

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) Youth soccer clubs, leagues, associations may gain membership in Alaska State Youth Soccer Association through application process and approval.
- d) Voting and Associate membership shall be without regard to that individual's race, color, religion, national origin, or sex.

YOUTH PLAYER:

A minor athlete must be properly registered to an Affiliate Club each seasonal year; a minor athlete (Youth Player) is registered for a seasonal year from the moment the athlete or the athletes 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 minor athlete that is transferring from within the state open tryout window; there will be no transfer fee or wait period required; all *Players Financial Obligations* must be met with the current Registered/ Affiliate Club. Once the athlete 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 State Youth Soccer Association 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 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 State Youth Soccer Association, 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 Alaska Youth Soccer Sponsored programs or events, Alaska Youth Soccer programs and/ or 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 State Youth Soccer Association and all covered Alaska State Youth Soccer Association Member Organizations such as clubs, leagues and associations are required to an annual cleared background check and certification of SafeSport program.

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 SafeSport training. A refresher course is required on an annual basis effective the calendar year following the completion of the initial training.

18-YEAR-OLD ATHLETES: Registered Alaska State Youth Soccer Association **18-year-old athletes** who are considered legally to be adults in the State of Alaska and therefore will be subject to the SafeSport law. The 18-year-old athletes with access to minor athletes (train or play on the same team with minor athletes) are required to complete the SafeSport training within the first 35 days of access to youth participants. Clubs will quarterly submit the **Safe Sport Tracking** form to the Alaska Youth Soccer Office.

PAYMENT POLICY FOR MEMBERSHIP FEES:

A youth player must register each seasonal year in the State Association in which he or she resides with his or her parent or parents or guardian or guardians. Affiliate Clubs/ league, and /or associations are required to register, report, and pay membership fee for each youth player registration (recreational, competitive and TOPSoccer) under the Alaska State Youth Soccer Association umbrella. Affiliate Clubs/ league, and /or associations are required to register and report the players in the approved Alaska State Youth Soccer Association software program each seasonal year.

The Alaska Youth Soccer seasonal year will start **1 September through 31 August**, the Membership Fees will be Due: **30 November, 31 March, 31 July**. Alaska Youth Soccer will assess a late fee of \$500 for payments not received by the due date. An additional \$300 per month will be applied to the account until full payment is received (affiliate will remain **Not A Member in Good Standing** until the account balance is paid). Insufficient funds or bounced checks will incur \$100 fee.

AFFILIATES IN GOOD STANDING:

- Affiliate Clubs/ leagues, and /or associations in good standing are those that have made full payment of all fees and completed all annual membership requirements.
- Each Affiliate Clubs/ leagues, and /or associations will submit an annual club report including current board members, administration, and coach staff contact information. The guidelines will be sent from the Alaska Youth Soccer Office with required deadlines.
- Each Affiliate Clubs/ leagues, and /or associations shall submit copies of its constitution, by-laws and policies, current 501©3 status and regulations to the State Association upon request to ensure that they are consistent with state and national governance.
- Each Affiliate Clubs/ leagues, and /or associations shall retain its autonomy, but will adhere to the Constitution, By-Laws and Policies and Rules and Regulations of the Alaska State Youth Soccer Association and will always act in a manner to protect the interest of Alaska State Youth Soccer Association

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

- 1) Annually register with Alaska State Youth Soccer Association in the approved software program each seasonal year 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 and US Youth Soccer and as required by the US Soccer Federation.
- 3) Comply with ALL Federal, State Health and Travel Mandates and Municipality Emergency Orders.

RESIGNATION:

Any Affiliate Clubs/ leagues, and /or associations may resign from membership under Alaska State Youth Soccer Association by submitting a written resignation to Alaska State Youth Soccer Association. Affiliate Clubs/ leagues, and /or associations may remove all members or a portion of their membership (by not having all members under Alaska Youth Soccer, the club will 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 club/ league, or association. The resignation will be effective upon receipt by Alaska State Youth Soccer Association 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. Club/ league or association resigning or removing portion of their membership during the soccer seasonal year will be obligated to pay fees for all registered members including the adult background processing fees prior to the of effective date of resignation.

NEW MEMBER CLUB PROTOCOL:

Formation of a new Clubs/ leagues, and /or associations with Alaska State Youth Soccer Association, must meet the 4 teams minimum (club) and following the Alaska State Youth Soccer Association guidelines set forth.

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 Alaska Youth Soccer 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 Alaska State Youth Soccer Association 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 Alaska Youth Soccer 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. Alaska State Youth Soccer Association 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)

- AYSA Pays affiliate per player registration annual program fee in Got Soccer platform
- 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 US Youth Soccer 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)
- May participate in Coaching Education Opportunities (fee may be required) if space available

Risk Management

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