

ROYAL OAK YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Premier Operating Rules

(Effective Spring 2017)

As used in these Operating rules, "ROYSA" means the Royal Oak Youth Soccer Association. "Board" means the Board of the Royal Oak Youth Soccer Association, including elected members, officers, officials, and division managers. References to the male gender in these operating rules in respect to players, coaches, officials and referees are for simplification and apply to both males and females. References to Parent(s) refer to the Adult person(s) legally responsible for the child without presumption of their relationship.

Article 1. – Rules and Regulations

Section 1. - ROYSA shall enforce and abide by the bylaws, rules, and regulations set forth by Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA), the Michigan State Premier Soccer Program (MSPSP), Michigan Youth Soccer League (MYSL) and any other affiliated soccer league that a Royal Oak team may belong.

Section 2. –The Rules, Regulations and Policies of ROYSA will be in accordance with those set forth by MSYSA, MSPSP, MYSL, and ROYSA’s operating rules. Additional rules and regulations will apply upon approval of the Board in accordance with ROYSA bylaws.

Section 3. – It is the responsibility of any Board member, Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager, Treasurer, Tournament Coordinator, and Player to know and understand and apply the Rules and Regulations set forth by ROYSA, MSYSA, MYSL and MSPSP. Any person who violates any of these rules and policies, including any codes of conduct, could be brought before the Board for disciplinary action, which can include permanent or temporary suspension from games, practices and events.

Section 4. –ROYSA shall appoint a Premier Committee consistent with its bylaws that shall meet regularly (with the Premier Division Manager and Director of Coaching if not on said Committee) to govern the Premier Program and make recommendations to the board to implement action consistent these rules where said action is not authorized.

Section 5. – The Premier Committee, Premier Division Manager and the Director of Coaching shall cooperate and work together in the implementation and enforcement of these rules.

Article 2 – Coach Selection and Evaluation

Section 1. – Coaches serve at the pleasure of ROYSA. Coaching in one year does not guarantee selection the following year.

Section 2. – Coaches must make a one-year commitment.

Section 3. –. The Premier Committee (and the Premier Division Manager and Director of Coaching if not on said Committee) will oversee the selection process. In the event of a conflict of interest, the affected member of the Premier Committee will recuse himself for selection of coach for any position said member is applying for.

Section 4. – The Premier Committee shall select the most qualified individual for each position.

Section 5. – The Premier Division Manager, the Committee and/or the Director of Coaching or his/her designee shall oversee, evaluate and by the end of each year make an independent determination whether all coaches remain the most qualified to coach any such team. In making such determination the Premier Division Manager, the Committee and/or the Director of Coaching or his/her designee shall review and consider the evaluations from all parents as submitted in addition to his/her evaluation and any other relevant information consistent with these rules.

Section 6. – Each year the Committee shall review all evaluations and may require a meeting or meetings with any coach.

Section 7. – If at any time during a season any coach is removed or otherwise unable to continue as coach the Premier Committee, Director of Coaching and Premier Division may appoint an individual deemed qualified consistent with these rules.

Section 8. – The Premier Committee may delegate all hiring decisions or recommendations to the DOC.

Article 3 – Player Selection

Section 1. – Each division will hold tryouts annually, scheduled with the Premier Division Manager and in accordance to MSYSA and MSPSP rules and regulations. The tryouts will consist of at least two tryout periods on two different days. All coaches approved by the Board should be present for the tryouts of all players that may be selected.

Section 2. - At tryouts or before ROYSA shall provide to all players and/or parents a team and player commitment overview outlining time commitment and cost estimates.

Section 3. - Player recruitment must be in accordance with MYSL, MSYSA and MSPSP rules and regulations.

Section 4. – Selection one year does not guarantee selection the following year.

Section 5. – Selection criteria will be based primarily on soccer skill level. Other criteria include attitude, athleticism, coachability, and behavior.

Section 6. – Tryouts and player selection will be supervised by the Premier Committee, Premier Division Manager, Director of Coaching, and/or their designees.

Section 7. – All players trying out shall sign such tryout registration and waiver of liability forms at the beginning of the tryout ROYSA requires. Any player who fails to appear at tryouts shall not be eligible to be placed on a team unless approved by the Premier Committee. There shall be no individual tryouts for any player(s) unless such tryout has been approved by the Premier Division Manager and Director of Coaching

Section 8. – Within 2 days of the last tryout, the coach will inform all tryout participants in a nonpublic manner (for example, by phone, email, letter or private discussion) whether they have made the team. The coach will contact those who made the team first in case a selected player declines. A list of ranked players must be submitted to the Premier Committee including all players on the team(s) and the identity of the last five (5) players who did not make the team in order of the highest ranked player to not make the team.

Section 9. - U-14 or younger age groups must make a one-year commitment: U-19 through U-15 players must make a one-season commitment.

Section 10. – A player may play “up” above their age level provided placement on said team’s roster complies with Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA), the Michigan State Premier Soccer Program (MSPSP), Michigan Youth Soccer League (MYSL) and any other affiliated soccer league that a ROYSA team may participate in.

Section 11. - A player may request a release from or transfer to a ROYSA team. Said release or transfer must be approved and be in accordance with the rules of Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA), the Michigan State Premier Soccer Program (MSPSP), Michigan Youth Soccer League (MYSL) and any other affiliated soccer league that a Royal Oak team may belong.

Section 12. – In the event of player loss, or other valid reason approved by the Premier Committee, a coach may add player(s). Any such action changing any team roster shall be in accordance with the rules of Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA), the Michigan State Premier Soccer Program (MSPSP), Michigan Youth Soccer League (MYSL) and any other affiliated soccer league that a Royal Oak team may belong. Any such change to a roster must be approved by the Premier Division Manager and the Director of Coaching.

Article 4-Teams

Section 1. - Teams will be formed from those who have gone through the Player Selection process. Acceptance in one year does not mean that a player is automatically accepted in the next year. Placement on a team is determined by ROYSA, the Premier Division manager or their designee with the input of the tryout evaluators and coaches.

Section 2. - When the number and quality of both players and coaches is sufficient the Premier Division Manager, Director of Coaching and/or their designee, shall form teams per age and gender. In cases where no qualified coach has stepped forward the Premier Division Manager and Director of Coaching may appoint a coach with board approval.

Section 3. - If there are two teams per gender at each age level the teams must work with each other to coordinate training and player development and promote movement between teams when required to best serve the Premier Program.

Section 4. - In the U8 through U19 ages teams may be formed into an “A” (Green), “B” (White), and “C” (Black) team if the division manager and ROYSA feel that enough qualified players and coaches are available.

Section 5. - In all age groups, combined age group teams may be formed to help promote player development if there are not enough players to make a single age group team.

Section 6.- Club Pass Cards may be used as long as teams follow the rules of the leagues that they participate in.

Section 7.-Roster sizes are to be within the allowance of the leagues that the teams participate in.

Section 8.- Underage players may play up if their skills and physical abilities allow them to.

Section 9.- Players may be added after tryouts if the coach has the approval of the Director of Coaching and the Premier Division Manager. When adding players they are not to be offered a spot until the approval of the Premier Division Manager and Director of Coaching has been granted.

Section 10.- All teams shall have coaches as directed by the Premier Committee, Premier Division Manager and/or the Director of Coaching.

Article 5 – Player Registration

Section 1. – Player registration will be in accordance to ROYSA, MYSL, MSYSA, and MSPSP rules and regulations, and guidelines.

Section 2. – A player may dual register to play on two teams. Premier players are not allowed to play on a ROYSA house team except in U- 19 division. The player’s primary commitment is to be the premier team.

Article 6 –ROYSA

Section 1. –ROYSA requires all teams to wear the approved Premier uniforms; shirt, shorts and matching socks, training jerseys and such other clothing as ROYSA requires. Any uniforms purchased with ROYSA funds remain the property of ROYSA and must be returned (replaced) on request.

Section 2. –ROYSA may pay the entry fee to one or more tournaments per season as set by the Board of Directors. Proof must be provided of attendance or the team will be required to reimburse ROYSA.

Section 3. –ROYSA may provide an amount approved by the Board of Directors per season to pay coaches. All training costs beyond any amounts provided by ROYSA shall be the responsibility of the team.

Section 4. ROYSA provides and maintains home fields and shall take all steps necessary to provide fields for training of Premier Teams.

Section 5. –ROYSA pays required referee fees. Fees not used must be returned to ROYSA at the end of the season.

Section 6. – All ROYSA checks will be issued in the team name, tournament name, coach’s or team manager’s name at the treasurer’s discretion.

Section 7. – The premier teams operate solely at the discretion of ROYSA and the Board.

Article 7 – Coach’s Responsibilities and Sanctions

The Head Coach or his designee will be responsible for the following:

- A. All team operations. The coach is expected to delegate team operations wherever possible to adult volunteers but it is the coach’s responsibility to ensure that the tasks have been completed.
- B. Conduct try-outs consistent with these rules as directed by the Premier Operating Rules, the Premier Committee, the Premier Division Manager and the Director of Coaching.

- C. Conduct themselves with integrity, professionalism, honesty and sportsmanship in fulfilling all duties in their interaction with players, coaches, parents and other individuals in the tryout process, coaching and other related duties.
- D. Respect and dignify each athlete as an individual
- E. Create an environment that encourages each athlete to reach his potential.
- F. Promote the safety of each athlete, including remaining at the field, game, or practice until each player has been picked up or left in the manner he came.
- G. Complete a written evaluation at the end of each season for each player. One copy will be given to the player and one copy will be given to the Director of Coaching.
- H. Attend all Premier Division Meetings, ROYSA Meetings, State Meetings, coaching clinics and ROYSA events as required.
- I. Attend scheduling meetings as needed.
- J. Be a model of appropriate behavior and language at all times.
- K. Communicate your expectations often with players and parents.
- L. The development of their players.
- M. Conduct a pre-season meeting with the parents and players to discuss the following:
 - a. Dates, times, and site of practices;
 - b. Rules and regulations concerning player and parent behavior at practices and games;
 - c. Consequences for tardiness, missing games or practice, yellow cards and red cards, behavior during practices and games;
 - d. Recruitment of adult volunteers;
 - e. Direct every parent to the location of the Premier Operating Rules;
- N. Attend any training or orientation programs as directed by the Premier Committee, Premier Division Manager and/or Director of Coaching
- O. All coaches shall abide by all ROYSA rules and defer to the growth and development goals of the individual players and the Premier program by demonstrating candor and good faith in the execution of their duties as coach.
- P. Appear before the Board, Premier Division Manager, Director of Coaching and/or otherwise directed upon receipt of a written complaint for failing to abide by these rules (in spirit or otherwise). Any coach who shall commit any act in violation of said rules, their independent contractor agreement or otherwise exhibit conduct determined not in the best interests of ROYSA may be sanctioned by way of warning, reprimand, suspension, removal or other appropriate sanction.
- Q. Fulfill all contracted requirements as per individual contract.

Article 8. – Player responsibilities

Section 1. – It is a privilege to play on a ROYSA Premier team. Each player is expected to put forth his greatest effort, cooperating with coaches and teammates, and at all times behave in a sportsmanlike manner.

Section 2. – Each player is expected to attend and be on time to practices and games, be prepared to play and wearing the appropriate equipment. If a player is unable to attend a practice or game it is the player's responsibility to inform his coach in a timely manner. Failure to participate as expected will affect team placement the following year or may affect playing time.

Section 3. – Game time is guaranteed for each player who meets his player responsibilities consistent with ROYSA operating rules; however, the amount of game time beyond that is at the coach's discretion.

Section 4. – Players are expected to play the field position the coach assigns.

Section 5. – Each player is expected to approach the coach at practices and NOT at games regarding any questions or issues that arise regarding play time, position, or otherwise.

Section 6. – A coach may dismiss a player from his team for un-sportsmanlike conduct or for other disciplinary reasons, after first warning the player and his parents in writing of possible dismissal, and informing and discussing the situation with the Premier Division Manager and/or the Director of Coaching. Under these circumstances a player can be removed with Board approval.

Article 9. – Parent Responsibilities

Section 1. – Parents of Premier players are responsible for creating a supportive environment for players and coaches.

Section 2. – There may be costs such as uniforms, warm-ups, bags, tournament fees, trainer fees, and hotel and food expenses, and others involved in Premier soccer that are not covered by ROYSA's registration fees. The parents are responsible to see that these costs are paid. Registration fees are payable in the fall for the entire year or pursuant to a payment plan adopted by ROYSA. Failure to pay may result in suspension, termination and collection actions.

Section 3. – Parents need to ensure that the players arrive at practices and games on time and prepared to play.

Section 4. – Parents and guests are expected to give positive encouragement to all players.

Section 5. – Parents and guests are to refrain from making any coaching comments or negative statements of any kind during a game. Comments and concerns should be addressed to the coach either by phone or at a non-competitive, such as practice, situation in a private setting away from players, parents and other individuals.

Section 6. – Physical or verbal abuse of referees, coaches, players or the opposing team's fans, players and coaches will not be tolerated. The offending parent or guest may be asked to leave the field. Offenses (or other violations of the rules or codes of conduct) may result in barring the parent from the soccer field or its vicinity during some or all games and practices and ROYSA events.

Section 7. – Parents are expected to volunteer to assist the team operation as able.

Section 8. – Parents may complete an anonymous Coach Evaluation Form (to be provided) at the end of each season to be returned to the Director of Coaching

Article 10 – Team Manager

A Team Manager should be filled prior to your first meeting. This person is responsible to assist in the completion of paperwork: Proof of Age, Permission to Travel, Player Photo, Medical Waiver, Registrations, and Official Roster. The team manager may be asked to organize a phone tree, create a parent roster with addresses, e-mails and cell-phone numbers, and distribute game schedule and snack schedule. These tasks may be divided among a number of individuals.

Fundraising

a. Teams must get Board approval for any fundraising activities to pay for any fees associated with a ROYSA paid season prior to the activity. Board's approval of future fundraising activities may be based on past use of funds.

b. Any fundraising must have a specific purpose.

c. Funds from any of ROYSA approved fundraisers cannot be raised for Indoor fees.

d. A player cannot be required to participate in fundraising for normal team expenses. Either they participate to offset some of their individual costs or they pay their share of the costs.

e. In certain circumstances, such as fundraising for major tournaments, with parent consent, monies raised can become team money rather than individual player money. These funds must be distributed equally among team members and coaches participating in the event for which the money was raised regardless of their participation in the fundraising.

f. Funds not used for their intended purpose must be explained to the Board and the Board will determine distribution of funds.

(Approved February 2017)