

Rules and Regulations for Travel Teams of the Riverdale Soccer Club

(As Amended by the Board of Directors, November 21, 2008)

Statement of Travel Team Philosophy

As players from the Riverdale Soccer Club Recreation League become talented and skilled, desire a more competitive soccer environment, and become willing to commit greater time to training, the Riverdale Soccer Club Travel Team Program exists for them as a higher level athletic experience. The goal of the program is to provide such players a sufficiently high level of coaching and training so that they will be able to (a) meet their full potentials as soccer players; (b) achieve success as members of competitive and cohesive teams; and (c) build positive character traits and learn the principles of fair play and sportsmanship.

ARTICLE I – Registration, Transfer, and Release of Players

1. All teams that are members of the Club (hereafter referred to as "Club Team," "Club Teams," or "Team") shall play under the "Laws of the Game" as promulgated by the U.S.Y.S.A./U.S.S.F. The Club shall be affiliated with W.Y.S.L., U.S.Y.S.A., U.S.S.F. and various leagues and shall at all times recognize their authority, rulings and laws.

2. All Club Teams must have each player on the Team roster or a legally responsible party sign and forward to the registrar of the Club, a registration document approved for the purpose by the Board, which must be properly and completely filled out and shall contain the following statement or language with a similar intent:

"The player and his/her parents assume all risks and responsibility for loss, damage, or injury to himself or herself while engaged as a player for a member team of the Club or while using the property and facilities of the Club, whether such loss, damages, or injury be occasioned by the Club, its agents, employees, or otherwise. The Club refuses any and all claims for damages and costs arising out of such loss, damage, or injury."

3. Any falsification of a Club player registration form will result in disciplinary action by the Board against the player and/or the responsible party including possible expulsion from the team and Club.

4. For all players, the Club's registration year will conform to the seasonal year as determined by the W.Y.S.L., presently from September 1 to August 31. After the initial registration of a Team or player with the Club, Club Teams and players are registered with the Club until the end of the seasonal year unless a specific exception consistent with the rules of W.Y.S.L., is approved by the Board. A player registered to a Club Team is committed solely to that Team (and cannot be rostered for another Club Team or for another U.S.Y.S.A. team) during that seasonal year unless the player requests and obtains a release or transfer. Notwithstanding W.Y.S.L. transfer rules, transfer of players between Club Teams will not be allowed without an application to the Board by the parent/guardian of the player involved (or by the player if he/she is 18 years of age or older) and approval of the Board.

5. A team may not register a player who is registered on another USYSA team without obtaining a release from that team and complying with other W.Y.S.L. transfer rules.

6. Nothing contained in Article I Section 4 shall be deemed to prevent a player from playing on a school soccer team, AYSO recreational team, or a select, all-star, ODP, state or national team. Permission to play in a tournament as a guest player on another Club Team or U.S.Y.S.A. team requires the permission of the Club Team coach.

7. Players on Club Teams may play for recreational teams that are not members of the Club, if, in so doing, they are not in violation of the Rules and Regulations of the W.Y.S.L. Once a player is assigned to the roster of a

recreational team, the player is expected to fulfill his or her obligations to the recreational team for the playing season for which he or she is registered.

8. All player and coach passes are the property of the Club or the League (as the case may be) and must be returned upon request.

9. Each Club Team must comply with the registration requirements established by the Club, including registration deadlines. Failure to adhere to Club registration deadlines may result in the imposition of late registration fees.

10. All players on Club Teams may be required to pay a Club registration fee or other fees in an amount and manner to be determined by the Board of Directors from time to time.

ARTICLE II – Conduct and Misconduct

1. Each Club Team is responsible to the Board for controlling the conduct of its players, parents, coaches, and spectators and, as such, is required to take precautions necessary to insure that referees and/or assistant referees, spectators, and players are not threatened or assaulted (verbally or otherwise), either prior to, during, or at the end of games. Failure of a Club Team to exercise control and provide safety to referees, assistant referees, players, and spectators shall be grounds for disciplinary action by the Club.

2. Players, parents, coaches and spectators are only allowed to take part in or attend games on the condition that they observe the Rules and Regulations of the Club and the "Laws of the Game." Every Club Team is required to observe and enforce the Rules and Regulations of the Club, the Bylaws of the Club, and the "Laws of the Game."

3. Each Club Team must report cases of misconduct to the Board, which the Board may investigate and punish as it deems proper.

4. Each Club Team must report to the Board, when calling in the game score, all yellow and red cards given to Club players and/or coaches.

Article III – Team Formation, Organization, and Coaching

1. Individuals who wish to form a new travel team must apply to the Club and must show evidence that there are sufficient willing and talented players from the Club's recreational program to form the basis of the team.

2. Each team should carry at least 14 registered players. It is recommended that each team start the year with no more than 16 players in order to have openings for talented players who materialize during the year.

3. Each team must have a manager and a coach. The manager is responsible for serving as a liaison to the Club and for ensuring that players are registered according to Club and league guidelines. All coaches must be approved by the Club. Each year the Board will review the status of all present managers and coaches.

4. Coaches and trainers associated with a Club Team must meet such licensing, background check and other requirements as are established from time to time by the Board, W.Y.S.L., U.S.S.F., or the league in which the Club Team participates.

5. It is the responsibility of each coach to honor the philosophy of the Club and follow the Rules and Regulations and guidelines of the Club.

6. Each Club Team shall provide the Club with a complete player roster at the beginning of the seasonal year, and will inform the Club of any roster changes during the year. Each Club Team must inform the Club of all proposed games (including scrimmages) and other playing or practice activities.

7. Teams must comply with such obligations as the Board may determine from time to time for the proper running of the Club.

8. Except as set forth herein, each Team is generally responsible for its internal governance.

ARTICLE IV – Player Selection

1. Players are encouraged to play on a Team in their age group if one exists. Playing up in the lower age groups should be rare and is strongly discouraged. Permission to play in an older age group ("playing up") may only be granted after application to the Board by the parent/guardian of the player, advice of the coaches involved, and approval of the Board or its designee.

2. When the Board grants approval for a new Team to be formed, player selections will be made through open tryouts to be held at a generally convenient time in May or June before the end of public school or in early September immediately prior to the registration deadline for the league in which the Team will participate. The tryout must be fair to all who participate. The time and place for the tryout must be approved by the Club, announced publicly in advance, with adequate written notice given to a wide group of players in that age group in the Riverdale/Inwood/Yonkers community.

3. In offering places onto a Team, the coach (or manager) should make as explicit as possible, to the family and the child, the commitment required, the coach's expectations of the child and family, the Team's general program and plan of operation, and how the coach and the Team will make decisions.

4. During the year, Teams may add players with the approval of the head coach as long as the Team honors its commitments to the current members of the Team.

5. Players may be dropped from a Team at any time for behavior detrimental to the Team. This includes (a) a demonstrated pattern of missing games and/or practices; (b) an ongoing failure to follow the coach's directions; and (c) an ongoing pattern of unsportsmanlike behavior. Before such action needs to be taken, the coach must speak to the player and his/her parent in order to correct the situation. If the behavior continues, the coach may remove the player after obtaining approval of the Club.

6. Players may be dropped from a Team for lack of skill development only at the end of a seasonal year and only if all of the following conditions have been met: (a) The player's skill development has become significantly less than the other players on the team; (b) The coach has, throughout the year, communicated privately to the player and his/her parents about the skill deficiencies that have become apparent; and (c) The player has been given sufficient training opportunities to improve the skills that are lacking.

7. If, on an already existing team, there will be player openings for the next seasonal year, open tryouts are to be held according to the process outlined in IV, 2.

8. It is the philosophy of the Club to encourage significant playing time for all players. Over a series of no more than three games, each player should average no less than one quarter of the game time. Injury, illness, unexcused absences from practices or games, and discipline problems are grounds for reduced playing time below this amount. The team policy on these issues must be made clear as part of IV, 3.

9. Players not on a Club Team's roster may be invited to tryouts or to participate in no more than three practice sessions for purposes of evaluation for a place on the Team. Under no circumstances may such players play in scrimmages including players from other clubs or other players not registered with the Club. Violation of this rule jeopardizes the Club's insurance and substantial penalties will be imposed on the Team and on the coaching staff responsible.

ARTICLE V – Player Background in the Club’s Recreational Leagues

1. The club's travel teams are intended to provide an opportunity for recreational league players to play in a more challenging and competitive setting. To help insure that these opportunities are maximized for our recreational players, the following guidelines regarding travel team composition have been established.

2. Beginning with the Spring 2009 season, all travel teams are required to make reasonable efforts to have at least the following percentages of their players having previously played in one of the Riverdale Soccer Club’s recreational leagues:

New teams playing for the first time: 75%

Existing U9 to U12 teams playing in their second or later season: 60%

Existing U13 and older teams playing in their second or later season: 50%

4. Teams that formed and played before Spring 2009 are exempt from this requirement. However for these teams, their percentages of former recreational players must be at least as high as it was during the Fall 2008 season or the above requirements, whichever is lower. No team will be registered for play in the travel league unless this requirement is met or unless the Board of Directors approves an exemption for that team prior to registration.

5. After the initial team registration, any addition to, or deletion from, a travel team which causes the percentage to fall below the minimum requirements must also be approved, in advance, by the Board of Directors. In considering exemption requests, the Board will consider the efforts made by the team to recruit former recreational league players, divisional placement, the skill levels of players and any other factors that the Board considers to be relevant.

ARTICLE VI - Uniforms, Colors, Gifts

1. Club Teams must wear the uniform (including jersey, shorts, socks, and warm-up suits) and colors adopted by the Club. A Uniform Committee shall be appointed from time to time to decide on these matters and make recommendations on these matters to the Annual Special General Meeting.

2. No Club Team may make arrangements to display advertiser names, logos, trademarks, and the like on uniforms, warm-up jackets, bags, Team equipment, banners, flags, and the like without the approval of the Board.

3. Club Teams must use only the patches and pins approved by the Club as exchange gifts at tournaments. Team flags and banners must be approved by the Club.

ARTICLE VII - Fines and Disciplinary Action

1. Fines, in an amount to be determined by the Board from time to time, may be imposed on Club Teams for any of the following violations:

a) failure to have an authorized Team representative present at any Club General meeting;

b) failure to call in the results and scores of games in a timely fashion;

c) failure to properly set up or take-down field equipment, including corner flags, goals, and goal nets;

- d) failure to properly mark a field as required by the "Laws of the Game";
 - e) loss of Club equipment;
 - f) failure to set up a field in a safe and game-ready condition;
 - g) violation of any of the Bylaws of the Club, Rules and Regulations of the Club or the rules of W.Y.S.L., whether now existing or later adopted, or any other conduct detrimental to the interests of the club as determined by the Board.
2. Each Club Team will be required to pay to the Club, upon demand, the amount of any fine that has been levied against the Club by a league or association because of the act or omission of that Club Team.

ARTICLE VIII - Grievances, Appeals, Protests

1. The Board shall establish a Travel Team Committee to hear grievances, appeals, and protests and to recommend action to the Board.
2. The procedure for appealing a decision of the Board is first to contact the Travel Team Committee on an informal basis. If the matter is not resolved, it may be appealed to the full Board in writing and must include a concise statement of the facts, the basis for the appeal, and the action requested. An appeal must also be accompanied by a check for \$25 which shall be refunded if the appeal is successful. The appellant will be permitted to appear before the Board. The Board shall determine the nature and extent of its inquiry on a case by case basis.
3. The only persons permitted to appeal an action of the Board are the coach or team manager on behalf of the team or a named party. Under no circumstances will an attorney or any person other than the coach or team manager be permitted to represent any party in an appeal.

ARTICLE IX - Tournaments

1. The Club will facilitate Club Teams' participation in tournaments, provided such participation does not conflict with Club-sponsored events.
2. The Club may require Club Teams to support, participate in and assist in the promotion, organization, and operation of Club special events and Club tournaments.
3. The Club must be notified within a reasonable time before a Club Team competes in a tournament. A Club Team may not participate in a tournament unless it has completed all necessary paperwork and received permission from the Club and such other governing bodies as are necessary.
4. All Club rules (including playing time) apply in all competitions including tournaments and long distance travel.

ARTICLE X - Amendments

Amendments to the Rules and Regulations of the Club must be made in accordance with the Bylaws of the Club.

ARTICLE XI - Matters Not Provided For

All matters not provided for in these Rules and Regulations shall be determined by the Board and decisions so made shall be final and binding.