



## Policy Attachment B

# US CLUB SOCCER PLAYER RULES TABLE OF CONTENTS

These Player Rules represent a portion of the US Club Soccer Policies, and should be read in conjunction with the definitions and other Policies. In all references to Clubs, such rules also apply to other categories of Members (i.e. league teams, academies, state cup teams, etc.), unless specifically stated otherwise.

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# US CLUB SOCCER PLAYER RULES

## SECTION 1

### Rule 101. Player Registration

Note that all references to club players also apply to league team players unless otherwise indicated. The US Club Soccer (the Organization) player registration year (that time period for which Clubs register their players) shall be from August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. Note however, that in the case of some recreational and adult programs and leagues, the registration year may be a different twelve month period. Clubs must register or re-register players each year, pursuant to the rules and procedures herein. Players who are not re-registered are automatically considered released.

(a) The Organization shall abide by the seasonal year age groups commonly utilized in youth soccer. Such groups are comprised of youth players who are, before the first day of August, under 6 years of age through under 19 years of age.

(1) A player who reaches 19 years of age during any youth seasonal year shall be allowed to complete that seasonal year. A player who reaches 19 years of age during August of one seasonal year shall be allowed to complete all of the next seasonal year.

(b) Player registration fees shall be established annually by the Organization Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the end of the registration year.

(c) Clubs must register a minimum of three (3) competitive teams at different age groups, and all other competitive players who participate in the activities of the Organization, as those activities are defined by the Organization.

(d) No player may be registered on two US Club Soccer Member Clubs at the same time, other than as set forth in Policy Section 3 and Rule 301 and Attachment A herein. Club's players may be registered to another USSF member organization at the same time.

(e) In the case of first time player registrations, a player will be deemed registered by the first Club that completes the player registration process as set forth in these Policies. Refer to Rule 302 for player registration renewal rules.

(f) Teams registering as tournament teams shall comply with Policy 7.03.

## **Rule 102. Competitive Player Registration Procedures**

Clubs shall assign a registrar to be the primary person responsible for the registration process herein. The registrar may delegate the registration process to additional administrative staff. Clubs shall register their players with the Organization pursuant to the following procedures:

(a) Clubs shall register their players with the Organization utilizing the online registration program. Players may be registered to an entire Club as an open player, or on a team-by-team basis as competitive teams are formed for the year.

(b) A player shall not be officially registered with a Club, nor shall such player be insured, until:

--The player has been entered onto the Club's online database;

--The player's card has been requested and the registration fee paid;

--A copy of proof of date of birth is submitted to the Organization (This need not be resubmitted by the same Club in successive years);

--A copy combined consent for medical treatment/player registration form (#R002) has been executed (Note the Club shall retain this form, and only submit it to the Organization upon request);

--A player card has been issued by the Organization.

(1) The consent for medical treatment/paper registration form (#R002) shall be signed by the player's parent or guardian. The form need not be notarized. In the case of forms submitted for the same player by two separate Clubs, the form first signed in each registration year shall be recognized. The form shall be held by the player's club, and submitted to the Organization only upon request.

(2) Acceptable date of birth proof shall include: a birth certificate, a birth registration issued by the appropriate government agency, a passport, an alien registration card issued by the U.S. Government, a certificate issued by the INS attesting to age, a certification of a United States citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency, or a current driver's license. Hospital, baptismal, or religious certificates shall not be accepted.

(c) As soon as practicable after the player pass is received, the Club shall complete the pass as set forth in Rule 201(a)(1).

(d) Additional players may be registered by a Club throughout the registration year by completing the online form, submitting the information in 101(c) above, and

paying the annual player registration fee. Fees shall not be prorated for partial year registrations.

(e) International Player Clearances. Any player who comes to the United States on or after 14 years of age must receive an international clearance from the USSF. However, an international clearance is not required of a player who is 14, 15, or 16 years of age if the player and the player's parents sign a statement that the player has not signed a professional contract or received money from a professional team for playing soccer. Such statement shall be submitted with the player's paper registration form.

(f) For purposes of tracking scouting information for possible U.S. National Teams participation, US Club Soccer will track citizenship information on the online Club player roster.

(g) Clubs may utilize their online Club player roster database to print copies of team rosters. For competition purposes, such printed copies are deemed official, if accompanied by valid player cards.

(h) All competitive and adult player releases shall be submitted online by the Club registrar.

### **Rule 103. Recreational Player Registration Procedures**

Recreational and intramural players, who do not need player cards pursuant to Policy 11.01 shall register as set forth in Rule 102, with the following exceptions. As with competitive players, insurance coverage for recreational players shall not apply until the registration process has been completed, as set forth below.

(a) The players shall not be registered online unless approved to do so by the Organization. Players shall otherwise be registered by utilization of the Organization's official player roster in an Excel format.

(b) Rosters shall be submitted to the Organization, together with the applicable registration fees.

(c) Proof of date of birth shall not be required by the Organization, but may be by the Club or League.

(d) The medical treatment form shall be collected and held by the Club or League, as set forth in Rule 102.

Additional recreational players may be registered throughout the registration year as set forth above. Players registered as recreational players can be registered as competitive players at any time pursuant to Rule 102.

Note that leagues classified as Super Rec shall register players and staff online in the same manner as competitive players.

#### **Rule 104. League Player Registration**

Procedures for registering players with a League Member may vary with regard to the collection and review of proof of birth, registration fee collection and payment, and the collection and retention of medical treatment forms. Teams registering through a League Member shall check the applicable procedures for its League.

#### **Rule 105. Coach and Administrator Registration**

USSF rules require the registration and carding of all coaches, assistant coaches and team managers who are assigned to a team, whether or not they are volunteers or paid staff, and whether or not they are also registered with another USSF member organization. Such individuals must be carded prior to participating with a Team, and a registered head coach must be assigned to a team prior to player cards being issued. Registrations shall occur in the same manner as players, on the US Club Soccer website. For programs that meet the definition of recreational programs pursuant to Policy 11.01, at least one coach per team must be registered.

(a) Coach and administrator fees shall be established annually by the Organization Board.

(b) Coach and administrator passes shall be issued pursuant to Rule 201.

#### **Rule 106. Coach and Administrator Risk Management Policy**

All Organization Members shall abide by the Organization's Risk Management Policy (Attachment A of the US Club Soccer Policies). Any coach or administrator who is required to register shall also comply with the registration provisions of this Policy.

#### **Rule 201. Player, Coach, and Administrator Passes**

(a) Member Player Pass. All non-rec players registered with an Organization Member shall receive a player pass, which shall allow such player to play on any team in that Club at his/her age level or older, without limitations. That is, in any competition sanctioned by US Club Soccer, a Member's player may "play up" within his Club at any time. The team designation on the player pass shall not be considered. Rather, the official roster from the Club's online player roster shall be controlling. The US Club Soccer player pass shall be utilized for all competitions sanctioned pursuant to these Policies.

(1) When received from US Club Soccer, the Club shall affix the player's picture (1" x 1.5" maximum size) and shall have the pass laminated. The pass need not be signed by the player.

(2) The player pass shall expire on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August. The pass shall be re-issued at the time of annual registration, or if a player changes Clubs within the registration year. Once a pass has expired, it may no longer be used. The Club shall destroy the pass, or forward it to the Organization if requested to do so.

(b) If a Club is participating in an event sanctioned by an entity other than US Club Soccer, the Club should ascertain what documentation in addition to the Club player pass and roster may need to be presented at the event.

### **Rule 301. Player Movements**

The rules in this section do not apply to player movements between Clubs at the end of the US Club Soccer registration year, at which point any player is free to re-register, or register with a new Club. All mid-registration year releases shall be controlled by this section, and approved by the Organization.

The Organization, as a courtesy, has established a procedure by which a player's prior Club is given notice for a limited period of time that one of its former players is in the processes of registering with a new Club (see section 301 herein). To expedite this process, it is important that a Club release any players they do not intend to re-register at the end of the registration year.

(a) Mutual Release. A Club and its player may agree at any time to a release, irrespective of any league roster freeze rules. It is recommended that the parties sign a document memorializing the release, but it is not necessary to send any document to the Organization. The Club shall submit an online release to the Organization.

(b) Involuntary Player Release. Players may be released by their Club at any time, unless Club rules prohibit it by:

--Providing written notice to the player, and only sending the notice to the Organization if requested by the Organization;

--Completing the online release request;

-- Mailing the player pass to the Organization office on the next business day, if requested by the Organization.

(c) Voluntary Player Release. Unless and until US Club Soccer adopts a rule regarding the procedure for player-requested releases, each Club may establish its own

rule. However, as amateur players are not under contract, as a general rule they may request and receive a release from their Club at any time. The Club shall submit an online release to the Organization.

(d) New Club Mid Year Registration. A player may register mid year with another Club as soon as his former Club submits an online release by completing the player registration process with his new Club and paying the US Club Soccer annual registration fee. Such registration is subject to the Organization's approval of the original release. Annual registration fees shall not be pro-rated between Clubs. The Organization shall determine the actual release date should any disputes arise.

(1) The player is eligible to play for his new Club as soon as the new Club registration process has been completed and the original release is approved by the Organization.

(2) If the player's former Club refuses to release the player, and the new Club has obtained a written registration form (#R002) from the player and his parent, they should complete Form #R006A and contact the Organization.

(e) Player Transfers Between Club Teams. There are no restrictions in transferring players between teams within the same Club at the same or older age group. The Club may choose to modify its online Club player roster to reflect such transfers.

(f) Player Transfers Between Clubs. No players may be transferred between Clubs. Rather, the appropriate release and new player registration forms shall be executed by the Clubs.

(g) Dual Player Registration. Other than as set forth herein and in Attachment A herein, players may not be registered to two (2) US Club Soccer members at the same time.

(1) Players may be registered to a Club or League team and to a Regional League team, Academy, or Adult team pursuant to Attachment A herein.

(2) League Members may allow dual registrations within their League, but only with the agreement of the two registering Clubs, the player, and the League.

(h) Player Loans. In any competition, the loaning of US Club Soccer players between Clubs shall be determined by the competition rules. All competitions are encouraged to allow such loans to occur for the purposes of providing players with a meaningful playing opportunity.

(1) To accomplish such a loan, a player loan form must be executed by the Clubs and presented to the competition officials together with the team roster. The player shall use his regular US Club Soccer player pass. The loan need not be

approved by the Organization, but a copy of the loan form shall be mailed to the Organization office prior to the competition by the Club receiving the loaned player.

### **Rule 302. Player Registration Renewals**

For the purpose of renewing player registrations in subsequent registration years, the Organization shall set an annual date by which a player shall be presumed to be in the process of re-registering through the same Club (note a different date will apply to players with a 12/31 card expiration).

(a) Until such date, should another Club attempt to register such player, unless the player has already been released by his former Club, the Organization will notify both Clubs of the potential dual registration.

(b) It is expected the player and the Clubs shall agree on which Club shall register the player, and only submit one registration request. In case of a dispute, the earliest player registration form (#R002) executed by the player for that registration year shall in most cases be controlling.

(c) Subsequent to the beginning of the registration year, up until the date referred to in subsection (a) above, a player and his new club may complete and submit form #R006A if the player intends to register with a new Club and his prior club has not responded to a release request.

(d) After the date referred to in (a) above, the Organization shall presume the player has been released by his former Club and will release the player from his former club, and process a registration request for a new Club without further notice.

(e) To expedite the registration process at the end of each registration year, Clubs are requested to submit an online release for all players they know will not be returning to their Club.

### **Rule 401. General**

(a) Falsification. The falsification or attempt to falsify records, documents, Club player passes, or any other official form or knowingly withholding or misusing a player pass, or utilizing an expired pass, shall be grounds for immediate suspension from membership in US Club Soccer, participation in its competitions, or other disciplinary action.

(b) Registration Fee Payment. Failure to pay the required registration fees in a timely manner, or failure to annually register the minimum number of teams for the appropriate member category may place a Club and all its players in bad standing, and cause suspension from participation in US Club Soccer competitions and events.

(c) Use of Ineligible Players. A team shall forfeit any game in which an unregistered or improperly registered player was placed on the game roster, whether or

not he actually played. The Club and player are also subject to further disciplinary action.

(d) Official Rosters. The official US Club Soccer roster, printed from the online Club player roster, when accompanied by valid player cards, shall be accepted as an official roster for all USSF affiliate competitions.

(e) Professional Players. Any player who signs a letter of intent, retains a professional agent, or receives compensation for playing soccer, or violates any other National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) amateur athlete restrictions shall be declared a professional player and may not further register or participate as a US Club Soccer Club youth player. Notwithstanding the foregoing, subject to NCAA rules a youth player may otherwise be able to play on the same team as a professional player.

(1) Unless this section applies, players shall not otherwise lose their youth eligibility if they play on an adult team.



ATTACHMENT "A"

## **US CLUB SOCCER DUAL REGISTRATION POLICY (US Club Soccer Youth, Academy, and Adult Teams)**

This rule applies to all teams registered with US Club Soccer and members that have been either granted Academy status, or are Adult teams.

1. Dual Youth Registration. A player may not be registered to more than one US Club Soccer youth member at a time, other than as set forth herein. There is no limit on the number of Adult member teams (U20+) on which a player may be carded.
2. Permitted Dual Registration. A player may be dual registered with a US Club Soccer youth team and a US Club Soccer Academy or Adult team if:
  - A. The two organizations and the player agree on the player's playing and training schedule, and any other conditions for dual carding.
  - B. Both organizations confirm this agreement in an email sent to US Club Soccer.
  - C. The dual carding is approved by US Club Soccer.
3. Sanctioned Leagues. Leagues may have different dual carding rules for teams within the league, if the rules are approved by US Club Soccer.
4. National Cup. For participation in the US Club Soccer National Cup, a player is Cup tied to the team with which he plays his first Regional game if that team advances to the Finals. If it does not advance, the player may play in a later Regional on another team in the same club, or with another team on which he is properly dual carded pursuant to this Policy.
5. Releases. A member may release a player, and thereafter another member may register the player, at any time. However, such a procedure should not be used so that the player may play in one, specific competition.
6. Player Loans. Loans are permissible between two member teams, pursuant to Player Rule 301(h).