



# Buckeye Premier Youth Soccer League Policies

*Effective 4-14-2017*

## **1.0 APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE LEAGUE**

**1.1** Application to and participation in the Buckeye Premier Youth Soccer League, BPYSL, is by invitation only to USSF registered club/teams. All teams make application to the Buckeye Premier league with the understanding that final acceptance and placement within the divisions lies exclusively with the Buckeye Premier Board of Directors. US Youth teams from outside of the boundaries of OSYSA require approval from the team's National State Association and OSYSA. Any rules in place by a State Association requiring their teams to play within their State Association are not bypassed by these rules.

**1.2** Invitation for participation is open to any properly registered USSF competitive club, organization, or team in good standing with their respective USSF organization.

**1.3** All applications for participation in Buckeye Premier must be received by the deadline dates established each season.

## **2.0 ACCEPTANCE OF TEAMS**

**2.1** Deposit of the entry fee does not constitute acceptance. Teams that are not accepted will receive a full refund of the entry fee.

**2.2** The league reserves the right to refuse admittance to any team, with or without cause that submits an application based on the rules and procedures of Buckeye Premier and the evaluations made by the Board of Directors. In addition, acceptance may be denied to any team based upon:

- the team's prior performance in the league,
- repeated failure to play matches as scheduled,
- failure to comply with league rules, (this specifically includes failure to first register a team in Buckeye Premier prior to registering in another OSYSA league as outlined in Section XV of the Buckeye Premier constitution),
- failure to pay referees,
- failure to pay fines assessed by the league,
- excessive discipline issues, etc.

## **3.0 FORMATION OF DIVISIONS**

### **3.1 Age Groups**

Age Groups are as defined by USSF (i.e. U16's). Multiple divisions will be formed within each age group if in the opinion of the league's board of directors there are an adequate number of teams that constitute highly competitive divisions.

### **3.2 Seeding / Placement of Teams**

**3.2.1** Seeding of each Division is the responsibility of the Buckeye Premier Board of Directors.



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**3.2.2** Placement of teams within divisions will be based on the playing record of each team with the intent of creating divisions of comparable competitive strength.

**3.2.3** Consideration may be given to geographic dispersion of the teams to minimize travel distances for matches.

**3.2.4** The divisions will be designated in the following order, with the State League Division being the most competitive:

- State League Division
- Elite 1 Division
- Elite 2 Division
- Premier 1 Division
- Premier 2 Division
- Premier 3 Division
- Challenge 1 Division
- Challenge 2 Division
- Challenge 3 Division
- Challenge 4 Division

## **4.0 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

### **4.1 Scheduling**

**4.1.1** Team schedules will be self-scheduled by coaches or their representatives of the teams at meetings scheduled by the league.

**4.1.1.1** Any team that fails to have a team representative at the coach self-scheduling meeting within 10 minutes of the scheduled starting time of the meeting may be fined \$100.00.

**4.1.2** The Board of Directors will select playing sites that best meet the objectives of the league.

**4.1.3** Teams must be available to play as scheduled. Any team that is determined by Buckeye Premier to have forfeited a match will have 3 points deducted from their accumulated points in the league's standings. The assignment of a forfeit to any team may affect their acceptance in subsequent years.

### **4.2 Reporting of Scores**

Scores are reported via the leagues web site [www.buckeyepremier.com](http://www.buckeyepremier.com) and clicking on the "SCORES" tab. The winning team or in the case of a tie, the home team, is responsible for posting scores.

The scoring system shall be:

- Win = 3 points
- Loss = 0 points



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- Tie = 1 point
- Forfeit = -3 points

## **4.3 Standings**

Season Standings: The final standings will be determined by using the scoring system described above. If teams are tied, they will be declared co-champions.

## **5.0 MATCHES**

### **5.1 Dates/Times**

**5.1.1** Teams shall not schedule more than two matches in a day for any one team. No player may participate in more than two matches in any one day.

**5.1.2** Coaches, when creating their team's schedule, should provide at least 3 hours between matches.

### **5.2 Failure to Play as Scheduled**

**5.2.1** All matches scheduled will be played as scheduled, unless weather conditions dictate otherwise.

**5.2.2** A Field Status Hotline will be provided and posted on the league's web site.

**5.2.4** Teams may have conflicts and therefore may need to reschedule a match or matches. Teams may not reschedule matches and assign referees on their own. Matches must be rescheduled through the league office.

Any team that does not show up at a scheduled match may be fined up to \$200.00 per scheduled match that is not played and, if warranted as determined by the league president, all referee fees and field rental fees for each scheduled match that was not played may be assessed.

**5.2.5** The league's Board of Directors shall have the sole authority to rule on all matters not otherwise covered under these rules. Fines and other matters of discipline, (except yellow and red cards), may be appealed to OSYSA.

**5.2.6** For any change in matches the league office will notify the responsible Referee Assignor. Annually, the league will issue specific guidelines as the procedures for rescheduling matches.

**5.2.7** The Buckeye Premier league, upon a vote of the Board of Directors of Buckeye Premier league, may report any forfeited matches to Ohio South. A team may be declared ineligible for the National Youth Championships should they forfeit two (2) or more matches.



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**5.2.8** If after a team has been accepted and they have scheduled matches for participation in the, they then pull out of the league or for any reason fail to participate in the league, all of their scheduled matches may be declared as forfeits.

## 5.3 Inclement Weather

**5.3.1** In the event of inclement weather, teams should call the Field Status Hotline for the respective city. Specific telephone numbers are provided annually for each of the three cities (Cincinnati, Dayton, and Columbus). In the event a team requests and is given permission to play a match at sites other than those provided by the league, teams are on their own for notification of inclement weather.

**5.3.2** If a match is halted at half time or during the second half of a match due to inclement weather, bad field conditions, etc. the final score will be the score at the time the match is halted. If fields are closed and/or matches are cancelled and the referees are not notified prior to their arrival at the site, the officials will be paid for their first scheduled match only. See Section 11.0

## 6.0 RULES OF PLAY

**6.1** Matches will be played under the applicable rules of US Youth Soccer. Teams are responsible for obtaining and being familiar with the US Soccer Federation Official Administrative Handbook and the FIFA Laws as they govern league play with the modifications noted below:

### 6.1.1 Match Length / Ball Size / Minimum & Maximum # of Players

Age Group	Length of Half	Ball Size	Minimum # of players for each team to be an official match.	Minimum roster size	Maximum roster size	Maximum # of players dressed at a game
Under 10's 9 v 9	30 Minutes	4	6	7	16	16
Under 11's & Under 12's 9 v 9	30 Minutes	4	6	7	16	16
Under 12's 11 v 11	35 Minutes	5	7	7	18	18
Under 13's & Under 14's	35 Minutes	5	7	7	22	18



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Under 15's & Under 16's	40 Minutes	5	7	7	22	18
Under 17's, Under 18's, and Under 19/20's	45 Minutes	5	7	7	22	18

## 6.2 Substitutions

**6.2.1** Unlimited substitutions may be used. A player may leave the field and be substituted for and then return to replace another player an unlimited number of times.

**6.2.2** Substitutions may be made when:

- the team is in possession of the throw in,
- when the opposing team is in possession of the throw-in and both teams have players at the half line awaiting an opportunity to enter the match,
- by either team when there is a goal kick,
- after a goal is scored, or
- if a player is injured, the player may be substituted. A player for the opposing team may also be substituted, (1 for 1).

If a player leaves the field and no substitute enters the match for the player (team is playing short), the original player may reenter the match. Entry shall be at a normal substitution point (with approval of referee) or at any point during match if the referee signals for the player's reentry.

**6.2.3** Teams will use their age group as defined by USSF for the current seasonal year in determining length of match, and ball size, except for teams 'playing up' which shall use the length of match and ball size for the group that they have advanced to.

**6.2.4** Fields for age groups playing in an 11 v 11 format must meet the FIFA requirements of full size fields with a field of not less than 60 yards x 100 yards, with goals 24 foot by 8 foot. Fields for age groups playing in an 9 v 9 format shall not be more than 50 yards by 80 yards and not less than 30 yards x 47 yards with goals within the range of 21 feet by 7 feet to 18 feet by 6.5 feet.

## 6.2.5 Official Match

**6.2.5.1** A match shall be considered official after one full half of play (the second half does not have to start). If less than one half is completed and the match is called, the entire match must be replayed.

**6.2.5.2** If a match is called because of gross misconduct, the league president will decide the disposition of the match score. A referee report will be required.



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**6.2.5.3** Scheduled matches are to wait a minimum of 30 minutes before a forfeit can be assessed.

**6.2.5.4** A team's failure to appear for a scheduled Buckeye Premier league match may result in a forfeit and the loss of three points in the league standings.

**6.2.5.5** During all league matches, both teams will be on the same side of the field. All members of a team, including, players and coaches, will be on the same side of the half line. Spectators and team supporters will be on the opposite side of the field from the team they are supporting. During all Buckeye Premier league matches, coaches must remain in the technical area which is defined as the area on their team's half of the side line between the half line and the top of the penalty area.

## **6.3 Player Passes / Coach Passes / Rosters / Substitute Coaches**

**6.3.1** Each team must bring their *laminated* U S Youth Soccer player and coach passes signed by an official of their National State Association or other USSF affiliate and a copy of their Official Roster to every match. A maximum of 18 players may be used in any one match.

**6.3.2** Playing of an ineligible player will result in automatic forfeiture of the match and possible suspension of the coach or expulsion of the team from the league.

**6.3.3** Player passes, coach passes and any Director of Coaching pass shall be presented to the referee prior to the match. Passes will be returned to the team at the end of the match.

**6.3.4** A team's official league roster must be made available at all matches and be presented to the referee or opposing team coach/manager upon request.

**6.3.6** In the event that one or more coaches for a team cannot be at a match, a substitute coach may be selected. The referee must be notified of the change before the match begins and the substitute coach(es) must be properly identified. Only one substitute coach is permitted per coach's card. In the event that a substitute coach is ejected from a match, (red carded), the registered coach is to serve any suspension issued by the league for the actions of the substitute coach. No substitute coach is permitted for a coach that has been ejected and his serving his/her suspension or is otherwise prohibited from participating as a coach for the team to whom he/she is registered.

**6.3.6.1** A person who has been suspended or otherwise prohibited from participating as a coach with a team may NOT serve as a substitute coach for that team under another coach's card.

**6.3.6.2** The number of coaches for a team on the team's sideline during any league or tournament game shall not exceed the number of coaches rostered to that team plus one person from that team's club that is registered as a Director of Coaching, (DOC). No person may be used as a substitute for the person to whom a DOC pass was issued. The DOC pass shall be visibly worn on a lanyard around the neck of the person to whom the DOC pass was issued.



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## 6.4 Club Guest Players

**6.4.1** In the U10's through U16's age groups, a team may elect to have a **maximum of 4 players** participate in a Buckeye Premier league match that are not rostered to their team provided they meet the criteria shown in paragraphs (a) and (b) immediately below.

a) Both the team that the players are rostered to and the team that the players will be playing for in the Buckeye Premier match **MUST** be sponsored by the same club and both teams must currently be participating in either the Buckeye Premier league or another OSYSA or US Youth Soccer competitive league or program, provided the other organization permits such participation.

b) Teams participating in the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional League, (MRL) or the US Youth Soccer National League from a club that also participates in BPYSL may also make use of this Section 6.4. However, MRL & National League rules prohibit a player from participating in an MRL / National League match and a match in another league, (i.e. Buckeye Premier), in the same day. All other Club Guest Players rules remain applicable.

In the U17's, U18's, and U19's age groups. a team may have a **maximum of 5 players** participate in a league match who are not rostered to their team provided they meet the criteria shown in paragraphs (a) and (b) immediately above.

**6.4.2** See section **6.4.7** for the definition of a club. The use of such players will be known as Club Guest Players and are subject to the following specific restrictions:

a) If those players are rostered to a team that is participating in the same or a younger age division than the team that they will be playing for, (i.e. They are rostered to a team playing in the U15's division then they may play for a team playing in the U15's, U16's, U17's, U18's or U19/20's divisions, if both teams are sponsored by the same club.)

b) If those players are rostered on a team older than their natural age group then they may play in any division that is in their natural age group or older. (i.e. a U16's player is rostered to a U18's team may participate as a Club Guest Player on that club's U16's or U17's team but not on that club's U15's team.

c) A player that is U14 and younger or that is not yet in high school may only play up 2 years under these Club Guest Player rules, i.e., a U12 may play with a U14's team from the same club but may not play for a U15's or older team from the same club. A U15 or older player may be a club guest player on any team for their club within the standard age / gender guidelines and within these Club Guest Player guidelines.

d) A player may be a club guest player with another team from the same club regardless of the competitive division of the team the player is rostered to or the competitive division of the team the player will be a club guest player for, provided all of the other rules in this section 6.5 are



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followed. This means a player can be a club guest player, within their club, with an older team or with a team of the same age as the team they are rostered to, regardless of the competitive divisions of the teams involved.

**6.4.3** A maximum of 18 players may be on the sidelines, in uniform and participate in any one match. Other players rostered to this team may be on the team's sideline but they must be in street clothes.

**6.4.4** For the purposes of this section, boys may not participate on teams that are registered as a girl's team.

**6.4.5** Teams making use of this rule during Buckeye Premier League matches must identify the players that are playing up during that match to the center referee and the opposing team's coaches prior to the start of the match. Players participating in a match under this section must have their player pass at the match.

**6.4.6** A player's first playing obligation is to the team that they are rostered to for that seasonal year, i.e. if a player is rostered on Team B that has a match that will be played on Tuesday at 6:00 PM, than that player can not play for Team A, under this section, if Team A also has a match on Tuesday at 6:00 PM.

**6.4.7** For the purpose of this section **6.4**, the definition of a club shall mean all of the players that are organized under a common organizational board of directors, with a common staff of coaches, with a common name, common uniform, common set of home fields, etc. The use of Club Guest Players is limited to players registered in the Buckeye Premier league or in another OSYSA league if authorized as outlined in section **6.4.1**. Players who are registered in any other league may not participate in Buckeye Premier League matches as a Club Guest Player. In those instances where two teams that previously played as separate teams and have now merged, they will only be considered as part of the club whose club name is listed first on the team roster.

**6.4.8** Players may not participate in Ohio South State Cup matches using the Club Guest Player rules.

## **6.5 Transfers**

**6.5.1** All players who transfer between teams during the seasonal year, regardless of the reason(s) given or the timing of the transfer shall be counted toward the maximum of five (5) previously carded players that may be rostered to a team at the moment the team's roster is frozen for the current seasonal year's OSYSA State Cup Championship.

## **6.6 Coach Passes**

**6.6.1** Buckeye Premier shall follow the guidelines for the issuance of coach passes as provided by the USSF affiliate in which the team is registered.





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**6.6.2** Buckeye Premier will honor Director of Coaching Passes.

## **6.7 Other**

**6.7.1** Uniform Color Conflict - When there is a conflict in uniform color, the team listed first on the schedule must change. The referee's judgment in these matters is final.

**6.7.2** Coaches may not enter the field during a match without permission from the referee. Violation of this rule may result in the issuance of a caution (yellow card) to the coach.

Parents, spectators, team supporters and other unregistered persons may not enter the field during a match without first receiving permission for the referee. A referee is specifically permitted to instruct a coach that a parent, spectator, team supporter and other unregistered person who commits misconduct, including entering the field during play, must leave the area around the field, (i.e. go to the parking lot). A coach who fails to have the parent, spectator, team supporter and other unregistered person leave the area around the field, when so instructed by the referee, may be issued a caution for dissent.

Continued failure by the coach to have the parent, spectator, team supporter and other unregistered person leave the area around the field may, at the sole discretion of the referee, be sufficient grounds to abandon the match.

**6.7.3** Any U15 player on a team that registers one or more U14 players in the U15's division during the Fall season, at the player's request, may transfer from the team prior to the start of the Winter/Spring season.

No player may be cut, dropped, or be forced to transfer from any team for any reason, including in circumstances as outlined in the preceding paragraph.

**6.7.4** No player that is currently participating with and / or is a member of any middle school or high school team organized under the auspices of the Ohio High School Athletic Association may simultaneously be rostered on and / or participate with a Buckeye Premier team, until such time as the player's participation with the middle school or high school team has terminated for that scholastic year.

**6.7.5** Players are not permitted to wear jewelry, including string or plastic / rubber bracelets, during a match except as noted. Earrings of any type, even if taped over, shall not be worn.

- A religious medal if taped in place and worn under the player's uniform.
- A medical alert medal / bracelet may be visibly worn if it is taped in place.

**6.7.6** A player may not be rostered on more than one team in this league or any in other league in OSYSA at any one time. If a player becomes rostered to a team participating in the Buckeye



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Premier league after the player has been rostered to any other OSYSA competitive team without first following all OSYSA's and Buckeye Premier's transfer requirements then that player shall be ineligible to participate in Buckeye Premier until such time as the transfer is completed.

## 6.8 Prohibited Conduct

**6.8.1** No dogs or other pets, (except service animals as provided by law) are allowed to be at any BPYSL game, event or field immediately before, during or immediately after any game.

**6.8.2** The use of a remote control drone or other remote control aircraft at or above any BPYSL game, event or field immediately before, during or immediately after any game, is strictly prohibited.

## 7.0 MATCH CONTROL

### 7.1 Three Person System of Control

**7.1.1** Matches must be officiated using the three person FIFA/USSF Referee System.

**7.1.2** In the event an assigned referee fails to appear within 10 minutes of the scheduled start of the match, every effort should be made to find a certified official. The referee may appoint replacements, including club linesman, for assistant referees who fail to show up by the match time.

**7.1.3** Club linesman shall be limited to decisions only on touchlines and possession as specified by FIFA. A club linesman may not call off-sides.

### 7.2 Payment of Referees

**7.2.1** Referees and Assistant Referees appointed under the provisions of these league rules shall be paid before the start of the match.

**7.2.2** Each team is responsible for payment of one half of the designated fees to the match officials.

### 7.2.3 Referees Fees shall be as follows:

Under 10's	9 v 9 matches	\$ 100.00	(\$40 - \$30 - \$30) (Center – AR – AR)
Under 11's, Under 12's	9 v 9 matches	\$ 100.00	(\$40 - \$30 - \$30) (Center – AR – AR)
Under 12's	11 v 11 matches	\$ 118.00	(\$46 - \$36 - \$36) (Center – AR – AR)



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Under 13's, Under 14's	11 v 11 matches	\$ 118.00	(\$46 - \$36 - \$36) (Center – AR – AR)
Under 15's, Under 16's	11 v 11 matches	\$ 136.00	(\$52 - \$42 - \$42) (Center – AR – AR)
Under 17's, Under 18's, Under 19's	11 v 11 matches	\$ 154.00	(\$58 - \$48 - \$48) (Center – AR – AR)

**7.2.4** If there is only one Assistant Referee, the Center referee and the Assistant Referee shall receive only their standard payment as shown above.

**7.2.5** In cases where only a center referee is available and it is necessary to utilize two (2) club assistant referees, each team must pay the center referee an additional \$5.00 per team.

**7.2.6** At the discretion of the home team, club linesman may be paid.

## 8.0 TERMINATION OF MATCHES

**8.1** Referees may suspend matches for lack of crowd control, poor team behavior or other unsporting behavior circumstances. (Note - each coach is responsible for the behavior of his sideline players. Each coach is responsible to assist the official, when asked, in the control of parents, fans, and spectators). **(See section 6.8.2)**

**8.2** The referee shall report the suspension of the match to the league office within 48 hours.

**8.3** The Disciplinary Committee shall ascertain all of the facts and determine the appropriate disciplinary action.

**8.4** Disciplinary action may include but not be limited to reprimand, forfeiture of a match, and / or suspension from one or more matches.

## 9.0 EJECTIONS AND DISCIPLINE

### 9.1 Ejections

**9.1.1** Any player or coach ejected from a BPYSL league match will receive a minimum of a one match suspension from a Buckeye Premier match. This shall be in addition to the match from which they were ejected

**9.1.2** Any player ejected from a match for Fighting, Striking or Violent Conduct shall receive a minimum of a two match suspension from Buckeye Premier league play.



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**9.1.3** Any player or coach that is ejected from a tournament match, including State Cup or President's Cup play, and the player or coach does not served the appropriate suspension during the tournament, the player or coach shall serve the suspension in their next Buckeye Premier League match(es).

Players and coaches are responsible to verify the participation requirements for State Cup and President's Cup or other tournament play following the ejection of a player or coach during Buckeye Premier league play.

**9.1.4** Any player or coach who is issued a second red card during the Fall season or during the Winter/Spring season shall serve an automatic minimum two match suspension.

**9.1.5** Any player or coach who is issued a third red card during the Fall season or during the Winter/Spring season shall be suspended for the remainder of the season.

**9.1.6** The referee must report all yellow and red cards on the league's web site at [www.buckeyepremier.com](http://www.buckeyepremier.com) (click on Procedures) within 24 hours of the match completion. All passes of red-carded players and/or coaches must be mailed to the league office within 24 hours from the conclusion of the match. Should parents be involved, they may also be subject to discipline including a prohibition from attending future matches.

The league office address is:

**Buckeye Premier  
670 Lakeview Plaza Blvd. – Suite D  
Worthington, Ohio 43085**

## **9.2. Discipline**

**9.2.1** All ejections of players, coaches, assistant coaches, or managers shall be reviewed by the league president who may impose additional discipline or refer the matter to the league's Disciplinary Committee

**9.2.2** The submission of or use of a fraudulent birth certificate, player registration form, coach registration form, team roster, travel permit, player pass, coach pass, or other US Youth Soccer or OSYSA document is prohibited. Any adult who submits or uses any such document or form shall be suspended for a minimum of five (5) years. Any player, for whom a fraudulent birth certificate, player registration form, coach registration form, team roster, travel permit, player pass, coach pass, or other US Youth Soccer or OSYSA document is submitted or used, shall be suspended for a minimum of 6 months.

## **10. PROTESTS**



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## **10.1 Filing of Protest**

A notice of intent to protest must be registered with the match official and the parties involved at the match site. Any protest must be mailed within 48 hours of the completion of the match via US Certified Mail to the league president and all opposing parties.

To be considered by the league, all protests must include the following documentation:

- a) Protest fee of \$250.00 (certified check, or money order), payable to Buckeye Premier
- b) A written statement describing the specific grounds for the protest must be attached describing all information necessary, including the Buckeye Premier, OSYSA, US Youth Soccer and/or USSF rule involved to make a fair and just decision of the protest,
- c) A clear and concise statement of the relief or action sought by the protesting party,
- d) Copies of all documents relevant to the appeal including but not limited to:
  1. USSF Referee report(s) on the match in question.
  2. Copies of Rules that are applicable to the protest.
  3. Official League Roster if applicable to the protest.

The Opposing (Responding) party will have five (5) days to prepare a response to the protest, which must be mailed with a certificate of mailing to the League President and all opposing parties.

## **10.2 Consideration of Protest**

**10.2.1** A Protest may be disallowed for one or more of the following reasons:

- a) Does not deal with violation of Buckeye Premier, OSYSA, US Youth Soccer and/or USSF rule and/or regulation or
- b) Concerns a matter of “referee judgment” or
- c) Is incomplete or does not contain the required information or
- d) Is not filed in a timely or proper manner, or
- e) The question arising from the protest does not deal with either the application of these rules or the qualifications of the opposing team.

**10.2.2** The protest may not be withdrawn and the protest fee is not refundable unless the protest is upheld. The Protest Committee, consisting of members of the league’s board of directors who are not otherwise involved in the protest, shall issue a decision within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of the Protest and the response, if any, of responding party.

**10.2.3** The decisions of the Buckeye Premier Protest Committee on all matters of protest shall be final, subject to appeal to OSYSA as outlined in the OSYSA’s Bylaws.

## **11.0 DISCIPLINE**



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**11.1** As provided in Section XX of Buckeye Premier's Constitution, a Disciplinary Committee may hear complaints regarding matters that are of interest to the league.

**11.1.1** All teams are required to hold the players, coaches on those teams, the parents and supporters of the players on their team to the highest standards of fair play, good sportsmanship and ethics.

**11.1.2** Teams and their clubs shall be responsible for maintaining supervisory control of their players and coaches.

**11.1.3** Head coaches shall be responsible for the conduct of themselves, their assistant coaches, their players and their team's supporters.

**11.2** In recognition of the fact that rules are not always followed and that to have effective rules, a method of imposing sanctions must be established, the following three levels of sanctions are established:

**11.2.1** Minor infractions are offenses or occasions of objectionable conduct for which sanctions ranging from a letter of reprimand to a suspension of up to 4 matches or two weeks may be imposed. Minor infractions are acts such as, but not limited to the following:

- a) Having an improperly registered player participate in a match,
- b) Extreme use of profane, vulgar, threatening or abusive language.
- c) A spectator enters the field of play during a league match, without the permission of the referee.

**11.2.2** Major infractions are those offenses or acts of misconduct for which sanctions ranging from a suspension of 1 or more matches to a suspension from all Buckeye Premier sponsored activities for the balance of the current season or the following season of play may be imposed. Major infractions are acts such as, but not limited to:

- a) Severe verbal abuse of a referee or assistant referee,
- b) Extreme verbal abuse of a coach, player or spectator,
- c) Threats of violence, whether directed against a player, coach, referee, Assistant Referee or spectator,
- d) Recruiting or attempting to recruit a player,
- e) Improper removal of a player from a team roster during the seasonal year, (i.e. cutting a player from the team roster), as outlined in Section 8.1



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**11.2.3** Serious infractions are grievous offenses or acts of gross misconduct that threaten the integrity of the sport of soccer for which sanctions ranging from a multi-match suspension to a multi-year removal from some or all activities associated with Buckeye Premier can be made. Serious infractions are those acts such as, but not limited to:

- a) Physical assault of a referee, player, coach, or spectator.
- b) Deliberate submission of or use of a fraudulent birth certificate, player registration form, coach registration form, team roster, travel permit, player pass, coach pass, or other US Youth Soccer or OSYSA document for the purpose of providing false information regarding the player's age. Such individuals, if they are adults, shall be suspended for a minimum of five (5) years. Any player, for whom such a fraudulent birth certificate, player registration form, coach registration form, team roster, travel permit, player pass, coach pass, or other US Youth Soccer or OSYSA document is submitted or used, shall be suspended for a minimum of 6 months.
- c) A second offense of recruiting or attempting to recruit a player.

**11.3** In those cases in which a serious infraction is alleged to have occurred and the President determines that it is in the best interest of the integrity of Buckeye Premier, the President shall be empowered to immediately suspend the person(s) involved until such time as a Disciplinary Committee hearing can be held to review the allegation.

**11.4** If the President deems that a matter should be reviewed, a Disciplinary Committee hearing shall be held within 30 days of the receipt of written notification of an alleged violation of any portion of either the Buckeye Premier Constitution or League Policies, either in the letter or spirit of those rules, except as follows:

- a) A person has been suspended pursuant to Section 11.3, in which case the Disciplinary Committee shall meet within 10 days to review the matter.
- b) One or more of the persons who are alleged to have violated one or more portions of either the Code of Regulations or the Administrative Bylaws submits a written request to the President a postponement of the proceedings before the Disciplinary Committee. When such a request is received, a postponement of those proceeding may be granted for up to 30 days.

**11.4.1** During a hearing held by the Disciplinary Committee, the order of the hearing shall be:

- a) Statement by the committee chairman as to the nature of the dispute under consideration by the committee and the names of the parties to the dispute.
- b) Identification of witnesses that will be present testimony for the committee's consideration.
- c) Opening remarks by the complaining party.



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- d) Opening remarks by the party who is the principal of the dispute.
- e) Presentation and questioning by both parties of relevant witnesses and documentation.
- f) Questioning of principal by complaining party.
- g) Questioning of complaining party by principal.
- h) Questioning of the parties to the dispute by the members of the Disciplinary Committee.
- i) Closing remarks by the complaining party and the principal to the dispute.

The Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee may change the order of the hearing as necessary.

**11.4.2** Only those persons identified at the beginning of the hearing as a potential witness may present testimony at the hearing. Persons identified as potential witnesses shall not be present in the hearing room while testimony is presented to the committee by other witnesses.

**11.4.3** The chairman of the committee shall have the authority to rule on all matters relating to the relevancy of testimony and the submission of documentation. The chairman of the committee shall also be empowered to resolve any administrative matter that may come up during the hearing in order to provide that all parties have the opportunity to receive an open, fair and impartial hearing of the dispute. If during the course of the hearing, an administrative ruling by the chairman is contested by any party to the hearing, the Disciplinary Committee, as a whole, will take up the matter. The decision of the Disciplinary Committee, when taken up as a whole, shall be final and binding.

**11.4.4** The parties to the dispute shall be notified, via certified mail, of the decision reached by the Disciplinary Committee within 14 days of the conclusion of the hearing.

**11.5** These rules of conduct are applicable during the entire seasonal year, including league play, tournament play, State Cup play, Olympic Development Training, and at all functions in which the persons are participating based on their registrations and/or participation as players or coaches within Buckeye Premier

**11.6** In those matters referred directly to OSYSA, Buckeye Premier reserves the right to impose sanctions in addition to any sanctions that may be imposed by OSYSA.

**11.7** In those matters in which the club that organized the team of the player or coach involved, chooses to impose sanctions, Buckeye Premier reserves the right to impose such additional sanctions as are deemed appropriate by the Disciplinary Committee.





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**11.8** In those matters involving misconduct at tournaments, the sanctions imposed may include a prohibition against participation in subsequent in-town or out-of-town tournaments, by the coach, player, or team involved.

**11.9** In all cases, the sanctions that may be imposed by Buckeye Premier are in addition to any sanctions that may have been imposed by a referee on the field.

**11.10** All complaints, whether made by a coach, player, referee, parent, spectator, or any person, must be submitted in writing to the attention of the President in care of the Buckeye Premier office. The complaint must provide the date, time, location of the occurrence, the name(s) of the person(s) involved and sufficient details as to the nature of the occurrence in order that an informed decision can be made in the matter. Complaints received more than 365 days after the date of occurrence shall not be reviewed.

## **12.0 GUIDELINES FOR LIGHTNING AND HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS**

The protection of Ohio South members and participants is of paramount importance. Every member should recognize the danger presented by lightning, tornados, and other hazardous weather. The following items represent generally accepted principles regarding the dangers involved with lightning and tornados.

### **LIGHTNING:**

- All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous.
- Lightning often strikes as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall. You are in danger from lightning if you can hear thunder. You are in danger if you can see lightning.
- Lightning injuries can lead to permanent disabilities or death. Look for dark cloud bases and increasing wind.
- Lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles and strike when skies are blue.
- Soccer fields are a dangerous place to be during a lightning storm. When lightning is seen or thunder is heard, or when dark threatening clouds are observed, quickly suspend the match and/or practice and move to a safe location.
- Avoid standing in an open area, near soccer goals, under a tent, near trees or in water. The safest place during a thunderstorm with or without visible lightning is in a car, but not a convertible.

### **TORNADOS:**

- Watch for rapidly darkening skies.



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- The sound of an approaching tornado is often described as that of an approaching train.
- The funnel of a tornado does not have to touch down to cause extensive damage and injuries.
- Tornadoes can produce winds of 300 miles per hour or more.
- Most people who are hurt during a tornado are hurt when they are struck by flying debris.
- Seek safety in a solid structure, preferably in a basement or in an interior room. If no building is available, lay down in a ditch.

## **MATCH SUSPENSION REQUIREMENTS:**

In any of the circumstances outlined below occurs the referee must immediately suspend the match.

1. If thunder is heard the match must be suspended and the fields cleared. Everyone should immediately go to a safe shelter.
2. If lightning is seen the match must be suspended and the fields cleared. Everyone should immediately go to a safe shelter.
3. If a thunderstorm is heard or your hair stands on end, the match should be suspended and the fields cleared. Everyone should immediately go to a safe shelter. Do not wait until it rains.

If the match official does not immediately suspend the match when any one of the points above have occurred, the head coach from each team can agree that one of the criteria listed above have occurred they are to withdraw their teams from the field. If this action is taken, then both coaches must submit a written report to their league outlining the circumstances, the facts concerning the weather conditions at that time, the fact that the two coaches were in agreement and the name of the officials at the match.

If an official and one of the coaches do not reach the conclusion to suspend the match and any one of the four points listed above are believed to have occurred, the coach that supported the suspension of the match is to send a written report to their league outlining the facts and the names of the officials.

No one should retake the field or re-start the match until all of the lightning and thunder or other hazardous weather has left the area. Specifically, no one should retake the field for a minimum of 30 minutes after the last lightning is seen or thunder is heard, or the dangerously high winds have passed.

## **13.0 Fees and Penalties**



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**13.1** All U11's thru U19/20's OSYSA based teams that wish to participate in Buckeye Premier during the Fall season, (or the Spring season, if the Spring season is the first season of play during the current seasonal year), must register their team, players and coaches in Buckeye Premier prior to registering their team, players and coaches in another OSYSA league.

If any team participated in an OSYSA member league or association other than Buckeye Premier during the Fall season, they may participate in Buckeye Premier for the Winter / Spring season. They will use the player and coach passes as well as the team roster issued to the team for the Fall season. The team will submit the roster to Buckeye Premier and will be stamped with the Buckeye Premier Roster Approved stamp.

Failure to follow the above guidelines on team registration shall be sufficient grounds to reject the application to participate in Buckeye Premier during that seasonal year.

**13.2** Each team must pay a per team fee which includes the cost of registering all players and coaches with OSYSA, the cost of adding and/or transferring of players, the cost of field rentals and all league administrative costs.

The per team fee shall be:

	Fall Season	Spring Season*
Under 10's team (9 v 9)	\$550.00	\$300.00
Under 11's & Under 12's (9 v 9)	\$550.00	\$300.00
Under 12's (11 v 11)	\$650.00	\$400.00
Under 13's & Under 14's	\$650.00	\$400.00
Under 15's thru U19/20's teams	***	\$750.00 *** U15 & Older Teams that play in the Fall and are carded USYouth in Ohio South will pay \$750 in the Fall and \$400 in the Spring

*\*Any spring teams that did NOT play in Fall and were NOT carded USYouth in Ohio South will be required to pay the Fall Season Fees.*

**13.3** Payment for team registration fees, shall be paid within 15 days of a team's notification of acceptance for league play prior to each season. A penalty of 10% of the amount due will be assessed on any amount due the league if not paid within 30 days of its due date. The fee will be returned if a team is not accepted. If a team withdraws from the league after they have been notified of their acceptance, the application fee is forfeited.



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A penalty equal to the team entry fee as shown above will be charged to a sponsoring club if a team from that club, once notified of their acceptance into the league, fails to participate in the league and the team entry has not already been paid.

**13.4** Individual teams are responsible for travel, housing, coaching, uniforms, and referee's match fees, etc.

**13.5** If any team fails to play a match, that team may be fined \$200.00. The purpose of this fine is to encourage all teams to play the matches that they agreed to play. Additional fees to reimburse the league for referee's fees and other league costs may be assessed..

A team's failure to play all of their scheduled matches may be sufficient grounds to deny that team's acceptance in Buckeye Premier for one or more subsequent seasons.

**13.6** If a match is scheduled to be played on an all-weather turf field and a team fails to attend a match or if a team cancels and reschedules a match on less than 7 day's notice and the league is unable to back fill the time slot, the team will be assessed a penalty of \$100.00. This penalty may be in addition to any penalty assessed pursuant to Section **5.2.4** and **13.5**.

**13.7** A penalty of 10% of the amount due will be assessed on any amount due the league if not paid within 30 days of its due date.

## **14.0 RECRUITING PLAYERS AND HOLDING TRYOUTS**

**14.1** All teams, U10's through U19/20's, (including coaches, players, parents and team supporters) that will be applying to participate in the Buckeye Premier league and current Buckeye Premier teams may NOT contact a player from another team that is registered in Buckeye Premier for the purpose enticing the player to switch teams or to attend a tryout, except during the period of May 15<sup>th</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup> of each seasonal year.

In order to allow players and their families the ability to choose the best select team for their situation, the following fair play guidelines must be observed:

- a) Coaches shall not deter, by any means, players from attending whatever tryouts the player's desire. This would include the scheduling of mandatory team functions or imposing sanctions against those players.
- b) A member league, coach, and / or club shall not place unreasonable demands on players to join a team after tryouts. This would include requiring; an immediate response, large cash payments, immediate signing US Youth / Ohio South or other USSF affiliate player registration form.



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Tryouts after the Spring season to form teams for the following seasonal year shall not be held until the following dates. Offers to participate on a team may be made immediately, (i.e. the day of tryouts), following any tryout.

**EXCEPTION:** A member team, coach, and / or club may offer a position on a team to any of its currently registered players not more than 7 days prior to the start of the tryout period for that age group.

**14.1.1** For teams and clubs that are based in OSYSA District 1, tryouts may not be held until on or after the following dates;

- May 23, 2017 for the following age groups:
  - U-10 (2008's)
  - U-18 (2000's)
  - U-19/20 (8-1-98 thru 1999's)
  
- May 30, 2017 for the following age groups:
  - U-11 (2007's)
  - U-12 (2006's)
  - U-13 (2005's)
  - U-14 (2004's)
  - U-15 (2003's)
  - U-16 (2002's)
  - U-17 (2001's)

**14.1.2** For teams and clubs that are based in OSYSA District 2, tryouts may not be held until on or after Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

**14.1.3** For teams and clubs that are based in OSYSA District 3, tryouts may not be held until on or after the following dates:

Age of team to be formed for the following year:	The earliest date that tryouts can be held for these ages group.	The earliest date/time that results of tryouts can be announced.
U11's & U12's	Tuesday, May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday, June 4 <sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM
U13's and older	Monday, June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday, June 11 <sup>h</sup> at 2:00 PM

The above restrictions, by district, on the timing of when tryouts can be held and when players may be offered positions on a particular team applies to all teams that the club or league sponsors in an age group, regardless of the league, where one of the club's teams in that age group applies to participate in the Buckeye Premier league.



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Failure to comply with this Section 14.0 before, during or after the formation of a team will result in penalties up to and including suspension of the person or the team involved from Buckeye Premier. In addition, whether or not the team or club involved is a current member of Buckeye Premier, failure to comply with any portion of this Section IX, may result in the rejection of the team or club involved from participation in the Buckeye Premier league during the subsequent seasonal year.

The term “may make an offer to be a member of that team” is defined to mean making any communication with the player or his/her family regarding their acceptance or rejection of their future participation with a team or club. This includes but is not limited to posting of names, tryout numbers or other identifying information regarding particular players who did or did not make a team on any website, Facebook, Twitter, via e-mail or any other form of media.

## **15.0 Risk Management Program**

**15.1** BPYSL shall comply with and assist as required in the Ohio South Risk Management program or other USSF affiliate’s Risk Management Program as designated by the BPYSL Board of Directors.

**15.2** The President shall appoint one person to act in the capacity of the Local Risk Management Coordinator, (Local RMC) and one person as the Alternate Risk Management Coordinator, (Alternate RMC) and to perform the duties of those positions as defined by the Ohio South Risk Management program or other USSF affiliate’s Risk Management Program as designated by the BPYSL Board of Directors.

## **16.0 Compliance with Ohio Law Relating to Concussions in Youth Sports**

**16.1** BPYSL shall comply with all provisions of the Ohio Revised Code and the requirements of the Ohio Department of Health with regard to concussions and head injuries in youth sports which include but is not limited to:

**16.1.1** As part of the annual registration process, a parent or guardian of all players wishing to participate in BPYSL shall receive from BPYSL a copy of the Ohio Department of Health approved ‘Concussion Information Sheet for Youth Sports Organizations’. The standard player membership registration form shall include a provision for a parent or guardian to acknowledge receipt of the information sheet.

**16.1.2** As part of the annual registration process, all coaches wishing to be a coach of a BPYSL team shall receive from BPYSL a copy of the Ohio Department of Health approved form entitled “What Coaches & Referee Need to Know - Youth Sports Organizations”. The standard coach membership registration form shall include a provision where the coach acknowledges receipt of the information sheet.



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Furthermore as part of the annual registration process, all coaches must provide evidence that they have taken the Ohio Department of Health approved online concussion awareness training available through the National Federation of High Schools, (N.F.H.S.), at least once during the previous three years. The required evidence shall be in the form of a copy of the Certificate of Completion issued at the end of the designated N.F.H.S. training course. However, the expiration date of the Certificate of Completion must be after August 31<sup>st</sup> of the seasonal year that the coach is registering for.

**16.1.4** If during any game, scrimmage, practice or other athletic activity supervised by a BPYSL coach, referee or league official, a player exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury then that player shall be prohibited from further participation in any athletic activity on that same calendar day.

Furthermore, the coach, referee or league official shall ensure that the player does not engage in any other game, scrimmage, practice or other athletic activity that is under the supervision of the coach, referee or league official until the player or player's parent has submitted written evidence that they have been cleared to return to play by one of the following:

- a physician, (M.D. or D.O.),
- an athletic trainer whose work is supervised by a physician,
- a physician assistant
- a nurse practitioner

**16.1.5** If there is dispute amongst a player's coach, a referee, and/or a league official that is supervising that practice or competition as to whether or not a player is or has exhibited the signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury, the opinion of the person who believes that a player is exhibiting the signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall prevail. This shall mean that the determination by a player's parent, a player's coach, a referee, and/or a league official that is supervising that practice or competition that a player is exhibiting or has exhibited the signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury cannot be overruled.

**16.2** If during a BPYSL league game, a coach, referee or league official believes a player exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury then that player's player pass shall be turned over to a league official or sent to the BPYSL office within 24 hours by the person who made the determination that the player exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury.

The player pass shall be held at the BPYSL office until such time as written evidence that they have been cleared to return to play by one of the following, has been received at the BPYSL office:

- a physician, (M.D. or D.O.),
- an athletic trainer whose work is routinely supervised by a physician,



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- a physician assistant
- a nurse practitioner

All information regarding a particular player who has been determined to have exhibited signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall be held for a minimum of three years and a maximum of four years following receipt of the written evidence that they have been cleared to return to play. All such records and related information shall be considered confidential and shall not be disseminated to anyone except by court order.

**16.3** No coach, referee, substitute coach or club linesman shall be required to demonstrate or prove to any other coach, referee, substitute coach, club linesman, player or parent of a player, that they are in compliance with the requirements of Ohio's "Return to Play" law and/or this section **16.0**.

**16.4** Coaches shall have no standing to make an official determination as to whether or not a player on a team other than the team they are a registered coach that a player is exhibiting the signs, symptoms or behaviors of a person who may have sustained a concussion under the requirements of Ohio's "Return to Play" law and/or this section **16.0**.