

January 01, 2003

Dear Club, Director, Coach and Team Manager:

The SYL has taken many strides over the last four years and has become the elite level league for the top youth players around the U.S. and parts of Canada. As we look ahead to an exciting season of soccer in 2003, we are pleased to provide you with a copy of the 2003 SYL Handbook.

The Handbook provides you with the policies and guidelines to follow in the operation of your team(s) for the 2003 season. Everything you need to know -- from the registration of players to the actual staging of games -- is explained in this manual.

This manual is your guide to a successful 2003 season. Please take time to read through the entire Handbook and make yourself familiar with its contents. During the course of the year, we are asked many questions, the answers to which are thoroughly covered in the Handbook.

Please use your regional administrator or the league office if you have any questions about the information in the Handbook.

Yours in Soccer,  
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Proud Member of U.S. Soccer  
Proud Supporter of the Canadian Soccer Association

# General League Regulations

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

### *Rule 101 Super Y-League*

The Super Y-League (SYL) is managed by USISL, Inc. USISL, Inc. operates under the auspices of United Soccer Leagues, better known as USL. The SYL is a Member of the United States Soccer Federation.

### *Rule 102 Regions*

The SYL is divided into a number of Regions, based upon geographic proximity and other factors. SYL reserves the right to change any Region for purposes of scheduling and standings. This also includes the right of SYL to move a team into different Regions or add additional divisions/conferences as needed.

### *Rule 103 Right of Membership*

Each team, subject to these League Regulations, the rules of U.S. Soccer, the Canadian Soccer Association and FIFA, shall have control over its own affairs.

### *Rule 104 Territories*

The SYL does not sell franchises. No club has exclusive territory rights in the SYL.

### *Rule 105 Reference to Membership Agreement*

Information concerning specific membership conditions for clubs shall be found in the SYL Membership Agreement, which is signed by the team and an officer of SYL when the team is admitted into the league.

### *Rule 106 Conditions for Termination of Team*

Club affiliation and membership may be terminated because of violation of performance bond conditions set forth by Membership Agreement. Teams may also be terminated due to violation of League Regulations through the fixing of game results, bribery or attempts to bribe game officials, as are set forth in Rules 901, 902, and 903 herein.

### *Rule 107 Compliance Assessment*

Following each season, League Office shall review the compliance record of each team in their specific league. The committee may find that compliance with standards is insufficient and recommend remedial actions to the League Office. In extreme cases of repeated non-compliance the respective executive committee may recommend the termination of the team in question.

## **LEAGUE STRUCTURE**

### *Rule 201 Governance*

All competition in the SYL is governed by regulations approved by the League Office.

### *Rule 204 League Alignment*

Competitive Regions within the SYL are structured according to geography, except under special conditions approved by the League Office, which has final authority on all alignment issues. Should the League Office find that there are an insufficient number of teams to constitute a geographic Region; the team may be required to temporarily compete in a different Region until a sufficient number of teams exist for their geographic area.

### *Rule 205 Playing Rules*

All games under league jurisdiction shall be played according to the rules and regulations recognized by SYL which shall be the same rules set by FIFA / U.S. Soccer (USSF) / Canadian Soccer Association (CSA), except for those exceptions authorized by FIFA / USSF / CSA herein.

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## *Rule 206 The Playing Season*

The season, which shall be designated by the SYL, will be provided in the Membership Agreement and be given prior to the scheduling meetings.

## *Rule 207 Point System*

The SYL will operate under a point system, which shall be the same for all leagues, and which may be altered from season to season. The point system for the current season shall be distributed to the teams prior to the start of the season. The League Office reserves the right to deviate from the regular season point system to deal with league playoff situations.

## *Rule 208 Playoffs*

All playoff games shall be under the control and supervision of the League Office, which shall make all final decisions on dates and times for such games.

## *Rule 209 Finals*

The SYL Finals will take place at the completion of the regular season and playoff series, with the League Office making the final choice on location and dates of each championship event. The SYL Finals for each league are SYL owned events.

## *Rule 210 League Schedule*

The league schedule is the ultimate responsibility of the League Office. Once issued to the public by the league office, no changes shall be made to the league schedule without the written consent of the SYL.

### Scheduling Changes

All schedule changes after the matches have been scheduled at the Regional Meetings need to be approved by the league office. A "Game Change Approval Form" must be completed before any changes are made.

No team may make any changes to the schedule without completion of the form and approval of the League Office. No team shall make any schedule changes within 21 days of the match.

Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) will be charged to the team making the request for a game change. If a game change is made within the twenty-one day period an additional twenty dollars (\$20.00) will be charged to the team making the request.

Once the "Game Change Approval Form" is received with consent of both team managers the game change will be processed. The form may be mailed, faxed or emailed to the Regional Administrator. Failure to comply with this form may result in penalties.

## *Rule 211 League Standings*

Official standings of teams, the keeping of which is the responsibility of the League Office, are tabulated on a regular basis and distributed to all clubs. Official League standings include keeping track of wins, losses, ties, goals scored for, goals scored against and total league points.

***Breaking Ties in the League Standings*** – The breaking of ties in the final standings, playoffs and finals is accomplished by applying the following criteria, in order of importance:

1. Head-to-head record based on total points in League games. <sup>1 2</sup>
2. Total wins in League games
3. Head-to-head record based on total points in League games. <sup>1 2</sup>

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4. Goal difference in League games.
5. Goals scored in League games.
6. Total points within smallest grouping. If number of games is unequal, then point percentage <sup>3</sup> will be used.
7. Ranking based on points earned against top four group finishers. This tiebreaker will not be used if four or fewer teams comprise the group. If number of games is unequal, then point percentage <sup>3</sup> applies.
8. Point percentage<sup>3</sup> outside/smallest (division or conference in League games)
9. Total points in all regular season and US Club Soccer National Cup Qualifying games combined. If number of games is unequal, then point percentage<sup>3</sup> applies.
10. FIFA Fair Play – Team with fewest disciplinary points in League games. (If number of games is unequal, points will be divided by games played to arrive at a common basis for comparison.)
11. Lottery conducted by USL at League office.
  1. *League games refer solely to games that count towards the regular season standings. Open Cup qualifying specific games are NOT “League games” when it comes to determining placement in the League standings. (When determining tiebreakers for US Club Soccer National Cup groups, “League games” should be interpreted as all games that count toward the US Club Soccer National Cup group standings.)*
  2. *Should more than two teams involved with any of them have played each other an UNEQUAL number of times, this tiebreaker will be skipped.*
  3. *Point Percentage = number of total points earned / maximum possible points (3 per game)*

## Rule 212 Game Length

<u>AGE</u>	<u>GAME LENGTH</u>	<u>HALFTIME</u>	<u>OVERTIME</u>
U14	2 X 35	12	1 X 15
U15	2 X 40	12	1 X 15
U16	2 X 40	12	1 X 15
U17	2 X 45	12	1 X 15
U19	2 X 45	12	1 X 15

If the game is tied at the end of regulation, teams shall play one (1) 15-minute “golden goal” (sudden death) overtime period.

If the game is still tied at the end of the 15-minute overtime period, the final score will remain a tie.

## Rule 213 Substitution

### Regulation Time

A team may have no more than 18 players eligible for games. A player may be substituted once in the first half. Once the player has been substituted the player may not re-enter the match until the second half. Once player is substituted in the second half, if or if they have not played in the first half, the player may not re-enter the match.

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## Overtime

If a match continues in overtime a team may have a maximum of 3 substitutions before or during the overtime period.

## Entering / Re-entering a Match

Substitutes shall report and submit a substitution pass to the fourth official or assistant referee at midfield, and may not enter the field without the permission of the referee.

### *Rule 214 Eligibility*

All players and coaches must present their US Club Soccer Player Identification Card to the Referee prior to the match. If the individual's picture is not on the Identification Card and the card is not laminated, the individual will not be eligible for the match.

### *Rule 215 League Discipline*

A send off (red card) will result in a minimum of a one (1) game suspension. The Disciplinary Review Committee at the League Office will determine if further punishment. A send off as a result of two (2) cautions will result in the player being suspended for the next match.

All suspensions (except referee assault / abuse) shall commence on the 3rd day following the date of the offense. However, the league office reserves the right to rescind the three (3) day grace period and have suspensions effectively immediately for misconducts that are especially violent or severe in nature.

### *Rule 216 Point System*

3 points for a win

1 point for a tie

### *Rule 217 Incomplete Games*

In the event that a game cannot be completed, the game counts if one-half of the game was completed.

If there is no result and the match is suspended prior to the expiration of one-half due to inclement weather or extenuating circumstances, it will resume within the next 24 hours (or some other date / time agreed to by the competing teams in consultation with the league office) starting at the minute that the match was suspended.

The referee has the final say on postponement due to weather or field conditions.

### *Rule 218 Game Delays and Postponements*

In case the game delays or postponement; each SYL home team shall communicate delay or postponement (cellular phones or pagers) with their Regional Administrator and or the League Office. The League Office shall have and distribute these phone numbers to all teams prior to the start of the league season. It is imperative that the rules and procedures of this section are explicitly followed in determining whether to delay, postpone, or cancel a game.

Authority to Delay or Postpone a Game – A SYL match may be delayed or postponed due to 1) a lack of preparedness of one or both teams to begin or continue playing a game or 2) unfavorable weather and/or other adverse conditions beyond the control of the participating teams which would make the playing of the game impractical for players, or dangerous for players, other participants, or spectators.

Postponing a Game Prior to Start -- A game may be called off / postponed no earlier than two hours prior to kickoff because of inclement weather or situations considered acts of God, unless agreed to by both teams and the league office. Exception: In a case where a third party (stadium

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owner) closes a stadium, a game may be canceled more than two hours prior to kickoff, as long as the league and both teams are notified in writing by the stadium owner / managing authority.

Grace Period Before Abandoning a Game -- Unless both teams, the referee, and the league office agree to an alternate plan, teams must wait one hour before abandoning a game that has been delayed. League personnel must be notified of any postponement issues immediately via pager or cell phone. Given the difficulty and cost of rescheduling, every attempt should be made to play the game irrespective of the length of the delay.

Game Cancellation Criteria – SYL game cancellations should occur only in the most serious circumstances, however the personal safety of participants, personnel, and spectators shall always be highest priority. Factors that the referee and SYL shall consider include: whether or not the teams have requested the cancellation, difficulty in rescheduling the game, current and forecasted weather conditions, travel conditions, and the current whereabouts of teams and officials.

Incomplete Game / Standings -- If a game is delayed due to inclement weather or some other extenuating circumstance, and one-half of a game has been completed, the game will be considered complete (See Rule 217 for more detail).

Rescheduling a Postponed Game -- Any postponed game must be rescheduled within 72 hours of the original date of the game and must be replayed no later than the weekend prior to the last two weekends of the regular season.

Rescheduling Considerations – The League Office shall have the authority to review all the facts, (including fault on the part of either team, unavoidable conditions, expense for both teams, and requests by a team to take a particular action in the best interests of SYL and its teams) in determining whether and when a game shall be rescheduled, who should bear the financial burden as a result of cancellation or rescheduling, whether the game should be forfeited or cancelled permanently, and whether other fines should be levied. The integrity of the league and the home team schedule shall be given considerable weight in the resolution of these matters. Unless the sanction or remedy is set forth specifically in any SYL rules or regulations, the League Office shall decide what action to take, and its decision shall be final.

Written Explanation of Postponement -- Whenever a game is postponed or canceled, the league must receive within 24 hours of postponement or cancellation, a written notice of why the game was not played, including, if necessary, a statement from the owner of the stadium / playing facility.

Stadium Clearances are Final -- Once a team has approved its individual schedule and the league schedules are released, the league office assumes that a team's home facility / stadium is cleared for all dates on its schedule. The league will not automatically accept a postponement or cancellation of a game after schedules have been approved because a stadium is no longer available.

## *Rule 219 No-show / Forfeit*

A no-show occurs when a club willfully does not show up at a game and there has been no league approved written agreement for a change of the scheduled game. Penalties for no-shows are as follows:

- A forfeit to the opposing team and additional loss of three (3) points in the standings
- If Youth Club fails to meet game schedule obligations and fails to attend a match, \$500.00 will be withdrawn from the Performance Bond and the team may be withdrawn from the league and the club may be withdrawn from any future seasons.
- If fines and compensation are not paid within seven (7) days, SYL will cash team's Performance Bond to satisfy the financial compensation to the opponent.

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- One no-show may result in a team being terminated at the discretion of the league.
- The accumulation of two no-shows in a season shall result in forfeiture of a team.
- A forfeit will result in a 3-0 win to the team not at fault.

A team unable to attend a scheduled game because of an accident, weather or Act of God should immediately notify the opponent and the league office. Each situation will be reviewed by the league office, which shall render a decision that may be appealed through league RAD procedures (refer to Review, Appeals & Discipline section of the SYL Handbook).

## *Rule 220 Non-Performance by the Home Team*

In the event the visiting team is present at the venue and able to perform and the home team is unable to provide a venue or fails to show at the scheduled venue and time, all sanctions listed in Rule 219 apply, including, but not limited to franchise rights, except for compensation to opponent.

Compensation to opponent of \$500 will be withdrawn from the Performance Bond to be paid out in accordance to the away team.

## *Rule 221 Non-Performance by Both Teams*

In the event neither team is prepared to commence the playing of a game at the scheduled kickoff time or does not complete such game, and the game is not played to a conclusion on that day, SYL may reschedule the game, or declare the game to have been forfeited by both teams with neither team receiving any points for the game, and may impose further penalties on the teams.

## *Rule 222 Withdrawal of a Club*

In the event a club withdraws from the league without finishing its scheduled games, it shall forfeit its membership and the following regulations will take effect:

- If at least half of the full schedule of games has been played, all resulting scores stand as validated by the League Office.
- If less than one-half of the full schedule of games has been played, these completed games will be deleted from the standings.
- The League may, at its discretion, reschedule any or all remaining games.
- Any unscheduled remaining games shall be recorded as a forfeit victory for the opponents.

## *Rule 223 Liability*

League clubs assume all risks, responsibilities and liabilities for loss, damage, injury or death while using property and facilities during games in leagues affiliated with SYL, whether such loss, damage, injury or death be occasioned by the team or by the league, its officers, agents, or otherwise.

## *Rule 224 Commitment Dates*

Clubs intending to play in the next SYL season must irrevocably commit in writing to return for the next season by July 15 of the season. Once this is done, SYL will secure the clubs position in the league, as long as club is in good standing with the league at the completion of the season.

## **FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CLUBS**

### *Rule 401 Performance Bond*

All SYL clubs must post an annual cash bond of \$1000.00, which will be held by the league in order to guarantee schedule commitments during the season. Any remaining balance at the end of the

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season shall be returned at the completion of the season. Cash bond checks should be made payable to USISL, Inc.

## *Rule 403 League Administrative Fee*

The league office provides a broad range of services for all teams, which include (but are not limited to) administrative support, scheduling, referee assignment, public relations support, the league internet site, staging of league meetings, marketing, league development, regional administration, Olympic Development Program administration and the SYL Finals. For these ongoing services, each team is charged a single administrative fee.

## *Rule 404 Fines*

Fines will be assessed for violation of league rules and any minimum standard requirements. Fifty percent (50%) of the money collected from fines is deposited into the league's playoff travel pool. The remaining fifty percent (50%) will be deposited into the league's general operations budget.

## *Rule 405 Travel Pool*

Travel Pool funds will be determined at each scheduling and operations meeting. Each club will have one vote to determine the amount of the travel pool within the season, which is not to exceed \$300.00 per team. These funds will remain within the Region. At the completion of the regular season, travel pool funds will be dispersed to the Regional Champions. This money should be used to offset the cost of the teams travel, meals and accommodations for the SYL Finals.

## *Rule 406 Payment*

Deposits for the season will be required at a date specified by the League Office. Prior to the scheduling meetings all league fees must be paid in full. No team will be permitted to schedule matches until league fees, performance bonds and travel pool monies have been paid. All payments must be made out to USISL, Inc. and be sent to USL, Attn: SYL Financial Dept., 14497 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, Suite 201, Tampa, FL 33606.

## **GAME OFFICIALS**

### *Rule 700 Match Officials*

Match Officials must be currently registered through either the USSF or CSA and shall be assigned by the SYL Referee Services Department or the CSA. The match officials shall consist of the Referee, and Assistant Referees (AR1, AR2).

### *Rule 702 Assignment of Match Officials*

Match Officials will be assigned and paid for by the SYL Referee Services Department.

### *Rule 703 Payment of Match Officials*

The home team must pay the match officials prior to the start of the game. The referee fees for each game are \$95 per referee crew. The Referee receives \$45.00 and each Assistant Referee receives \$25.00 unless otherwise specified.

## **DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS**

### *Rule 800 Disciplinary Powers*

The League Office shall have the authority to suspend, fine, or disqualify players, team officials or competing clubs for violating League rules, or for any action or conduct not in the best interest of soccer or the SYL. The League Office has the authority to act on behalf of the League regarding any breach of the League Regulations or rules, or it may refer discussion on any breach of the rules to the National Review, Appeals, and Discipline Committee for review. The League Office hands down any final decision on a breach of rules. *Please refer to the Referee Section, which contains misconduct classifications as well as other game misconduct.*

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## *Rule 801 League Disciplinary Point System*

The League Office has the authority to discipline players, coaches or team personnel based upon the SYL Disciplinary Procedures. Please refer to the Season Specific information regarding the latest disciplinary procedures.

*Accumulation of Penalty Points* -- SYL reserves the right to issue fines during the regular season and playoffs based on the accumulation of penalty points.

## *Rule 802 Serving Suspensions during the Regular Season*

A player or coach will serve the suspension in the first game that occurs on or after the 3<sup>rd</sup> day from the date of the infraction.

The penalties set forth shall apply to all cards awarded to a Player in any SYL match. For the purposes of determining accumulations and Game Suspensions, any games that count as part of a team's official League schedule (League games and US Club Soccer Cup qualifiers) shall be utilized.

*Final Regular Season Game Send-off* -- Any player sent off in a final regular season match must serve the suspension in the first playoff match, unless the season is over, in which case the suspension will be served in the team's first League game the following season.

*Guidelines for send off (current match)* – Players and coaches sent off from the field of play must be met at the sideline at midfield by home team security and escorted to the locker room, and are not permitted to watch the game. They must remain in the locker room for the remainder of the match. Additionally, coaches are not permitted to communicate with their team staff or players during the remainder of the game, and are not allowed to remain in the locker room during half time. The type of communication prohibited would include: cellular, 2-way radios, electronic/digital, written or verbal. Players or coaches returning to the field of play during or directly following the match are subject to additional sanctions.

*Coaching Staff Suspension Parameters & Restrictions* -- Any manager, coach, assistant coach, trainer or other official bench personnel is prohibited from assuming any official duty at or near the team bench while serving a suspension. Any infringement of this rule may result in the forfeiture of the game and will include discipline for each infraction. (Any trainer sent off during a match should remain in the locker room area through the end of the match and may only return to the pitch with the permission of the referee in the event of an emergency.)

- Coaches serving suspensions are allowed to communicate with players pre- and post-game only. Suspended coaches may not communicate with the team at half time. Suspended coaches must not be on the field during warm-ups and may not stand or in any way be in close proximity to the field of play. Following a game, a coach serving a suspension may enter the locker room, but must not be in or around the field of play. Coaches must sit in the press box or in some location other than in the grandstand. If this is not possible, then the coach is prohibited from attending the game.
- Communication via cellular, 2-way radios, electronic, written or verbal is strictly prohibited. Additional fines and/or suspensions will result.

*Extending a Suspension* -- In any case, the SYL reserves the right to impose suspensions beyond any of these parameters for offenses deemed to be particularly violent and against the spirit of the game.

## *Rule 803.1 Yellow Card Accumulation During the Regular Season*

Any player accumulating 7 yellow cards during the regular season will be suspended for the following match.

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## *Rule 803.2 Suspension during the Playoffs or Finals*

*Cautions* – A player accumulating three (3) cautions during the playoffs will be prohibited from participating in the team's next playoff match. Subsequently, any player accumulating six (6) cautions during the playoffs will be suspended from the team's next playoff game.

*Send-offs* -- Any player who is sent off during the playoffs will be suspended from the next playoff game, unless the season is over, in which case the suspension will be served in the team's first League game the following season.

## *Rule 803.3 Straight Send Off vs. Two Caution Sendoff*

Any player or coach that receives two yellow cards resulting in a red card send off is only dismissed for the remainder of the match and is not suspended for any subsequent matches. (See Rule 802)

## *Rule 804 Commencement of Suspensions*

In most cases, suspensions shall commence on the third day following the date of the last offense. However, *the League Office reserves the right to rescind the three-day grace period and have suspensions commence immediately for misconduct that is especially severe or violent in nature.*

The three-day grace period is also rescinded for the playoffs due to scheduling of matches.

## *Rule 805 Team Penalty Points*

The accumulation of 200 penalty points in any one season will result in a \$150.00 fine.

- Yellow Cards will accrue 3 penalty points
- Red Cards will accrue 7 penalty points

The team with the fewest player penalty points in each League will be given the Fair Play Award. For the purpose of accumulating these numbers, red cards will be assigned seven (7) points and yellow cards will be assigned (3) points.

## *Rule 806 League Office's Discretionary Power on Suspensions*

The League Office may, at its discretion, rule that a specific game shall not count toward the completion of a suspension, if satisfied that the game has been purposely arranged by the club with a view toward enabling the player in question to complete his suspension at a specific time in order to qualify him to play in another specific game.

The League Office also may, at its discretion, waive all suspensions for the accumulation of cautions against players and coaches prior to a league championship game.

## *Rule 807 SYL Disciplinary Committee*

A panel of individuals from the League Office shall conduct the review of disciplinary issues. Such a panel will consist of at least three people -- a League Director, a staff member of the Referee Department, and another League Director from the A-League, Pro Select League, PDL or W-League.

## *Rule 808 Cautions, Suspensions and the Playoffs*

SYL reserves the right to rule on any suspension that may occur in the last week of the season.

## *Rule 809 U.S. Soccer Fine for Serious Incidents*

The Secretary General of U.S. Soccer has the power to impose fines up to \$10,000 for any incident bringing the game into disrepute.

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## **CONDUCT OR TEAMS**

### *Rule 901 Intentional Throwing of Games*

Agreeing or promising to lose a game is in strict violation of the rules of SYL. Any club or personnel associated with a club who promises, agrees to lose, attempts to lose or otherwise adversely affects the outcome of any game with which he / she is or may be in any way associated, or who shall solicit or attempt to induce any player or other person associated with a member club to lose, attempt to lose or otherwise adversely affect the outcome of any soccer game, will be immediately declared ineligible and may be subject to expulsion from the league.

Likewise, any person from a member club that is solicited to commit or has knowledge of any of the foregoing acts and fails to inform the League Office immediately of all facts and circumstances connected with the solicitation, shall be declared by the SYL to be permanently ineligible and may be subject to suspension and expulsion from the league.

Additionally, any player who, in the opinion of the referee and/or the League Office, attempts to purposefully lose a game by intentionally scoring an own goal as a field player, or intentionally allowing an own goal to occur while playing as a goalkeeper, will be subject to disciplinary action which may include forfeiture of the game.

### *Rule 902 Illegal Incentives for Winning a Game*

Any person connected with a member club who shall offer or give any gift or reward to a player or other person connected with another member club for services rendered, supposed to be rendered, or to have rendered in defeating or attempting to defeat a competing team or otherwise adversely affect the outcome of any game, shall be declared by the League Office to be ineligible for a period of not less than three years.

Likewise, any person with knowledge of such an incident, who shall fail to inform the League Office immediately of such offer and of all facts and circumstances connected therewith, shall be declared by the League Office to be ineligible for a period of not less than three years.

### *Rule 903 Gifts to Referees or Assistant Referees*

Any person connected with a member club who shall give or offer to give any gifts or reward to a referee or assistant referee for services rendered or supposed to be rendered in defeating or attempting to defeat a competing club, or otherwise adversely affect the outcome of any part of a game, shall be declared by the League Office to be permanently ineligible.

Likewise, any referee or assistant referee who shall render, or promise or agree to render, any such decision otherwise than on its merits, or who shall solicit or accept such a gift or reward for any such service or decision, shall be declared permanently ineligible by the League Office. Any referee or assistant referee who, having been offered any such gift or reward, or having been solicited to render any such decision otherwise than on its merits, shall be obligated to inform the League Office immediately of such offer or solicitation, and all facts and circumstances connected therewith. Failure to report such solicitation shall be cause for the League Office to declare the official permanently ineligible to work SYL games and recommend to USSF / CSA suspension from all matches.

### *Rule 904 Betting on Soccer Games*

Betting on SYL games by any insider, manager, coach, referee, assistant referee, owner, employee, league officer or league official is strictly prohibited. Any person associated with the league or individual club who bets any sum on any game in any SYL-affiliated league, shall be declared persona non-gratis by the League Office and permanently banned from all SYL activities.

### *Rule 905 Scandalous Conduct*

The League Office may suspend for a definite period and/or impose a fine on any officer, director, player or employee of a member club guilty of gross misbehavior in public, including intoxication, drug use, fighting, quarreling, indecency or other scandalous conduct, whether on or off the playing field, when

# General League Regulations

such conduct is, in the League Office's opinion, prejudicial to the best interests of the sport of soccer or the league.

## *Rule 906 Moral Turpitude*

Any employee, player or official of any member club or the league who shall be convicted of a felony, or who shall have been found by the League Office to have conducted themselves in a manner detrimental to the best interests of soccer or the league, may be declared by the League Office to be suspended for such period of time as the League Office shall deem to be appropriate.

## *Rule 907 Tampering*

No manager, officer or representative of a club shall approach a registered player, coach or staff member of another club regarding employment unless that contracted party's employing club gives written permission to the requesting club to make such contact. Violations of this rule shall subject the offending party to disciplinary action from the League Office.

## *Rule 908 Vandalism / Destruction of Property*

No player, manager, officer, or representative of a club shall intentionally damage or destroy the physical property of another club. This prohibition shall extend to the damage and destruction of locker rooms or other area of a leased or owned stadium facility.

## *Rule 909 Other Misconduct*

Nothing contained in this rule shall be construed as exclusively defining or otherwise limiting conduct, acts, transactions, or practices that are not in the best interests of the sport of soccer or of the league. Any and all other conducts, acts, transactions or practices which are not in the best interests of soccer or the league are prohibited and shall be subject to such penalties imposed by the League Office, such as permanent ineligibility, ineligibility for a period of time, suspension of voting rights, suspension from playing, or suspension of an individual from sitting on committee or advisory board, as the facts in the particular case may, in his/her opinion, warrant.

## **LEAGUE MEETINGS**

### *Rule 1001 League Annual Operations Meeting*

The Annual Operations Meeting (AOM) of USL will take place no later than sixty (60) days following the completion of the A-League Championship game, with date, time and location to be designated by the League Office. The AOM is the general meeting of all USL members. The League Office shall set the agenda prior to the meeting, including approval of new members, proposed bylaw and regulations amendments, the review of each member's structure and financial statement, setting the deadlines for the business and marketing plans, member assessment for the upcoming fiscal year, and other matters.

This meeting is not yet mandatory for SYL teams. At some time by the 2004 season, the USL AOM will be a mandatory event for club administrators.

### *Rule 1002 Regional/League Meetings*

Additional League or Regional Meetings may take place on an individual league basis on dates designated by the League Office

### *Rule 1004 Rules of Order*

Robert's Rules of Order, except as otherwise provided by the League Regulations, shall govern the parliamentary procedures at all meetings.

## **GOVERNING BODIES AND COMMITTEES**

### *Rule 1101 SYL Director*

The League Director will have the power to:

Prepare the schedule for league play and playoffs/SYL Finals\*.

# General League Regulations

- Propose and interpret the rules.
- Be the final appeal in protested games.
- Exercise disciplinary powers conferred upon him by the League Regulations.
- Maintain a headquarters office for the league in a city served by appropriate domestic and international air services, and in physical location commensurate with the professional status of the league in this competitive division.
- Conduct the day-to-day affairs of the league and shall employ administrative and clerical staff necessary to carry on the business of the league.
- Have full authority to take any action that, in his judgment, is necessary or desirable to prevent or discourage any conduct by a member(s) or any other person(s) which is not in the Directors opinion, in the best interest of the league, or which is not in the Directors judgment necessary or desirable to preserve or protect the integrity or reputation of the league, its members or the sport of soccer.
- Make known and enforce the provisions of these League Regulations and the rules of the league.
- Be responsible for all funds and securities of the league: shall receive all duties, fines, assessments and other revenues paid to the league. He shall deposit all such revenues in the name of the league in such depositories as may be elected by the Chief Operating Officer of USL. He shall keep an accurate account of all moneys of the league for payment of accounts, fees and dues and shall make such payments as shall be due by the league.
- Authority to hire league employees as may be necessary to carry out these rules, league operations, and any other business germane to SYL.

\* SYL Finals are property of USL. Bid requirements will be communicated to teams in advance of Championship. SYL Director has the sole right to select the host site based upon factors such as stadium and field considerations, television arrangements, fan attendance, media coverage, hotel, transportation, etc. SYL holds all television, radio, and web cast rights to the SYL Finals.

## *Rule 1102 Chief Operating Officer*

The SYL Director shall report to the Chief Operating Officer shall have supervision, direction, control, of the SYL Director and staff.

## *Rule 1103 USISL Inc., Board of Directors*

The Board of Directors is made up of five members who are elected by the shareholders of USISL, Inc. The Board of Directors of USISL, Inc. manages, oversees and implements policy for all leagues of the SYL system.

## *Rule 1105 SYL Executive Committee*

The SYL Executive Committee provides assistance in development and direction to the League Office. Each Region has an official that serves on the Executive Committee. These committee members are appointed by the League Director.

## *Rule 1106 Standing Committees*

The League Office shall have the discretion to appoint and disband a National RAD Committee, Competition Committee, Minimum Standards Committee, Marketing Committee, Public Relations and Media Committee, Referee Committee, Insurance Committee, and any other special committee deemed necessary for the welfare of the league. The League Director shall also prescribe the duties of each committee, which shall report directly to the League Director, who shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees.