

Spencer Soccer Club: By-Laws

200.1 GENERAL GUIDELINES

The SSC shall provide at least a SPRING and a FALL program.

The SPRING program shall be primarily a TRAVELING program. Teams will be fielded as coaches, fields and equipment allow. All attempts will be made to accommodate all players who have signed up. If it is not possible to accommodate all the players who have signed up, some selection process will be used to select the final teams. The goal of the SPRING program will be to STRATIFY the levels of competition. Teams will then be placed in leagues for play at appropriate levels of competition.

The FALL program shall be an IN-TOWN DEVELOPMENT program. Teams will be fielded as coaches, fields and equipment allow. All attempts will be made to accommodate all players who have signed up. The goal of the FALL program will be PLAYER AND COACH DEVELOPMENT. This will be done through the use of small sided games and an atmosphere of training.

200.2 SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

In addition to the General Guidelines described above, some additional guidelines are appropriate to help in the administration and direction for the SSC programs.

200.2.1. Provide for all-girl teams playing in all-girl divisions beginning with the UIO age level.

200.2.2. Where unable to comply with the general guidelines, seek other opportunities for play.

200.2.3. The SSC Executive Board is responsible for the final design and execution of Soccer Programs throughout the year. Any matters of policy or direction shall be their responsibility.

200.2.4. In an attempt to foster better communications throughout the SPENCER SOCCER CLUB, a quarterly newsletter will be published and sent to all households or recorded on the SSC player database.

200.3 REGISTRATION

Adults and players shall register yearly with SSC and pay registration and participation fees. SSC may set registration deadline dates for both the SPRING and FALL seasons. If the deadline has passed, adults and players will be accommodated according to the Late Registration procedure. Adults shall be listed on an MYSA adult registration form. Players shall fill out a MYSA/USYSA Membership Form or approved alternative form and shall verify their date of birth with an acceptable form of documentation, such as a Birth Certificate.

200.3.1 TEAM PLACEMENT

The Board will determine Travel teams division placement in January for the Spring season and July for the Fall season.

200.4 LATE REGISTRATION

Adults and players who do not register before registration deadlines shall be registered and placed on a time ordered Late Registration Waiting List. Every attempt will be made to place adults and players in SSC's soccer program. Adult and player placement shall be determined by the Executive Board. In the *event* it is not possible to place adults or players from the Late Registration Waiting list, SSC will investigate the possibility of placement with a neighboring soccer organization.

200.5 FEES

Member outstanding payables must be paid before the second game of each season. If no payment is made then the member will not play or practice with the team until payment is made. Any scholarship requests must be made by the

start date of the season by the player in writing to the President or Director of Registration. The Board of Directors will review extenuating circumstances for scholarship requests after the start date of the season on a case-by-case basis.

200.6 AGE GROUPING

Players shall be grouped per USYSA guidelines.

200.7 ROSTERS

All rosters shall be governed by the SSC.

For the SPRING/YEAR playing season, the maximum size for a team is 18. Three roster changes may be made during the player year under MYSA and USYSSA deadlines and guidelines. ALL roster changes must be communicated to the Registrar. If we have more than 18 players trying out we must take the maximum number of 18. For the FALL/YEAR playing season, the only roster restriction is that a maximum number of players is limited to 22.

200.8 BALL SIZES

Under 19 -	size 5
Under 16 -	size 5
Under 14-	size 5
Under 12 -	size 4
Under 10-	size 4
Under 8 -	size 3

200.9 UNIFORMS

Players shall wear uniforms selected by the board.

200.10 REFEREE SUPPORT

The coaches shall provide support to the referees at all times.

200.11 EJECTION

If a player or a coach is ejected from the game by a referee, they will not be allowed to play/coach in the next game by his/her team. This applies to all games including Championship games.

200.12 FRACAS

If a player or a coach is involved in a fracas, they will not be allowed to play/coach in the next game played by his/her team. In addition, the Board will hold a special meeting/hearing to decide if any other further action is appropriate.

200.13 UNBECOMING CONDUCT

Player, coach, or referee behavior that is judged unbecoming or inappropriate shall be referred to the Board for review and action.

200.14 PROTESTS/GRIEVANCE

200.14.1. Protests must be entered within two days after the match. Any protest will be referred to the Grievance Committee for review and decision. The Committee will be chaired by the Vice-President and must have at least two other members chosen by the Vice-President. The decision of the committee will be final.

200.14.2. Other Grievances. In the event a parent feels their child is not being treated fairly by the coach in the program, the following procedure is recommended. Talk with the coach and try to resolve the differences.

If not satisfied, contact the Vice-President who will follow up with the coach and report back to the parents within

one (1) week. The Vice-President will also inform the full board at the next Board meeting. If the Vice-President deems it necessary, they can convene the Board to resolve the situation.

200.14.3. Complaints against active coaches/players of the SSC must be presented to the Vice-President in writing before administrative action will be taken by the Board.

Section 200.15 PLAYING TIME

U10 (Division 1, 2, 3) and U12 and up Division 3 Travel Teams: The club considers these grouping to be recreational in nature and encourages playing time to be based on commitment and attendance. Playing time, expectations, and team policies shall be set by the coaching staff for fall and spring league play.

U12, U14, 16 & 18 (Div 1 and 2) Travel Teams: The club considers these grouping to be competitive in nature. Playing time, expectations and team policies shall be set by the coaching staff for fall and spring league play. Equal playing time is not guaranteed. Players chosen to play for competitive teams have the option to opt out and play for a recreational team if one exists in that gender and age group. Requests to opt out of competitive play must be made in writing (email acceptable) to the Vice President of Player and Coach Development or the President. The Coach, if assigned at the time the request is made, shall be copied in the notification.

Commitment and Attendance Exceptions: The club has adopted MYSA Player Priority Guidelines, from their By-Laws (Section 342. Priority Guide for Multiple Rostered Players) for players with commitments to higher level of play. Junior High School and High School teams will be viewed as a Division 1 premier team. Players following the MYSA guidelines should not be penalized for missing practices, games or tournaments.

If a Player or Parent is concerned that Section 201.15 is not being upheld they should seek the following options to address the situation:

1. Talking to the Coach of this concern
2. Contact the Vice President of Player and Coach Development
3. Bring to the SSC Board

200.16 PARTICIPATION

Players are expected to participate in practice and games. Parents are expected to participate by insuring their children are on time and picked up for both practices and games that they have their equipment with them. If a player cannot be present for a scheduled game or practice, the coach should be notified in advance. Parents should support the coach, help maintain discipline, and promote good sportsmanship. If problems should arise that cannot be mutually resolved, they shall be brought to and resolved by the Board.

200.17 COACHES

Team coaches, assistant coaches and team managers shall be seasonally approved by the Board. Coaches for SPRING and FALL shall be appointed by the Vice President of Player and Coach Development, subject to approval from the Board of Directors.

200.18 COACH EXPECTATIONS

200.18.1. Promote good sportsmanship.

200.18.2. Promote good soccer through the development of ball and game skills.

200.18.3. Be present for practice and games and schedule at least one practice per week.

200.18.4. Develop potential coaching talents of others.

200.18.5. Coaches will be held accountable for any fine issued by MAYS for breaking the goal differential ruling. The coach will pay the fine but has the option to appeal to the Spencer Soccer Board at the next scheduled Board Meeting

MAYS APPEALS - The charged coach or coaches shall address their request for appeal to the Spencer Soccer Club MAYS League Representative, the SSC President and the SSC Senior Vice President. The situation will be reviewed by the 3 member board with a 2-1 approval needed to support the appeal to MAYS.

200.18.6. To not tolerate unsportsmanlike behavior by coaches, players, or spectators.

200.18.7. Encourage for all U-6 and U-8 and travel team coaches to be licensed per Vice President of Player and Coach Development.

200.19 COACHES' DUTIES

200.19.1. Maintain rosters, attendance records and player ratings.

200.19.2. Provide a list of potential candidates for voting and non-members of the Board.

200.19.3. Notify their Division Director of game results.

200.20 RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS AND WAIVER POLICY

200.20.1 A player is eligible to play for a SSC team if he/she meets any one of the following criteria:

1. The player resides in the town(s) served by the SSC. Spencer and East Brookfield
2. The player resides outside of the SSC area but has applied in writing to the League President for permission to play for SSC and has written permission to leave from their respective Club President. The waiver must be received by the League Board of Directors before the first game in which the player participates. If the waiver is not received prior to the player's first game, any games in which the player participated may be subject to forfeiture.

200.20.2 If the SSC does not offer play in the player's gender/age group during the season under consideration, or does not have an open slot in the player's gender/age group, SSC will approve a waiver and grant written permission for the player to join a non-home town team, pending league approval. Waiver approvals may also be granted for the following:

1. If the player did not participate in Spencer Soccer In-Town Youth Programs (U4-U8)
2. SSC Board of Directors majority vote. Players must submit requests for BOD vote in writing. The BOD will review the request at the next BOD meeting and determine if an extenuating circumstance exists. Only extenuating circumstances will be placed to a vote, this will be conducted at the next subsequent BOD meeting.

200.21 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP REFUND POLICY

A full refund date will be set by the Club for each season and communicated to the Club on the Club's website. Members requesting a refund prior to this date will receive a refund for full registration fees. Late fees incurred will not be refunded. Uniform fees will be returned only if the club has not purchased the player's uniform. Uniforms already purchased will be distributed to the player.

Returning members requesting refunds after the full refund date will receive a partial refund based on the expenses incurred on behalf of the member by the Club at the time of the refund request.

200.21.1 CALCULATION

This calculation will be conducted annually and set by the BOD before the Fall Season at the July or August BOD meetings.

Administrative Expense will be determined by the BOD. Below is a listing of suggested expenses.

1. Mass Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) Insurance Fee per player
2. Portion of Midland Area Youth Soccer League (MAYS) or other league the club is affiliated with. Calculated by dividing the number of players roster for a specific gender/age grouping by the MAYS fees associated with that age
3. Club overhead (general administration cost) - Calculated below:

$$\frac{(\text{Administrative Expense less Fundraising Income})}{\text{Annual Club Membership Number}}$$

200.21.2 EXCEPTIONS TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP REFUND POLICY

First time members of the Club will receive a full registration refund if the refund is requested within two weeks after the player's first game.

Refunds requested by a member with a season ending injury during will be pro-rated based on the remaining schedule less the season overhead and insurance fees

If the Club determines that a team within a specific age group/gender will not be able to complete due to lack of participants or any other reason deemed necessary by the Club a full refund of registration fees, uniform fees, and late fees paid will be granted to these members. However, if a member of said team requests a refund prior to the board decision to remove the team from league play the said member will be subject to the SSC General Membership Refund Policy.

200.20 ADOPTION AND REVISION DATES

These bylaws were adopted on . They were accepted and revised on July 10th, 2012, July 31st, 2013.