The goals and objectives of Southwestern Youth Association (SYA) House/Recreation/Travel Games shall be for both teams to have an enjoyable experience. It shall be your job as the Coach to meet these goals and objectives by setting the correct examples of good sportsmanship by showing respect and honor for the authority of the Referee’s calls, and also - being positive with all remarks and actions towards the opposing team’s players, coaches, parents as well as your own team. SYA requires its players, coaches, parents, and spectators to adhere and follow the SYA Code of Conduct, which is available at www.syasoccer.org for viewing and downloading a copy. SYA encourages positive cheering and good sportsmanship at all times.

**SPECIAL NOTE: A TRAVEL PLAYER, WHETHER LISTED AS A PLAYER ON THE ROSTER OF A SYA OR OTHER CLUB’S TRAVEL SOCCER TEAM CANNOT PLAY ON A SYA RECREATIONAL SOCCER TEAM.**

1. Each game shall be under the authority of a Referee for SYA House, Recreation, and Travel Games of U9-U19 SYA Games. All Referees shall be currently certified by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and shall be assigned to the games by the SYA Soccer Referee Assignor or other designated NCSL, ODSL, or WAGS Certified Soccer Referee Assignor.

(a) For U5-U8 SYA House/Recreation Games, the Game Facilitator is responsible to conduct the game in a timely fashion so as to promote the completion and conduct of the game, and to increase the players’ knowledge, enjoyment, and participation by both teams.

(b) For U9-U19 SYA House/Recreation Games, the authority of the Referee shall commence from the moment he/she enters the field of play and end when the players have left the field at the end of the game. The Referee shall exercise all the powers and responsibilities as set forth in the Laws of the Game. **ALL REFEREE DECISIONS ARE FINAL!** The Referee shall try to briefly explain the reason for any infraction to the
offending player, provided it shall not delay or interfere with the game. 

THERE SHALL BE NO PROTESTS OF REFEREE DECISIONS!

2. THERE SHALL BE NO DISSENT OF ANY KIND (I. E., NO TAUNTING, DEMEANING, DEGRADING, REJECTING, HARRASSING, HECKLING, INTIMIDATING, CRITICIZING, CRITIQUEING, RUDE, NEGATIVE, OR DEROGATORY WORDS, REMARKS, GESTURES, SIGNS, BANNERS, OR ACTIONS) TOWARDS THE REFEREE AND ASSISTANT REFEREES FOR THE REFEREE’S DECISIONS FROM ANY COACH, MEMBER OF COACHING STAFF, PARENT, OR SPECTATOR.

POSITIVE CHEERING AND REMARKS SHALL ALWAYS BE WELCOME!

REMEMBER THAT JUST LIKE A PLAYER ON THE FIELD, A REFEREE MAY ALSO MAKE A MISTAKE. THE REFEREES ARE FROM OUR SYA FAMILY – OUR TEENS, OUR RELATIVES, OUR FRIENDS – ALWAYS PRACTICE THE GOLDEN RULE OF TREATING THEM THE WAY THAT YOU WOULD WANT YOUR FAMILY MEMBER TREATED AT SOMEONE ELSE’S GAME!

SPECIAL NOTE: IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT A REFEREE’S CALLS, PLEASE SUBMIT THEM IN WRITING WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE GAME DATE TO YOUR CHILD’S COACH, AGE GROUP COORDINATOR, AND AGE GROUP COMMISSIONER. EMAIL IS PREFERED FOR YOUR COMMUNICATION.

a. For U5 – U8 SYA House Games: For any dissent towards the Game Facilitator, these reports shall be submitted in writing within 24 hours of the game to the respective Age Coordinator, Recreation Commissioner, SYA Director of Operations and Coaching, and SYA Soccer Commissioner.

b. For U9 – U14 SYA Recreation Games: For any dissent as described in Number 1 on Page 1, the Coach or Acting Coach of that team shall be shown a YELLOW CARD.

If there is a second dissent, the Coach or Acting Coach shall receive a 2nd Yellow Card, which now equals a RED CARD. Upon receiving the RED
CARD, the Coach or Acting Coach shall leave immediately leave the soccer field and go to the parking lot for the duration of this game. The Coach shall not participate in any half-time or end-of-game activities on, near, or at the soccer field. If the Coach or Acting Coach refuses to leave the soccer field, the Referee shall immediately terminate the game and record the score as a forfeit with the recorded forfeited score of 3 to 0 for the other team.

See SYA Code of Conduct for the additional sanctions/penalties/etc. that shall be imposed on any SYA Coach receiving any YELLOW OR RED CARDS.

SPECIAL NOTE: If, in the opinion of the Referee, the behavior of the coach or the assistants is considered inappropriate either by action or word, or is detrimental to the orderly conduct of the game, the Referee is empowered under Law 5, to either caution or dismiss the coach or the assistants from the team area and the vicinity of the field of play, as appropriate. A prior warning is not necessary. Following directives of the US Youth Association/Virginia Youth Soccer Association, referees who take such action against coaches and assistant coaches shall display the appropriate color card (yellow for caution and red for dismissal) and the coach shall be informed as to the reasons for such action. In cases where coaches or assistant coaches are dismissed and the red card is shown, the game shall not be restarted until the offender has left the vicinity of the field. Coaches or team personnel or other team personnel, who are dismissed shall have no further contact with the team (players and substitutes) during the remainder of the game. The head coach shall be held responsible for the sideline behavior of the assistant coaches and the supporters of the team before, during, and immediately after the game, and if deemed appropriate, shall be cautioned and shown the yellow card for disorderly, inappropriate behavior, which is detrimental to the game.

c. For U16-U19 SYA/Suburban Friendship League: Coaches and Players are bound by the SYA Code of Conduct, Additional SYA Club Rules For U6-U19, and the Suburban Friendship League’s Rules for any instances of dissent towards the Referee, Assistant Referees, and Mentor.

In accordance with the Laws of the Game, players will be subject to receiving a yellow or red card for violations committed under the Laws of the Game. The Referee shall issue the yellow or red card to the offending player, and he/she shall leave the field in accordance with the Laws of the
Game, the Additional SYA Soccer Club Rules for their House/Recreation Games, and Suburban Friendship League Rules.

Additional sanctions/penalties/etc. as described in SYA Code of Conduct shall be imposed on the player who receives either a yellow or red card, and also to his/her coach for U9-U19. For U16-U19 teams, check Suburban Friendship League Rules for other additional sanctions, penalties, etc.

3. Each Coach shall be responsible for tracking his/her own and players’ penalty points totals assessed for yellow and/or red cards as stated in the SYA Code of Conduct. “The SYA Rules and Discipline Committee will not notify teams that an individual owes a disciplinary suspension for cumulative points, but it will impose penalties if the sit-outs are not served in accordance with SYA rules and procedures, Page 3 of SYA Code of Conduct”. (SYA Code of Conduct can be downloaded from www.syasoccer.org Failure of not reading the SYA Code of Conduct is not an acceptable excuse for any violations).

The SYA Vice Commissioner and/or SYA Director of Operations will notify via email and phone to the player, coach, age-coordinator, and age group commissioner at the beginning of each week for any red cards that were issued on the previous Saturday or Sunday games for which red card(s) were issued, and the required sanctions for receiving the red card(s). Game sit-outs shall be served as outlined in the SYA Code of Conduct. NOTE: Serving the required game sit-out is MANDATORY, irregardless of whether or not an appeal is planned or filed.

4. For SYA games, a line shall be drawn outside the field, parallel to and at least 2 yards from each touch line ending eighteen (18) yards from each goal line and shall be intersected by lines at each end at 90 degrees so as to create an open-sided box. NOTE: All non-players (i.e., spectators, parents, coaches, assistant coaches, and substitutes) are required to remain within these lines during the game to ensure safety of players and officials.

5. Each Coach shall be required to keep all non-players (i.e., coaches, assistant coaches, parents, spectators, players, coaching staff, substitutes, parents, spectators, equipment, and personal belongings of players and non-players are required to remain within these lines during the game to ensure safety of players and officials, and the orderly conduct of the game. The sidelines shall remain completely clear at all times to allow the Assistant
Referee to run the sidelines and for ensuring the safety of players and officials.

No Coach or Assistant Coach is or shall be allowed on the field (unless he/she has the Referee’s permission to enter for attending to an injured player) or within 18 yards of the goal line

Effective Fall 2007 Soccer Season: The coach of each SYA Soccer Team from U9 through U19 team is responsible for ensuring that all members of his/her team are dressed correctly in the SYA Soccer Team Uniform for each of their games before taking the field, and they have communicated this information to their team players and their parents. Parents are also responsible for ensuring their child(ren) are in compliance with these rules.

Once the Referee notices a player(s) uniform discrepancy, such as different colored or unmatching shirts, shorts, socks, etc. except for the goalkeeper, the referee will ask the coach and player(s) to change to match the rest of the team. This discrepancy can also be resolved if all members of the team wear the same colored pennie over their jersey so all members of the team are wearing the same color of shirt. The referee informs the coach and player(s) that these discrepancies will be included in the game report for appropriate league action. The coach and player(s) will provide their name and jersey number for the referee’s report, and the player with the discrepancy for the different colored or unmatching shirts, shorts, sock that is not playing as goalkeeper will be allowed to play in this game provided all requirements of Law 4 for Player’s Equipment as listed in each age group’s Laws of Game shall be met.

6. Referees shall record scores and other information for his/her record-keeping purposes for game management and the SYA Soccer Referee Assignor.

7. Final Scores and League Standings for U9-U14 SYA House Games may only be recorded and maintained by the Age-Coordinator and Commissioner for tournament seeding purposes. CLARIFICATIONS: Updated: March 6th, 2007: Team pictures may be published in local newspapers provided that only a team picture with names of coaches and players for the recognition of their team’s award. Final scores and league standings shall not be published in any form. For questions, please contact the appropriate SYA Commissioner for U5 through U8; U9 through U14; and U16-U19
depending on the specific age group from the SYA Board informational link on the SYA website of www.syasoccer.org

For U16-U19 Age Groups, follow the Suburban Friendship League’s rules for Final Scores and League Standings.

8. All games shall be played as scheduled for the game time and date for U9-U14 Age Group as listed on the respective Fall or Spring Schedule of Games, unless cancelled by SYA Soccer Commissioner. The U16-U19 SYA Teams with Suburban Friendship League shall follow the Suburban Friendship League’s rules for obtaining an advance approval for a cancellation or a re-scheduled game with 72 hours of advance notice being given to Suburban Friendship League and SYA Soccer Referee Assignor. This advance notice shall be received by Tuesday morning of each week for the next Saturday or Sunday games).

9. Suspensions or Terminations Of Games Due To Inclement Weather, Lightening, Thunderstorms, Rain, or Unsafe Field Conditions:

(a). Inclement Weather: In the event of inclement or storm weather, SYA will post any game cancellations or field closing on the SYA Website of www.syasoccer.org and Hot Line of 703-644-8046 as soon as the information is available. Everyone is encouraged to periodically check the SYA Website and SYA Weather hotline to determine if your game has been cancelled, postponed, or moved to different field location, or which game fields are closed. If a game site has multiple fields, message will indicate whether specific fields are open or closed or that entire game site is closed.

1(b). Lightning: In circumstances where lightening flashes are seen within the immediate vicinity of the soccer field, the Referee shall suspend the game and require all players, coaches, and spectators to leave the field and seek safe shelter. NOTE: ANY ONE THAT DOES NOT LEAVE THE FIELD AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS/HER PERSONAL DECISION!

The game shall not be restarted until 20 minutes after the last bolt of lightning has been seen in the vicinity of the soccer field, and provided the field is in a safe and playable condition. In the event that the game cannot

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1 The game official: Referee or Game Facilitator shall inform both coaches of the decision.
be restarted within the time scheduled for the play, the Referee shall terminate the game and record in the official game report the circumstances for such termination. Should one half (1/2) of a game be completed before such a termination, it shall be considered a completed game and the official score as of that time shall stand. (SYA will try to arrange for an approved make-up game for any regularly scheduled game for the Fall or Spring Soccer Season that was terminated by lightening if less than ½ of the game was played).

2 (c) THUNDER: In circumstances where thunder was heard within the immediate vicinity of the soccer field, the Referee shall suspend the game and require all players, coaches, and spectators to leave the field and seek safe shelter. NOTE: ANY ONE THAT DOES NOT LEAVE THE FIELD AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS/HER PERSONAL DECISION!

The game shall not be restarted until 20 minutes after the last sound of thunder was heard. Play may be restarted if the Referee determines that the playing conditions are safe enough provided this occurs within the scheduled time allocated for this game. If the game is suspended at halftime, or beyond, the game is considered complete and the score stands. If the game is terminated prior to halftime, SYA Soccer Program will try to arrange for an approved make-up game for any regular-scheduled game for the Fall or Spring Season that was terminated by thunder if less than ½ of the game was played.

3(d) Thunderstorms and Rain: Generally, rain alone shall not be a reason to suspend or terminate a game, unless it renders the field and playing conditions unsafe for play, (e.g. waterlogged field). Should rain occur during a game, the match will be allowed to continue to the point where playing conditions are considered by the Referee to be unsafe for the players. In these circumstances, the Referee shall advise both coaches about the playing condition and suspend the game. Play may be restarted if the Referee determines that the field’s playing conditions are safe enough, provided this occurs within the scheduled time allocated for the game. Should one half of a game of the game be played before the suspension, it shall be considered a

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2 The game official: Referee or Game Facilitator shall inform both coaches of the decision.
3 The game official: Referee or Game Facilitator shall inform both coaches of the decision.
completed game and the official score as of that time shall stand. (SYA Soccer Program will try to arrange for an approved make-up game for any regular-scheduled game for the Fall or Spring Soccer Season that was terminated by thunder or rain if less than ½ of the game was played).

4(d) Unsafe Playing Conditions: If the Referee determines that the game cannot be played due to field being unplayable: length of grass, inadequate lines, insufficient light, or other impediments. The Referee shall give the teams 15 minutes to correct these identified problems. If they cannot be corrected to restore the field to being playable, the Referee shall refuse to allow the game to be played.

NOTE: Individuals setting up the equipment for the game shall also inspect to ensure that the goal posts are securely anchored. They shall give the Referee advance notice of any known or suspected problems to facilitate the Referee’s inspection of the equipment.

SPECIAL NOTE: GOAL/GOAL POSTS SHALL BE ANCHORED/SECURED OR THE GAME/MATCH SHALL NOT START. NO EXCEPTIONS. (Updated: September 7th, 2007).

9. Only U5-U14 games that are cancelled by SYA or Suburban Friendship League for U16-U19 games due to inclement weather will be scheduled for approved make-up games, when possible. For U9-U19 games, referees will be assigned, when possible.

10. The SYA Soccer Referee Assignor shall be the only authorized person to schedule certified referees for a SYA approved make-up game for U9 through U19. SYA Soccer Program shall only be responsible for paying the referees for these approved make-up games only when assigned by the SYA Soccer Referee Assignor.

11. All requests for approved make-up games for U9-U19 shall be submitted to the SYA Soccer Referee Assignor on Sunday evening for the next week’s approved make-up game provided a minimum of one week’s advance notice has been provided to the SYA Soccer Referee Assignor. The U5-U8 House Commissioners shall submit all requests for approved make-up games for U5-U8 Teams on Monday mornings to the SYA Director of Operations.

4 The game official: Referee or Game Facilitator shall inform both coaches of the decision.
12. Any U5-U14 team(s) that is a NO SHOW for their game, the team(s) SHALL FORFEIT that game for the season that the NO SHOW occurs, and the forfeited game shall not be scheduled or played at any future date.

13. For any U16-U19 team that is a NO SHOW for an AWAY Game for Suburban Friendship League, these teams shall follow the Suburban Friendship League’s rules for a NO SHOW.

14. For any U16-U19 team that is a NO SHOW for a HOME GAME when it is a SYA vs SYA game, the team or teams shall forfeit that game.

15. It shall be the goal for each player to play approximately 50% of each game provided that the player has made practices, has exhibited a good attitude and willingness to learn, and is cooperative to the Coach and the Assistant Coach. It is the discretion of the Coach to determine the player’s field position and playing time on the field. Any problems with a player’s attitude, lack of interest, absences from practices and/or games, being late, only arriving at half-time on game days, etc. shall be communicated immediately to the Age Coordinator, Recreation Commissioner, SYA Director of Operations and the parents to work together to resolve these problems immediately.

SPECIAL NOTE: A goalkeeper for U9 through U12 SYA Recreational (Home) Soccer Games shall only play 50% of the game as a goalkeeper during the regular season’s game. Violations of this practice shall be reported by the coach in writing (EMAIL PREFERRED) within 24 hours of game’s completion to the respective age group coordinator. If validated, the game will result in a forfeited game for the offending team of 0 for this team and 3 goals for the other team. THIS RULE DOES NOT APPLY FOR END-OF-SEASON TOURNAMENT GAMES for the U10 through U12 teams.

Referees do not have any responsibility for this club rule.

16. Each player shall be expected to come to each practice, scrimmage, and game with a positive attitude for learning soccer, being a team player, and ready to take the field of play. All players shall be wearing the basic equipment to be eligible to play as outlined in Law 4 of the Laws of the
Game. **Players are responsible for their own attitudes! PLAYERS THAT WORK AS A TEAM ALWAYS WIN AS A TEAM, REGARDLESS OF THE SCORE OF THE GAME!**

17. For any requests for SYA to consider special needs of a player, the parents or legal guardians shall indicate on the player’s registration form each soccer season, and also complete the additional appropriate paperwork with the SYA Soccer Commissioner for requesting this special-needs player status for medical or mental conditions. SYA Soccer Commissioner will provide written notification for either the approval or disapproval to all pertinent parties before the first soccer game of each soccer season.

18. For any SYA approved special-needs player for SYA’s Recreation/House Teams of U5 through U14, the team of the special-needs player shall add a player whenever the special-needs player is on the field for a regular season or end-of-season tournament game for his/her respective SYA Recreation/House Teams. **(NOTES: (1) A team with a special-needs player shall only add 1 extra player on the field when the team has 1 or more special-needs player(s) on the field. (2) This is a SYA Club Rule that ONLY APPLIES to SYA games between SYA Recreation/House teams for U5 through U14 age groups.**

Use of a special-needs player to gain and maintain an advantage with the use of the extra player on the field, or playing this advantage for the entire game is not within the spirit of the game and is discouraged. In the event, a player is ejected from the game (i.e. red card), the player’s team shall play down a player. **(NOTE: ALL PLAYERS including Special-Needs Player for SYA Recreation/House Teams of U9 through U14 are subject to being shown cards for violations of the Laws of the Game by the Center Referee.**

19. Goal Differential Rules Apply For All Regular Scheduled Seasonal SYA House/Recreation Games for U9 to U12 for Fall or Spring Soccer Seasons.

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

**GOAL DIFFERENTIAL RULES APPLY FOR ALL U9-U12 SYA HOUSE/REC SOCCER TEAMS DURING THE REGULAR-SEASON GAMES FOR FALL AND SPRING SOCCER GAMES WHEN: ANY**
U9-U12 team reaches a FOUR (4) goal differential (i.e., 4-0, 5-1, 6-2, etc.), then the winning coach shall make the following changes until there is NOT a 4 goal differential in the score. The coach of the losing team has the option to add an extra player with the referee’s permission at the aforementioned substitution opportunities as listed under Part C of Law 3.

**SINCE THE TALENT ON THE TEAMS IS TO BE BALANCED, THERE SHOULD BE RARE GAMES WHERE THE SCORE HAS A FOUR (4) GAME GOAL DIFFERENTIAL FOR U9 THROUGH U12 GAMES.** There should be no games where there is a complete devastation of moral and positive sportsmanship. The game is for the players to have fun and play as a team. IT IS RESPONSIBILITY OF BOTH COACHES TO ENSURE THAT THE GAME IS A FUN EXPERIENCE.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP BUILDS CHARACTER AND PLAYING AS A TEAM EQUALS WINNING AS A TEAM REGARDLESS OF THE SCORE OF THE GAME!

1. **GOAL DIFFERENTIAL RULES DO NOT APPLY FOR THE END-OF-SEASON SYA HOUSE/RECREATION TOURNAMENT GAMES FOR FALL AND SPRING SOCCER SEASONS FOR THOSE TEAMS THAT PLAY END-OF-SEASON TOURNAMENT GAMES. (REFEREES DO NOT HAVE ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS CLUB RULE).**

2. **GOALKEEPER RESTRICTION FOR GOALKEEPER PLAYING ONLY 50% IN A REGULAR SEASON U9 THROUGH U12 SYA RECREATIONAL (HOUSE) SOCCER GAMES DO NOT APPLY FOR THE END-OF-SEASON SYA HOUSE/RECREATIONAL TOURNAMENT GAMES FOR FALL AND SPRING SOCCER SEASONS FOR THOSE SYA RECREATIONAL (HOUSE) TEAMS THAT ARE APPROVED FOR END-OF-SEASON TOURNAMENT GAMES. REFEREES DO NOT HAVE ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS CLUB RULE.**

3. **SYA SOCCER POLICY CLARIFICATION: A TRAVEL PLAYER, WHETHER LISTED AS A PLAYER ON THE ROSTER OF A SYA OR OTHER CLUB’S TRAVEL SOCCER TEAM CANNOT PLAY ON A SYA RECREATIONAL (HOUSE) SOCCER TEAM.**
4. NO GUEST PLAYER(s) ON ANY SYA RECREATIONAL (HOUSE) SOCCER TEAM.

5. SEVERAL AGE GROUPS DO NOT PLAY END-OF-SEASON TOURNAMENT GAMES AS THEY ARE SCHEDULED REGULAR-SEASON GAMES FOR THE FALL AND/OR SPRING SOCCER SEASON.

COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS, AND SPECTATORS SHALL BE ROLE MODELS FOR POSITIVE BEHAVIOR AND GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AT ALL TIMES!