pick. If there is a new Coach, that Coach will assume last place, if there are 2 new Coaches a coin toss will decide last place. At the draft, Coaches are guaranteed only their own child/children and their Assistant Coach's child/children (in addition to placeholder kids.) Coaches have 48 hours to notify each player of their assigned team.

## **BYSO WEATHER INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

#1. **OVERALL-** Decisions related to inclement weather, saturation and unsafe field conditions must be carefully made and all changes monitored in order to best protect the players as well as other individuals in attendance. Because there are multiple sites used for practice, **BYSO will only make weather decisions related to practices and games at the Bandera Sports Complex.** Coaches are entrusted to keep player safety in mind, remembering there are always other times for practice. Practices, Gamedays and Tournaments will all be defined below, standards set, and the number of Board Members required for voting on cancellation.

#2. **WEEKDAYS-** In the event of inclement weather or extreme saturation of the fields during weekdays, the Director of Safety will have responsibility or may appoint responsibility to check on and/or monitor the conditions at the field. BYSO reserves the right to cancel any practices for any reason. This includes inclement/unsafe weather as well as saturation or unsafe field conditions. Cancellations on weekdays will be made and announced by the single Board Member inspecting the fields. **Notifications will be sent to all coaches.** Cancellation rights include not only future practices but ongoing practices as well. Effort will always be made to notify as far in advance as possible.

#3. **SEASON GAMES-** On game days, BYSO maintains a right to cancel games at any time if the fields become unsafe to play on or become excessively saturated and pose a risk of irreversible damage. The Director of Safety, or another Board Member designated by the Director of Safety, will be responsible for inspecting all fields prior to the start of any games. If there is a concern with the fields preventing safe play, all present board members will be part of the discussion and cancellation vote, with at least 3 votes required.

3.1 If games have already begun and inclement weather begins, it will be monitored. **Rain is not a sole reason for stopping games or cancellation.** Excessive saturation of the fields or lightning observed visually or on a live tracking app within 10 miles will cause a stoppage of games. All persons will immediately move to cover, as best as possible. Weather conditions will continue to be monitored in 15-minute increments. BYSO reserves the right to immediately end games if the weather becomes too unsafe for the shelter that is available. If after 15 minutes there has been no further lightning, games may resume. For every strike detected within the 10-mile radius, the 15-minute timer is reset. If 30 minutes have elapsed without a break in lighting beginning, the board will vote on whether to cancel or continue the hold.

3.2 Upon a vote for cancellation the following conditions apply:

- #1. Any game at halftime or beyond is considered final. Games not at halftime may be considered final if mutually decided on by both coaches.
- #2. Any games not yet at the halfway mark will be considered unfinished and will be resumed at a time/date to be determined. The game will continue where it was paused, with scores remaining.
- #3. Any games later in the day are not automatically canceled by the current game cancellation. The board will review weather forecasts and make a determination of whether to continue games that day.
- #4. BYSO reserves the right to void any finalized game scores from the day of a partial cancellation if BYSO is unable to reach a fair resolution for the remainder of the games. This would only be done to protect the balance of the standings.

#4. **TOURNAMENT:** On tournament days, BYSO maintains a right to cancel games at any time if the fields become unsafe to play on or become excessively saturated and pose a risk of irreversible damage. The Director of Safety, or another Board Member designated by the Director of Safety, will be responsible for inspecting all fields prior to the start of any games. If there is a concern with the fields preventing safe play, all present board members will be part of the discussion and cancellation vote, with

at least 3 votes required.

4.1. If games have already begun and inclement weather begins, it will be monitored. Rain is not a sole reason for stopping games or cancellation. Excessive saturation of the fields or lightning observed visually or on a live tracking app within 10 miles will cause a stoppage of games with an immediate movement of all players and families to cover, as best as possible. Weather conditions will continue to be monitored in 15-minute increments. BYSO reserves the right to immediately end games if the weather becomes too unsafe for the shelter that is available. If after 15 minutes there has been no further lightning, games may resume. For every strike detected within the 10-mile radius, the 15 minute timer is reset. If 30 minutes have elapsed without a break in lightning beginning, the board will vote on whether to cancel or continue the hold.

4.2. Upon a vote for cancellation the following conditions apply:

- #1. Any game at halftime or beyond is considered final. Games not at halftime may be considered final if mutually decided on by both coaches.
- #2. The Board, if voting to cancel, may elect to postpone all games up to 2 hours to allow inclement weather to pass and the tournament to continue.
- #3. No makeup tournament is allotted for. Should a cancellation be called before a division's final game is at least halfway complete, then the Regular Season's Standing Placement will apply.

In the event of a cancellation decision being made at regular or tournament games, in which a Board Member is a part of the Coaching Staff (of a game in progress), that Board Member will abstain from participating in the voting process.

### **Heat Index Recommendations**

\*Up to 84 Degrees- Normal Play

\*85 – 89 Degrees – Normal Play

\*90 – 99 Degrees – **Games:** Water breaks and shortened half times per league rules. **Practice:** Increased water breaks and potentially shorten practice time.

\*100 - 104 Degrees – **Games:** Mandatory two -minute water break per half with running time. Each half shortened per league rules. **Practice:** Increased water breaks and potentially shorten practice time.

\*105 Degrees – Suspend Play / Cancel Practice

### **Cold Index Recommendations**

\*45 and higher – No Change

\*45 and lower – Additional Clothing: (Layered beneath uniform) Long sleeves, long pants, additional socks, gloves or mittens, sweatpants or shirts – In games in the case of extremely cold weather, may be worn underneath the uniform and jackets may be worn under the uniform so that referees can see the player's numbers in the event of a card being issued.

\*40 and lower-Additional clothing as stated above and shorten practice.

\*35 and lower – Suspend games/ Practice

## **Practice Schedule**

All coaches will adhere to the following practice schedule unless they present for approval an alternate practice plan. Alternate plans must accommodate for the geographic location and ability to attend a practice not hosted under BYSO guidelines.

- All BYSO teams will conduct (1) primary practice each week. The practice will take place between Monday and Thursday and all practices will begin at 5:00 pm on the BYSO Soccer Fields. U6 and U8 are limited to (1) hour practices. U11 and U15 may practice up to (1.5) hours if no skills supplements are scheduled. Teams may schedule (1) offsite skills practice, no more than (1) hour in length with no mandate for attendance.
- Some teams may have a field that is shared for practice. BYSO is aware of our limited access to prepared fields and is trying our hardest to accommodate daylight issues, working families, multiplayer families and ensuring players can train on a properly prepared field. Any teams sharing a time will split the field at the center line. Teams are allowed to scrimmage; this is a recreational league and working together can improve the experience for our players. ***Any team unwilling to share a field can discuss alternate plans with the Board.***



## **REFEREES**

The Director of Referees and Games will handle all hiring, training, and scheduling of Referees. **Referees are not required to be certified by the USSF.** However, a Referee with a Current USSF Certification will receive a minimum additional \$5 per game. All starting pay is \$20. After a successful display of confidence and game understanding, a referee may be raised \$5 per game, not to exceed \$35 in base pay per game for only certified referees.

U6 Referees starting pay is \$20.

U6 Certified Head Referee pay is \$25 per game.

U8, U11, U15 Referee starting pay is \$20.

Certified Referee pay is \$25 per game.

Certified Head Referee pay is \$35 maximum.

\*Referees with extensive experience may negotiate salaries, consistent with regional industry rates with BYSO Board approval.

Each field will be listed below with the assigned number of referees.

- U6: 1 Referee when available, Coaches work together if no Referee present.
- U8: 2 Referee.
- U11: 3 Referees.
- U15: 2 Referees Minimum, up to 3.

## **VOLUNTEER REBATE/REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES**

Seasonal Volunteers- Seasonal Volunteers sign up for a specific season and provide no assistance to the league outside of regular Soccer Seasons. As part of being a seasonal volunteer, individuals are asked to register for their position, complete a no-cost background check and provide postseason feedback to the board to help improve future seasons. Completion of seasonal duties means the volunteer will be offered a \$30 reimbursement in the form of a check mailed to the coach once they confirm their desire to receive it.

Annual Volunteers- Annual Volunteers are elected Board Members serving in an annual capacity, or volunteers who routinely assist the board outside of the soccer season. Annual volunteers are entitled to \$40 reimbursement per season in the form of a check mailed to the individual once they confirm their desire to receive it.

Families with multiple lines of involvement may receive discounts for each family member involved, but discounts may not be stacked. A maximum of one discount is allowed per registered player.