

ALASKA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

POLICY & PROCEDURE

POLICY TOPIC: Membership Club and League Policy

POLICY NO: AYS000104-214

POLICY: Alaska Youth Soccer Association (AYSA) Membership

AFFILIATION: The Alaska State Youth Soccer Association (AYSA) shall be made up of all soccer Affiliate Clubs/ league, and /or associations within Alaska that desire to affiliate and that meet the requirements of "affiliates in good standing"

MEMBERS:

Members of this corporation are individuals who are associated with or active participants in the Affiliate Clubs/ leagues, and /or associations. There shall be Two Classes of Members:

- 1) Voting 2) Associate Members (who have no vote)
- a) Qualifications of Voting Members: The voting members of this corporation shall be elected members of the Board of Directors of this corporation including the District Commissioners and the Members-At-Large.
- b) Qualifications of Associate Members: Any individual who is associated with or who actively participates in the activities of any affiliated league, association or club shall be an associate member of this corporation. Associate members have no voting privileges. Election of an individual as a voting member of this corporation shall terminate his or her membership as an associate member of this corporation.
- c) All youth soccer clubs, leagues, associations, etc. may gain membership in Alaska State Youth Soccer Association (AYSA) through application.
- d) Voting and Associate membership shall be without regard to that individual's race, color, religion, national origin, or sex.

YOUTH PLAYER:

A youth player must be properly registered to an Affiliate Club each seasonal year; a youth player is registered for a seasonal year from the moment the player or the player's representative executes the registration form, commits to the club, and pays the appropriate fees. "**Youth Player**" means an individual who is an amateur athlete and who has not reached 20 years of age prior to the last day of December of the current year.

SEASONAL YEAR:

The "**Seasonal Year**" means the soccer year which begins September 1 – August 31; the state **thirty-day open tryout window** will start directly after the completion of the August Alaska State Cup Tournament.

The Transfer for Competitive Player procedure will not apply to the player that is transferring from within the state open tryout window; there will be no paperwork, fee or wait period required; all *Players Financial Obligations* must be met with the current Registered/ Affiliate Club. Once the player commits to a Club a transfer will be required even if no games or practices have occurred or they are still within the state open tryout window period.

SANCTIONED EVENT:

Affiliate Clubs/ leagues, and /or associations must be a full member in good standing with Alaska Youth Soccer (AYSA) and US Youth Soccer to be granted permission to host sanctioned tournaments, camps, and leagues. Tournament, camp, and league affiliate organizers are required to apply for (AYSA) Host Sanctioned Events by submitting the required application prior to deadline and pay the required fee. The Affiliate hosting a sanctioned event must submit the Post-AYSA Report with the Alaska Youth Soccer (AYSA) Office within 30 days of the event completion; before a renewal will be considered. Intra Club Sanctioned Events must submit the required application before the designated deadline and follow the sanctioned event guidelines and polices. Application fee will be waived at the time of submission. Any hosting entity, league, club, team, or individual that does not strictly abide by the requirements, constitution, bylaws, applicable rules, general procedures policies, and specific regulations set forth by the Alaska Youth Soccer Association (AYSA), and/or does not pay the required fees on a timely basis, will forfeit their right to host future events. If a sanctioned event has scheduling conflict with an (AYSA) Sponsored programs or events, Alaska State Youth Soccer (AYSA) programs/ events will take precedence.

ADULT VERIFICATION FOR SANCTIONED EVENTS;

Adult over the age of 18 who may have the opportunity to have direct interaction or unmonitored access with amateur athletes as a representative of Alaska Youth Soccer Association (AYSA) and all covered Alaska Youth Soccer

Association (AYSA) Member Organizations such as clubs, leagues and associations are required to an annual cleared background check and certification of Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse or SafeSport certificate.

NOTE: Before regular contact with an amateur athlete begins the adult must clear the background check and within the first 35 days of taking on the role giving them access to youth participants must complete the initial Protecting Young Victims training. A refresher course is required on an annual basis effective the calendar year following the completion of the initial training.

PAYMENT POLICY FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Affiliate Clubs/ league, and /or associations are required to pay membership dues three times per year for new players registered with Alaska Youth Soccer (AYSA) for the year. Soccer year **1 Sept – 31 Aug** membership fees are due: 30 Nov, 31 Mar, 31 Jul. A late fee of \$500 will apply after the due date. Insufficient funds or bounced checks will incur \$100 fee. Affiliate leagues, associations, and clubs must submit recreational player names via excel to (AYSA) with payment.

AFFILIATES IN GOOD STANDING:

Affiliate Clubs/ leagues, and /or associations in good standing are those that have made full payment of all dues and completed all registration requirements.

Each affiliate will submit an annual club report that includes current board members, administration staff, coach staff and all contact information. These requests will be sent from the state office with timelines and deadlines.

Each affiliate shall submit copies of its constitution, by-laws and rules and regulations to the State Association upon request to ensure that they are consistent with state and national rules.

Each affiliate shall retain its autonomy, but will adhere to the Constitution, By-Laws and Policies and Rules and Regulations of the Alaska Youth Soccer (AYSA) and will always act in a manner to protect the interest of (AYSA).

Each Affiliate Club/ league, and /or association shall;

- 1) Annually register with Alaska Youth Soccer (AYSA) its players, coaches, board members, and administrators, and
- 2) Comply with requirements pertaining to state, regional interstate, national, and international competition, and other competitions approved to be sponsored by Alaska State Youth Soccer Association (AYSA) and US Youth Soccer and as required by the US Soccer Federation.

RESIGNATION:

Any affiliate member club may resign from membership in Alaska Youth Soccer (AYSA) by submitting a written resignation to Alaska Youth Soccer (AYSA). Members clubs may remove all members or a portion of their membership (by not having all members under Alaska Youth Soccer (AYSA), the club is no longer a Full Member Club and certain benefits are not included with membership). A vote is not required to accept a resignation from a member club. The resignation will be effective upon receipt by Alaska Youth Soccer (AYSA) or upon the effective date noted in letter of resignation. A member's resignation does not relieve the member of any obligation to pay any fees that had been accrued and were unpaid before the effective date of the resignation. Member clubs resigning or removing portion of their membership during the soccer seasonal year will be obligated to pay fees for all members registered prior to the of effective date of resignation.

NEW MEMBER CLUB PROTOCOL:

Formation of a new Club / League with Alaska Youth Soccer Association (AYSA), must meet the 4 teams minimum (club) and following the Alaska Youth Soccer (AYSA) guidelines set forth.

PROCEDURE:

Guideline for New Club Formation:

- A. Minimum of four teams in compliance
- B. Have by-laws and slate of officers
- C. 501(3) C status or operate under an Association's 501(3) C (one year to obtain, approval of club)
- D. Approval by the (AYSA) Office for temporary status until all items are in place
- E. Send a current copy of officers on an annual basis.
- F. New clubs will have one year to establish the 4-team minimum and maintain the (AYSA) Good Standing standards; before Full Membership status is approved.

Guideline for New League Formation:

- A. Submit the required (AYSA) Sanctioned League application
- B. Have by-laws and slate of officers
- C. 501(3) C status or operate under an Association's 501(3) C (one year to obtain, approval of league)
- D. New league will have one year to establish the league and maintain the AYSA Good Standing Standards; before Associate Membership status is approved.
- E. New league program dates should not conflict with AYSA Sponsored program/ tournament events.

- F. New league agrees all games only use US Soccer registered referees in good standing. Agrees to use an Alaska approved assignor to assign referees for the league games.
- G. Approval by the (AYSA) Office for temporary status until all items are in place
- H. Send a current copy of officers on an annual basis

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

Member benefits are designed to aid in the creation, implementation, execution of programming and services aimed at growing, enhancing, and improving the sport of soccer in Alaska. AYSA offers members full and partial membership benefits based on the affiliate organization status. Member Benefits outline below.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

Reference- Member Benefits Outline

Full Member Benefits: (Included with your yearly registration)

- Insurance for coaches, players, and Clubs (secondary medical, liability)
- US Youth Soccer and USSF Membership / Administrative Services
- Provides registration services includes player and club registration, administrative forms, and approvals.
- Provides information, educates clubs on policy, rules, and procedural changes at the state, regional, and national level.
- Provides mediation for disputes among clubs, players, coaches, and/or referees.
- Liaison between Clubs and USYS and USSF.
- Risk Management Services (includes Concussion Awareness & Compliance)
- Coaching Education and Equipment Grants (includes access to Alaska Director of Coaching)
- Participation in the Alaska State Cups, Regional and National Tournaments
- Participation in the State-Run Leagues
- Adult Verification and Clearance (includes a national background check; individual fee required)
- USSF Referee Education and Certification (oversight and education opportunities for referees and assignors)
- Recognition, club directory, and advertising opportunities through the AYSA Website
- Regional and National Publications

Special Program Member Benefits: (available to Full Members)

- Participation in the Alaska Development Program (ADP) and ODP Program
- TOPSoccer Program (Application)
- Participation in the Coaching Council
- Yearly Recognition Awards (Coach, Administrator, Volunteers, Referees)
- Yearly Educational (Clinics, Trainings, Workshops)
- Ability to obtain Tournament and League Sanctioning (Application)
- Coach and Player Leadership Development Opportunities
- Recreational Advisor Opportunities
- Eligibility to Host Alaska State Cup
- Foraker Group: Club Affiliate Members (no annual charge; member rates for services)

Full National Member Opportunities:

US Soccer Connect: The Official Registration/Management Provider of AYSA: US Soccer Connect (Powered by Blue Star Sports) is an all-in-one integrated sports management ecosystem for US Soccer members.

SafeSport Trained Course: Member organizations can participate in the required abuse prevention training for their adult coaches, officials, and volunteers for free.

Target United Cup: US Youth Soccer partnered with Target to offer the Target United Cup! These tournaments are designed for affiliated member association, and clubs to offer a great soccer experience to recreational soccer teams.

SAT and ACT PowerPrep Programs: Through a partnership with US Youth Soccer, **FREE SAT and ACT Test Prep Programs Available to US Youth Soccer Athletes.**

Partial Member Benefits:

- May participate in Coaching Education Opportunities (fee may be required) if space available
- May participate in Leadership Development Opportunities (fee required) if space available
- May participate in AYSA Sanctioned Tournaments, and Leagues
- May participate in State Cup if teams qualify in a State Sanctioned League
- Players may participate in the Alaska Development Program (ADP)
- Host secondary TOPSoccer program (Application)
- Registration Assistance

Risk Management

- Insurance (secondary medical, liability)
- Processing Adult Verification and Clearance (Limited to registered members)