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CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

The Springfield Youth Club (SYC) Soccer Program sponsors over 3500 boys and girls in recreational and travel soccer leagues each fall and spring season with over 300 coaches and their parents contributing countless hours of volunteer time. The SYC Soccer Program Guide (Guide) provides information and guidelines regarding the operations of the Soccer Program for parents, coaches, and players. The Guide also provides a basic understanding of the SYC Soccer Program operations, its objectives, organizational structure and the responsibilities of those involved in the program. The Soccer Committee can approve exceptions to the Guide in the best interests of the SYC Soccer Program, and will revise this Guide as needed. Written comments or suggestions regarding any aspect of the soccer program are welcome; please write the Soccer Committee at P.O. Box 2143, Springfield, VA. 22152, or email us at sycadmin@erols.com.

A. SYC SOCCER PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND ORGANIZATION

The SYC Soccer Program is designed to teach soccer skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship in a positive environment, while contributing to the enjoyment, general health and social needs of the participating boys and girls in the Springfield, Virginia area.

The Program is divided into House and Travel Programs. The House Program is open to all youths interested in participating and is divided into separate divisions for boys and girls. House games are played generally between SYC teams made up of players of the same age and sex. The House leagues for the youngest players, the U-6, U-7, and U-8 leagues, focus on skill development for both players and coaches. High school players in the U-19 leagues participate in regional recreational leagues, with the boys playing in the Suburban Friendship League and the girls in the High School Girls House Soccer League.

The Travel Program is for those who desire to play soccer at a higher competitive level. It is divided into boys' and girls' divisions by age. The boys participate in the National Capital Soccer League (NCSL) or the Old Dominion Soccer League (ODSL), while the girls participate in the Washington Area Girls' Soccer League (WAGS) or the Old Dominion Soccer League (ODSL). All interested youths are eligible to compete for positions on SYC travel teams through open tryouts.

The SYC Soccer Program is managed by the Soccer Policy and Budget Committee (Soccer Committee). The Soccer Committee in turn reports to the Board of Directors of the SYC.

B. PARTICIPATION

The Program is open to all school age children, except those who become 20 years of age during the season (August 1-July 31). The minimum birthday requirement for the U-6 league is 5 years of age by July 31st of the Fall/Spring soccer year. Each Travel team selects participants at tryouts conducted prior to each season based on age groups published by the Virginia Youth Soccer Association, generally from August 1st to July 31st.

During each House game, every team member will play at least one half of the game, except as covered under Chapter 3 (HOUSE PROGRAM). The playing time on a travel team is not dictated but instead depends on a player's individual effort, attitude, skill level, and the needs of the team during a particular game.

C. UNIFORMS

All SYC soccer players will wear SYC shirts, socks, and appropriate size shin guards. Shin guards must be worn completely under socks and may not be worn over socks, with socks rolled over them. Shin guards

are also required for all games AND practices. SYC will provide shirts and socks for the House Program. Shorts, shin guards, and soccer shoes are the responsibility of the House player. Players on SYC travel teams will wear the SYC approved uniform for game play. At the discretion of each team, optional SYC approved sleeveless jerseys are permitted. SYC provides the uniform to be worn by all Travel players; shin guards and other equipment are the financial responsibility of the player.

D. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

SYC expects the highest order of sportsmanship and fair play in all soccer practices, matches and related activities. The SYC Board of Directors has adopted a Code of Conduct for Players, Coaches, and Spectators. All participants and their families are expected to adhere to the Code. It is reprinted at the back of this guide in an easily reproducible format.

1. Misconduct and/or abuse (physical or verbal) by coaches, players, officials and spectators will not be tolerated. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their teams' sidelines, and responsible for the behavior of their teams' parents during the game.
2. Misconduct by a house player, coach or spectator will be referred to the League Director for resolution. The League Director has the option of resolving the issue at the league level, or forwarding to the House Commissioner or Deputy. Should the offense possibly involve sanction or removal of an individual from any future game or practice, the League Director must refer the issue to the House Commissioner or Deputy.
3. Misconduct by a travel player, coach, or spectator will be referred to the appropriate Travel Deputy for resolution. The Travel Deputy has the option of resolving the issue at his/her level or forwarding to the Travel Commissioner.
4. Any club member may file a grievance provided it is in writing (email is appropriate). Once receiving the official grievance, the Commissioner can ask for a hearing before the Soccer Committee to seek appropriate disciplinary action. The Soccer Committee will schedule a hearing within 7 days of the date of the incident. A panel of at least 3 members of the Soccer Committee, not including the Commissioner who initiated the action, will conduct the hearing. The Soccer Committee shall provide the individual with written notification of its action.
5. If action is taken directly by a Commissioner, an individual may also petition the Soccer Committee to review the decision of the Commissioner. In such cases the procedures outlined above for hearings by the Committee also apply.)
6. The Soccer Committee has the authority to bar any or all members of a family from participating in SYC soccer. Any person or family banned from participating in SYC soccer may file a written request for review by the SYC Board of Directors.
7. Any person suspected of violating the disciplinary action levied by the Soccer Committee will be asked to appear before the Committee. Failure to appear at the date and time set by the Committee will be grounds for immediate removal of all members of the family from all SYC soccer activities.
8. Head coaches may administer playing time restrictions to players for unexcused absences from practices or misconduct during practices or matches. In the House program, the League Director prior to implementation must approve such action. The League Director, in turn, shall notify the House Commissioner of the action. In the Travel program, the coach will notify the appropriate Travel Deputy or Travel Commissioner and the player's parent.
9. Sanctions for misconduct by a Travel player will be consistent with the rules of WAGS, ODSL or NCSL, as appropriate.

E. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1. Fall House soccer season practices begin about the third week in August; matches begin after Labor Day and the season runs to the middle of November. Registration for the fall season usually takes place in June, July and early August.
2. Spring House soccer season practices begin in late March with matches beginning early April and running through mid-June. Registration for the spring season usually takes place in December, January and February.
3. Late registration is usually allowed on a space available basis. A late charge will be charged for late registration. Those players that have moved to the Springfield area after the final regular scheduled registration may register late on a space available basis without a late charge.
4. The NCSL, WAGS, and ODSL leagues dictate the seasons for Travel soccer. The Fall season typically begins after Labor Day and ends in early November. The Spring season usually starts in late March or early April and runs through early June.
5. Registrations for Travel teams and players follow the policies, procedures, and timelines of the NCSL, WAGS, and ODSL leagues.

F. LICENSING FOR COACHES

1. The Springfield Youth Club strongly encourages its soccer coaches to seek training opportunities, particularly United States Soccer Federation (USSF) state and national coaching courses. Toward this end, **volunteer** SYC head or assistant coaches may apply for reimbursement of course fee expenses incurred in attending state or national licensing courses.
2. To be eligible for reimbursement, the applicant must coach in the next SYC soccer season. The applicant and his/her team(s) must be current in all WAGS, ODSL, NCSL, and SYC fees and obligations before an application can be considered.
3. The SYC Director of Training may provide reimbursement for licensing class registration expenses in accordance with the following schedule:
 - A or B course: 50% of the course fee
 - C or National Youth course: 50% of the course fee
 - D course: 100% of cost covered fee
 - E course: 100% of cost covered fee
 - F course: 100% of cost covered fee
4. SYC coaches seeking reimbursement for attending national A, B, or C courses must agree to provide one hour of volunteer assistance to another SYC team or activity, as agreed with the Director of Training, for each \$100 increment of reimbursement requested. If the Director of Training is unable to arrange volunteer opportunities within a reasonable period of time, the Director of Training in his or her discretion may authorize reimbursement up to the amounts specified.
5. The SYC Director of Training, with the concurrence of the appropriate SYC commissioner, must approve the reimbursement of course fees before the training expense is incurred. After course completion, satisfaction of any service requirement, and receipt of adequate expense documentation, the Director of Training may authorize reimbursement. All questions concerning the interpretation or application of this policy will be resolved solely by the Soccer Committee

CHAPTER 2 - MANAGEMENT OF SOCCER PROGRAM

A. SOCCER POLICY AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

1. Organization: The Soccer Committee is composed of up to nine (9) voting members. Six (6) core members, plus the Soccer Commissioner for the House Program, the Soccer Commissioner for the Travel Program, and the SYC Board of Directors Liaison. The-Virginian Tournament Director is a non-voting member of the Committee.
2. Qualification for Membership
 - a. Core member: To be eligible for appointment to serve on the Committee as a core member, a person (a) shall be involved in the SYC Soccer Program in a capacity at least equivalent to league director or coach, and (b) shall not be a coach or hold office in another local youth soccer club or association other than the SYC.
 - b. House or Travel Commissioner: To be eligible to serve on the Committee as the House or Travel Commissioner, a person (a) shall have significant experience in the SYC Soccer Program, and (b) shall not be a coach or hold office in a local youth soccer club or association other than the SYC.
 - c. Director of Training: To be eligible to serve on the Committee as the Director of Training, a person shall possess the requisite knowledge and background to further the objectives of the SYC Soccer program.
 - d. All voting members of the Soccer Committee must have at least one child participating in the Soccer Program at the time they are first appointed.
3. Selection / Appointment Process
 - a. Core members: Elected to the Committee by a majority of the current Soccer Committee members.
 - b. House and Travel Commissioners: Selection by the Committee.
 - c. SYC Board of Directors Liaison: Appointment by the SYC Board of Directors. (SEE NOTE ABOVE)
 - d. Director of Training: Selection by the Committee.
4. Term of Service:
 - a. Core members: Three (3) years (or less if appointed to fill the remainder of an un-expired term).
 - b. House or Travel Commissioner: No time limit. Serves until resignation or removal occurs.
 - c. SYC Board of Directors Liaison: Serves until term on SYC Board of Directors ends or is replaced by the SYC Board. SEE NOTE ABOVE
 - d. Director of Training: Two (2) years, unless resignation or removal occurs.

B. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Appoints the Soccer Commissioner for the House Program
2. Appoints the Soccer Commissioner for the Travel Program
3. Appoints the Director of Training
4. Appoints a Budget Officer for the Committee
5. Recommends, to the Executive Committee of the SYC Board of Directors, a Director of the Virginian Soccer Tournament
6. Reviews and certifies the soccer budget to the Board of Directors
7. Reviews and certifies the soccer program and policies to the Board of Directors
8. Establishes the policy for and the control of the soccer equipment and procurement procedures, including inventory control
9. Reviews and reports to the Board of Directors on budget program compliance at the December and at the June Board meetings
10. Removes the Committee Chairperson, House Commissioner, Travel Commissioner, Director of Training, or other appointed persons for cause by a majority of the Committee
11. Decides how SYC shall vote in any VYSA, WAGS, ODSL or NCSL Fairfax County Soccer election
12. Establishes the activity and other participation fee structure
13. If at any time the Committee determines that the Soccer Program will exceed its budget for a fiscal year, the Committee shall report such determination to the Board as soon after such determination as possible and may seek assistance of the SYC as necessary to carry out the Soccer Program.
14. The Committee appoints a secretary from among the members who shall keep an accurate record of the meetings, recommendations and actions. A copy of such record shall be given to the SYC secretary for inclusion in the official records of the Club

C. SOCCER COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Each June the Committee shall appoint, for a term of two (2) years, a Chairperson from the members of the Committee who shall:

1. Schedule and chair meetings at intervals frequent enough to assure communications between all members of the Committee
2. Assure that all actions necessary for the operation of the Program are being accomplished in a manner which benefits the children of the greater Springfield area
3. Assure that all Committee members are informed of actions as they occur that are important to the Soccer Program
4. Speak for the committee as required. All positions shall be coordinated with the Committee prior to being voiced

5. Cast any votes on behalf of SYC in any VYSA, WAGS, ODSL, NCSL or Fairfax County Soccer election. The chairperson may delegate this responsibility
6. Approve purchases that are over \$1000 for the House and Travel programs

D. HOUSE COMMISSIONER

1. Is responsible for the complete operation of the House Program and for resolving all conflicts arising within the Program
2. Recommends policies and budgets for the operation of the House Program to the Committee
3. Organizes a volunteer staff to conduct the House Program in accordance with the approved policies. Provides organization chart with names, addresses, and phone numbers to the Committee for their information only
4. Manages the staff and develops a list of duties for each position
5. Coordinates the House Program requirements with the Director of Referees, the Director of Training, the Travel Commissioner, the Field Director, and the Budget Officer
6. Rules on all play up or down requests. SYC House policy no longer allows play up or play down outside of age group. Play up or down requests under exceptional circumstances may only be approved by the House Commissioner.
7. Makes initial recommendation on all play down requests and advises the Committee of the recommendation
8. Makes decision on playability of fields used for House play
9. Recommends procurement of the following as necessary to support the House Program:
 - a. Participation Patches and Trophies
 - b. Field Supplies
 - c. Coaching Materials and Clinics
10. Submits an article on House Soccer for each issue of the SYC newsletter

E. TRAVEL COMMISSIONER

1. Recommends the policies and budget for the operation of the Travel Program to the Committee.
2. Organizes a volunteer staff to conduct the Travel Program in accordance with the approved policies. Provides an organization chart with names, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers of deputies and coaches to the Committee for their information only
3. Manages the staff and develops a list of duties for each position
4. Coordinates the Travel Program Requirements with the FIELDS DIRECTOR, the Director of Training, the House Commissioner and the Registration Coordinator

5. Is responsible for the operation of the Travel Program and for resolving all conflicts arising within the Program.
6. Recommends procurement of the following as necessary to support the Travel Program:
 - a. Registration Materials
 - b. Field Supplies
 - c. Participation and Trading Patches
 - d. Applicable League Fees
7. Submits an article on Travel Soccer for each issue of the SYC newsletter

F. SOCCER COMMITTEE BUDGET OFFICER

1. The Soccer Committee shall appoint one of the core members to serve as the Committee's Budget Officer.
2. The Budget Officer is responsible for tracking actual revenues and expenses against the Committee's approved budget, monitoring the Committee's and the Virginian's budget execution to ensure that program obligations and liabilities do not exceed approved amounts, and reporting regularly (at a minimum on a quarterly basis) to the Committee.
3. By February of each year, the Budget Officer in cooperation with the Chairperson, the House Commissioner and the Travel Commissioner, shall prepare a proposed budget for the next budget period (July 1 through June 30) for submission to the Soccer Committee.
4. The Budget Officer shall perform such other studies and assessments of the Soccer program's financial and budgetary activities as the Budget Officer or the Chairperson considers appropriate.

G. THE VIRGINIAN SOCCER TOURNAMENT

1. By October 1st, the Executive Committee of the SYC Board of Directors, based on a Soccer Committee recommendation, will appoint the Tournament Director for the next year's Virginian Soccer Tournament. All of the terms run from appointment to September 30th. Any member of the Soccer Committee may submit nominations
2. The Tournament Director is responsible for the overall administration of the tournament. The Director should call the first organizational meeting of all SYC travel teams by January 15th
3. All SYC Travel teams are expected to participate in the Virginian Soccer Tournament. If a team would like to play in another tournament the same weekend as the Virginian, a participation waiver request must be submitted to the Soccer Committee for approval by February 1st of the same year as the tournament. Teams may not be granted waivers for two consecutive tournaments
4. The Tournament Director will have the authority to write all purchase orders for the Virginian Soccer Tournament after the SYC Executive Board has approved the budget reviewed by the Soccer Committee
5. SYC Travel teams can earn funds for team expenses each year by working for the Virginian Soccer Tournament. The Tournament Director provides job descriptions and assigns points and dollar values

for these jobs. Payouts to SYC Travel teams are made from the net income (proceeds) of the Virginian Tournament

Tournament payouts will only be made to SYC Travel teams that are currently registered and active with the SYC Travel Soccer Program. In addition, SYC Travel teams must register and field a travel soccer team for the fall season immediately following the Virginian Tournament to be eligible for Tournament payout

- SYC Travel soccer teams that register with another youth club for the fall soccer season immediately following the Virginian Tournament are not eligible to receive a team payout from the Tournament.
- Non-returning U-19 teams will not be eligible for team payouts from the Virginian Tournament unless they request an exception to the Soccer Committee, in writing, before the tournament.
- SYC teams that disband prior to the fall soccer season immediately following the Virginian Tournament (because of lack of players, coach resignation, decision by parents, or any other reason, voluntary or involuntary) will not be eligible for team payout. U10 teams that merge must submit a written request to the Soccer Committee on how they propose to equitably share the team proceeds.

Payouts to SYC Travel soccer teams are for the express purpose of defraying costs of the team participating in the SYC Travel soccer program, including – but not limited to – league fees, coach's salary and related expenses, tournament registration fees, training fees, uniform and equipment expenses.

SYC will maintain an account for each team and will, upon request, pay team expenses for the above-listed items.

Any undistributed proceeds from the Virginian Tournament (less cash reserves for the following year) will be returned to SYC to be used at the Club's discretion for the benefit of the SYC soccer program.

Team members who leave their SYC teams and go to a non-SYC travel team or to a house soccer team will not receive a prorated share of team money from the team account. Team members who leave one SYC travel team and move to another SYC team should receive favorable consideration from the two teams for a fair and equitable settlement. If the teams cannot reach a consensus settlement, a request should be submitted to the Soccer Committee for consideration

H. SOCCER COMMITTEE SUPPORT STAFF

The Soccer Committee may appoint the following:

1. Referee Assignor
2. Virginia Youth Soccer Association Representative
3. Fields Director
4. Other positions as deemed appropriate by the Committee

CHAPTER 3 - HOUSE PROGRAM OPERATION

MANAGEMENT

A. HOUSE COMMISSIONER

1. The House Commissioner is responsible for the operation of the House Program.

B. DEPUTY HOUSE COMMISSIONERS

1. The House Commissioner appoints Deputy House Commissioners. The Deputy Commissioners assist the House Commissioner in administering the house soccer program. At his or her discretion, the House Commissioner may designate one deputy to coordinate the boys' and girls' Juniors program for age groups U6 to U9 and one deputy to coordinate the boys' and girls' Intermediates program for age groups U10-U14. The two Seniors (boys' and girls') League Directors will report directly to the House Commissioner.
2. The Deputy Commissioners may perform other duties and tasks as assigned by the House Commissioner.
3. In the absence of the House Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioners perform the duties of the House Commissioner, with the exception of serving on the Soccer Committee.

C. LEAGUE DIRECTORS

The League Directors (LDs) are appointed by the House Commissioner to manage the day-to-day operation of each of the House leagues. The general vision is that the LDs run the leagues, while the coaches run the games. Specific duties and responsibilities are as follows:

- a. Head Coach Selection: The LD selects coaches on the basis of the maturity, judgment, character appropriate to manage young people, and an adequate knowledge of soccer skills.
- b. Replacement of Coaches: The LD may replace a coach when an incumbent requests to be replaced, or when the League Director considers that the incumbent no longer meets the spirit and requirements of these guidelines. Replacement of a coach in the latter instance occurs only after the approval of the House Commissioner.
- c. Team Formation: The LD forms teams for the league on the basis of age, location, and experience with the overall objective to create balanced, competitive neighborhood teams whenever possible.
- d. League Structure: When there are more than eight teams in a league, the LD may divide the league into an appropriate number of separate divisions. In age groups U-9 and above, these divisions shall be based on location as well as the experience levels of the individual teams. The experience level of a team may be determined by adding the number of "seasons played" of all players on a team.
- e. Field Marshals: The League Director, with the assistance of the coaches, recruits and schedules Field Marshals such that a neutral third party observes each scheduled match. The LD is responsible for the training of Field Marshals within the league and shall provide them with instructions detailing their role and responsibilities, as appropriate.
- f. Coaches Meeting: When the teams are formed, the League Director shall meet with the coaches and explain how the teams were formed, how the league is structured, duties and responsibilities of coaches, etc. No deviations from this Guide are allowed without prior approval of the Soccer Committee. At the coaches meeting, the LD shall cover—but is not limited to—the following topics:
 - 1) Coach and Player code of conduct

- 2) Soccer Program guide outline of coach's responsibilities
- 3) Schedule
- 4) Player equipment provided by SYC and what equipment the parent provide
- 5) For U8 and below, the relevant micro-soccer rules that differ from FIFA
- 6) Explain the KIDSAFE program and administer the process.

The LD shall arrange with any coach that missed the coaches meeting to attend a make-up session, at the LD's convenience prior to the coach's first practice. All LDs will certify that their coaches have been briefed on the above material prior to initiation of the season.

- g. Volunteers: Parents of players are expected to assist when requested. Volunteer assistants are solicited to handle things such as, field preparation and maintenance, equipment issue, Field Marshals, and other duties deemed necessary by the League Director. Each team may grant volunteer credit for the coach, a maximum of two assistant coaches, a team parent, a banner maker, field marshal, and for field maintenance work, as long as the total work time exceeds four (4) hours.
- h. Field Preparation: Prior to the start of each season, the League Director ensures, through obtaining volunteers, that the assigned match fields are cut, lined, nets are up, and corner poles are in place. The League Directors are also responsible for assuring that coaches, players and parents clean up the fields at the end of matches.
- i. Match Schedules: League Directors make available a schedule of matches for their respective leagues to the Commissioner for review by the date agreed upon at the first League Directors' meeting. The League Director distributes the approved schedule to all coaches, the Referee Assignor, and the appropriate Deputy Commissioner, at least one week before the first day of matches. Individual matches may be re-scheduled as approved by the League Director with the consent of the appropriate Deputy Commissioner. In age groups U-9 and above, the League Director shall create a schedule that matches teams with similar amounts of experience. The purpose is to create a schedule that will provide a soccer season that is both fun and challenging for players at all experience and skill levels.
- j. Game Cancellations and Make-ups: In the event of inclement weather, League Directors, in consultation with their Deputy Commissioners or Commissioner, decide when to cancel games. LDs are also responsible for determining if and when make-up games will be held and will coordinate their scheduling with the Referee Assignor.
- k. Rosters and Volunteer Lists: Team rosters and volunteer lists must be submitted to the Commissioner by dates specified at the first League Directors' meeting.
- l. Equipment: The League Director, in coordination with the Uniform and Equipment Coordinators, ensures that each team receives a game ball and uniforms prior to the first game and ensures that each team will wear only jerseys issued by the SYC for scheduled games.
- m. Submission of Scores and Standings: Each week, in age groups U-10 and above, the LDs, upon request, make available to the Commissioner and appropriate Deputy the scores of the matches, and the league standings. House League standings are based on all games played. Each team is awarded three points for a win and one point for a tie. Standings will be arranged in descending order of total points scored. Scores and standings are not kept for the U-6, U-7, U-8 and U-9 age groups.
- n. Injuries: Coaches must advise League Directors, who shall inform the appropriate Deputy, or in their absence, the House Commissioner, of all injuries requiring medical treatment. Field marshal reports describing these incidents are also required.
- o. Cards: League Directors shall report all cards and other disciplinary issues to the appropriate Deputy, or in their absence, the House Commissioner.
- p. Referees: LDs are responsible for forwarding all game reports and referee information to the appropriate Deputy Commissioner and Referee Assignor on a weekly basis. The Referee Assignor will contact the Referee Evaluator to share appropriate information to ensure the monitoring of referee

performance, assure the assignment of referees to appropriate level games, develop referee skills, and work with appropriate league directors and commissioners to resolve issues that arise during competition.”

- q. Field Marshal reports. At the end of each week’s games, each LD shall review the field marshal reports for their league and advise the appropriate Deputy and the House Commissioner of significant events as noted above and of events or incidents, which may require additional monitoring or remedial action.

D. COACHES

Coaches are selected by the League Director with the approval of the House Commissioner on the basis of merit, cooperative spirit and the welfare of the players.

2. Coaches are expected to be mature individuals whose knowledge of soccer, judgment, and character are acceptable to the House Commissioner and appropriate League Director. Coaches are expected to contribute toward the physical, mental and emotional growth of each player on their team.
3. Coaches are responsible for the conduct and administration of their teams, including sideline behavior of assistant coaches, players, parents, and spectators. In short, the coaches are responsible for the conduct of the day’s event. Referees control the game, but the coach is responsible for the overall conduct of their part of SYC House Soccer.
4. Coaches set an example for their players. Their actions should be positive and reflect good sportsmanship and the spirit of soccer. Coaches should not walk outside the touchlines between the 18-yard lines on either end of the field. Proper instruction during practice sessions should minimize the need or instruction from coaches during games. Harassment of referees and assistant referees will not be tolerated. Failure to follow the spirit and laws of soccer may result in severe disciplinary action. See Chapter 1, D, as well as the SYC Code of Conduct.
5. Coaches are selected new each season. Although coaches will not be arbitrarily replaced, there is no guarantee that a coach will be selected from one season to the next, have the same assistant coaches, or be placed with the same team or players.
6. Effective with the Spring 2003 season, all head coaches must submit an application for coaching via the SYC website. A hard copy of this application must be printed, signed, and mailed to SYC. Individuals who do not follow this policy will not be permitted to coach.
7. Specific duties include:
 - a. Adhere to all rules, regulations, and policies described in this Guide. No deviations from this Guide are allowed without prior approval of the House Commissioner and the Soccer Committee.
 - b. Provide leadership appropriate to each occasion.
 - c. Create opportunities for players to learn soccer skills, sportsmanship and the value of athletic competition.
 - d. Attend coaches’ clinics provided by the SYC.
 - e. Attend meetings called by the League Director and House Commissioner. In the specific case of the pre-season LD hosted Coaches meeting, the coach must attend. If the coach cannot attend for any reason, the coach must contact the LD and make-up the missed meeting at, the convenience of the LD. This session must occur before the coach can hold a practice or game.
 - f. Coaches shall meet with players’ parents prior to season to discuss team philosophy and organization and to reemphasize the parent responsibilities as outlined in the code of conduct.

- g. Schedule practice sessions.
- h. Provide complete SYC roster to League Director by required date (prior to first match).
- i. Organize parents for team administration or league volunteer positions (team manager, field preparation, Field Marshals, etc.). The only mandatory position is that of Field Marshal. All teams shall select a Field Marshal- for the season. Alternate Field Marshals may be selected, but each Marshal- must execute their duties over four games during the year to get credit.
- j. Pick-up, issue and return, as required, soccer equipment provided by SYC.
- k. Report all injuries requiring medical attention to the League Director.
- l. Assure compliance of assistant coaches, players, parents, and spectators with SYC's Code of Conduct during practices and matches. Bring to the attention of the League Director all potential problems. Report all cards (red and yellow) to League Director within 24 hours who in turn shall report them to the appropriate Deputy House Commissioner within 48 hours of receipt as part of the game reporting procedures described in C-o above.

E. TEAM SPORTSMANSHIP LIAISON (TSL) referred to in the past as "Field Marshal".

1. When spectators are permitted to watch games from the sidelines, they are obviously very close to the field and in a position to influence a game in ways which they could not if they were in stands in a stadium setting. Further, since teams and team management personnel may be on the opposite side of the field, there has been no effective way to control disruptive spectator sideline behavior. To address this problem, SYC teams are required to designate an individual on the parents' sideline as a Team Sportsmanship Liaison (TSL). Following are their duties and responsibilities:
 - a. Prior to each game the TSL from both teams should identify themselves to each other and to the referee. The TSLs should discuss with the referee and coaches what role the TSL will take in the event the sidelines begin to negatively impact the match or the referee's ability to do his/her job, including:
 - Ensure the team spectators/parents observe the spectator line.
 - Be the "cooler head" should the sideline behavior become extreme.
 - Be the first point of contact should a referee feel he/she needs help due to inappropriate sideline behavior.
 - b. TSLs should promote a "positive" sideline atmosphere for both players and spectators, and discourage the use of negative comments directed at players, coaches, or referees, or sideline jokes or humor that may not be appropriate in a public or group setting.
 - c. If sideline behavior results in an SYC Code of Conduct or Rules and Discipline (R&D) hearing, the TSL will be expected to attend the hearing.

STRUCTURE

A. LEAGUE STRUCTURE

1. The House Program is divided into separate, age-specific, leagues for boys and girls.
2. Cross gender placement of players will not be permitted.
3. Leagues are based on US Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) age groups as indicated below. The determining factor for placement in a league will be the player's age as of October 1 of each Fall/Spring Soccer year. No child will be accepted into the program that has not turned five years of age by September 30.
4. SYC House policy no longer allows play up or play down outside of age group. Play up or play down requests under exceptional circumstances may only be approved by the House Commissioner.

League (Age Group)	Approximate Grade in School	Approximate Ages
U-19	9 th grade and above	14 and above
U-13/14	7 th and 8 th grade	12 - 14
U- 12	6 th grade	11 – 12
U-11	5 th grade	10 - 11
U-10	4 th grade	9 - 10
U-9	3 rd grade	8 - 9
U-8	2 nd grade	7 - 8
U-7	1 st grade	6 - 7
U-6	Kindergarten	5 - 6

B. TEAM FORMATION

1. All players who register during any regular SYC soccer registration session, either in person or on the Internet, will be guaranteed placement on a team. Players who register during any late registration session will be placed on a waiting list and will be placed on teams on a space available basis only. Players must be registered with SYC before they are assigned to a team or allowed to play or practice.
2. Teams are formed new each season (Fall and Spring). Although teams will not be arbitrarily broken up, there is no guarantee that all of the same players and coaches will be placed together for more than one season.
3. To the extent possible, teams are formed from players living in the same general neighborhood. Because of the large number of children in the House program, SYC cannot guarantee consideration of special requests for placement, coaches or teams. Issues such as carpools, day care, work schedules, etc., should be worked out by the individual parents.
4. In age groups U-9 and above, team formation shall consider location as well as experience levels of the player, in order to ensure league balance.

5. The LDs, with the approval of the House Commissioner, will make all decisions concerning team formation based on the above criteria.
6. House players who participate in an ODSL, NCSL, WAGS, or State Cup game lose their eligibility to play House games for the remainder of the season. Registered House players (i.e., a player with a valid USYSA card) may participate as guest players in club tournaments with traveling teams without losing eligibility to play in the House program.

C. SEASON

1. SYC has both Fall and Spring soccer seasons.
2. Generally, all games will be scheduled during the following times:
 - a. Spring – End of March to the weekend Fairfax County Elementary Schools are released for the summer.
 - b. Fall – End of August to the weekend before Thanksgiving.
3. Weather permitting, the regular season will consist of about eight games per team. If a game is cancelled, it will not be made up unless agreed upon by the coaches and approved by the League Director.

D. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

1. Each season, SYC issues to each player, through the player's coach, an SYC soccer shirt and socks in the color to the team to which the player is assigned. The shirt and socks belong to the player and may be kept for personal use at the end of the season.
2. Each shirt will have only the SYC logo and a number. For youth safety reasons, players' names are not allowed on SYC soccer shirts.
3. SYC issues one goalie shirt per team to teams in leagues U-9 and above. The goalie shirts may remain with the coaches after the completion of the season.
4. SYC issues one game ball per team prior to the season. The game balls may remain with the coaches after the completion of the season.
5. SYC issues practice soccer balls to all new players in the U-6 League. Players may only receive one ball during the Fall/Spring soccer year. The balls belong to the players and coaches should encourage their players to bring these balls to practice.

OPERATIONS

A. RULES OF PLAY

- All games will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, as interpreted by the Soccer Committee, and as modified for the younger age groups. Field, Ball Size, Players, Play Down, and Duration of the Game for each League are as follows:

League	Field Size	Ball Size	Players	Play Down	Duration
U-19	100 x 65 yards	5	11 v 11	9 v 9	2 x 45 min.
U-13/14	100 x 60 yards	5	11 v 11	9 v 9	2 x 35 min.
U-12	100 x 55 yards	4	8 v 8	7 v 7	2 x 30 min.
U-11	100 x 55 yards	4	8 v 8	7 v 7	2 x 30 min.
U-10	80 x 55 yards	4	7 v 7	6 v 6	2 x 30 min Boys 2 x 25 min Girls
U-9	70 x 45 yards	4	7 v 7	6 v 6	2 x 30 Boys 2 x 25 min Girls
U-8	40 x 30 yards	3	5 v 5	4 v 4	4 x 12 min.
U-7	35 x 25 yards	3	4 v 4	3 v 3	4 x 10 min.
U-6	25 x 20 yards	3	3 v 3	3 v 3	4 x 8 min.

- Number of Players:
 - Refer to the Players and Play Down columns in the chart above for the number of players and play down rules for the each league.
 - Coaches who know of a possible play down situation should immediately notify the opposing coach. The team short of players must notify the referee when additional players arrive.
 - Coaches in the U-6, U-7, and U-8 Leagues are encouraged to loan players to each other to minimize play-down situations.
 - Play down rules does not apply if a player is ejected from a game causing his team to have less than the prescribed number of players.
 - The League Director, in extreme cases, may award forfeits. Every effort should be made by coaches and League Directors to avoid this possibility.
- Players' Equipment
 - All players shall wear a SYC jersey and socks on the outside of all clothing. Socks must completely cover shin guards and must be under the socks, not covered by socks folded over.
 - Any child wearing a hard cast or splint will not be allowed to participate unless:
 - (1) It has been padded and approved by the referee (or both coaches in U6 or U7 leagues) and

(2) The player has a doctor's certificate, authorizing participation, that is present at the field and that has been inspected by the referee (or coaches in U6 and U7 leagues).

- c. Shin guards are required to be worn by all ages during practices and games.
- d. Shoes must have molded rubber soles. No metal cleats or football/softball cleat patterns are allowed.
- e. Neither jewelry nor metal or hard plastic hair clips are permitted. All earrings must be removed.

3. Substitutions

- a. Unlimited substitutions are permitted with the approval of the referee.
- b. Substitutions are made only at stoppages in the game, as follows:
 - during a quarter or half-time break
 - on either team's throw-in
 - on either team's goal kick
 - on all kick-offs
 - after injury, provided that only the injured player is substituted. If the coach elects to substitute, the other team may also substitute.
- c. Players must wait on sidelines until the referee allows players to enter the field of play during a substitution, or after a yellow card has been issued to a player, if the coach wishes to substitute for that player.
- d. Substitutions are not allowed in the following situations: corner kick, direct kick, indirect kick, and penalty kick (with the exception of U-6 and U-7 games, where substitutions may be made during any stoppage of play).

4. Referees

- a. The Referee Assignor, with the approval of the House Commissioner, shall schedule the number of game officials.
- b. Once the Referee steps onto the field, the Referee -- not the League Director or Coaches -- is in complete charge of the soccer game.

5. Protest of Games

Protests regarding the outcome of a game are not permitted in the House leagues. Allegations of misapplication of the Laws of Soccer should be reported to the League Director who will forward them to the Referee Assignor and Referee Evaluator. Allegations regarding the conduct of players, coaches, or spectators should be handled according to the disciplinary procedures outlined in Chapter 1, D.

6. Red Cards

These guidelines, which apply to players, coaches, and spectators in the U-8 leagues and up during regular season house games, may be superseded by the rules of other leagues (e.g., SFL) where SYC teams are participants and by post-season tournament rules.

- a. Players

- Must leave the game immediately. This means that the player must be escorted from the playing field and is not permitted to watch the remainder of the game. It is important that adult supervision be provided for the red-carded player to ensure his/her safety
- May NOT be replaced – i.e. the team with the red-carded player must play down
- Must receive an automatic one-game suspension. Red-carded players may not participate in or observe, either from the player or spectator area, the team's next game.

b. Coaches and Spectators

- Must leave the game immediately. They must be escorted from the playing field and are not permitted to watch the remainder of the game.
- Must receive an automatic one-game suspension. Red-carded coaches and spectators may not coach or observe, either from the player or spectator area, the team's next game.

c. Referees must report all red cards issued in their Referee Game Report and should notify the Referee Assignor.

d. Field Marshals must report all red cards issued in their Field Marshal Report.

e. League Directors must report all red cards issued, along with information from the Field Marshal's report, to the Commissioner.

f. Repeated red-card infractions by the same player, coach, or spectator will be evaluated on an individual basis by the Commissioner to determine the appropriate disciplinary action.

B. FIELD OF PLAY

1. All matches shall be played on properly lined fields, with nets and corner poles (or corner cones in the U-6 through U-8 leagues). The League Director will be responsible for seeing that the fields are prepared before game days.
2. Coaches and spectators will be required to stay at least 2 yards off of the sidelines and between the "18" yard lines wherever applicable. League Directors shall line the fields in order for coaches and spectators to understand clearly where they are allowed to stay. Coaches and spectators are not permitted in other areas of the field, particularly directly behind or near the soccer goals.

C. PRACTICE

1. Field Selection

- a. SYC is allocated a limited number of soccer fields by the Fairfax County Department of Recreation. The fields are to be used for practice and matches under the rules prescribed by the County as implemented by the Soccer Committee.
- b. Each coach has the opportunity to request the time and location of a practice area. Those coaching more than one team will be given first choice as to time and location.
- c. Assignment of fields are based on such factors as vicinity to neighborhood of players, demand for the particular time or location, coaches' participation in other teams or SYC programs, and size and age of the team.
- d. Once a practice field and time is allocated to a coach, it is the only authorized location for practice. If problems arise or conflicts exist, the appropriate League Directors should work together to resolve the issues.

- e. Coaches are free to use community parks and fields that are not under the jurisdiction of the County, providing that they receive proper approvals from controlling authority. SYC will not be responsible for scheduling or assigning practice space or times on these fields.
- f. Because of the shortage of fields, specific practice fields may be limited to certain age groups.

2. Practice Times

- a. No House team may practice until the House Commissioner declares the respective season open.
- b. U-6 and U-7 House teams are limited to one 1-hour practice per week.
- c. U-8, U-9, and U-10 House teams are limited to two 1-hour practices per week.
- d. U-11 and above House teams may have two 1-1/2 hour sessions per week.

3. Additional Training Opportunities

- House Soccer Coaches are encouraged to further their personal education and training through the licensing programs discussed in Chapter 1.
- Coaches are also encouraged to participate in coaching clinics scheduled by SYC's Director of Training.
- During the season, SYC's Director of Training will arrange skills development sessions. Some of these programs are offered free of charge and some may be offered for a nominal fee. Players and their families are responsible for any costs associated with these clinics.
- While coaches are encouraged to promote these sessions, they are intended to be offered on an individual basis. Coaches may not require their team members to attend.
- Occasionally, League Directors may arrange for cooperative training opportunities independent of those programs scheduled by the Director of Training. These programs will be:
 - a. Offered only after they have been approved by the House Commissioner and the Director of Training
 - b. Offered free of charge
 - c. Offered at a time that does not conflict with individual team practices or games
- Players may choose to participate in soccer camps that are offered throughout the year. Such participation is independent of the SYC house soccer program. As such, individual families are not in any way restricted from participating in any camp they choose.
- House teams are prohibited from arranging for paid trainers to work with the team, whether or not the cost of the trainer is paid by the coach or by the parents.
- House coaches can arrange for local high school players—particularly those who are older siblings of a team member—to work with the team as an assistant coach provided that they are not compensated. However, students who are working with a younger team may have their hours count toward their community service graduation requirement if the school and the coach approve it.

D. AWARDS

The awards program applies to all House Leagues from U-10 forward. The emphasis of House Soccer is player development. Player development is growth in tactical and technical proficiency and increased playing enjoyment

through hard competition and adherence to standards of sportsmanship. With this emphasis in mind, League Directors have the authority to provide the following awards:

- League Championships
- Division Championships
- Most Improved Teams

League Directors should submit budget requests for awards to their Deputy Commissioners at the beginning of each season.

POST SEASON PLAY

A. OVERVIEW

League	SoccerFest	House All-Star Teams	House Tournament Teams
U-6 and U-7	Seasonally Dependent	No	No
U-8	Seasonally Dependent	No	Spring Only
U-9	Seasonally Dependent	No	Yes
U-10 and up	No	Yes	Yes

1. The SoccerFest is a non-competitive, small-sided tournament held at the conclusion of the regular season for the players in the U-6 through U-9 leagues. This tournament is held instead of the House All-Star Tournament for these age groups.
2. House All-Star Teams and Tournament Teams exist to:
 - a. Honor those players whose efforts and achievement on the soccer field in a season have been exemplary;
 - b. Provide them an opportunity to play with others whose efforts and achievement also have been noteworthy.
3. The selection process for both All-Star and Tournament Teams is intended to assure that the selection of players and coaches is fair and is consistent with the objectives of the Soccer Program. The process is designed to afford all boys and girls (regardless of who their coach may be or how successful their team may be) a fair and open chance to be selected to a post-season team.
4. All-Star and Tournament Team play is intended to be a reward for superior play and development during a season. SYC House All-Star and Tournament teams are not intended to be "training" teams prior to formation of traveling teams, nor are they to be special teams formed by individuals.

B. HOUSE TOURNAMENT TEAMS

1. Nature of House Tournament Competition - House Tournaments are a series of matches played over a weekend against House Tournament teams from other soccer clubs. House Tournaments are generally very competitive as opposed to developmental; therefore, SYC will authorize League Directors to field and to prepare the most competitive House Tournament teams possible within the following guidelines:
2. Eligible Age Groups - House Tournament teams are open to the U-9 age groups and up.
3. Number of Teams - League Directors will field one or two tournament teams based upon such considerations as size of the league, number of capable players, and available coaches.
4. Coach Selection - League Directors will select head coaches who will represent SYC well, and who can help players to enhance their soccer skills in a competitive environment. League Directors should use House Tournaments to provide additional coaching experience, and should avoid selecting the same coaches from season to season.
5. Player Selection - Tournament coaches will invite at least one player from each League team to be a member of the tournament team. Tournament coaches may select players through a combination of league coaches' recommendations, scouting, and with the approval of the House Commissioner, limited tryouts.
6. Practice Policy - Tournament coaches may start practices one month prior to the scheduled House Tournament. Tournament coaches may train their teams once a week prior to the end of the House season. After the last day of House League play, tournament coaches may train their teams as often as they desire. Tournament coaches will use their age group assigned game field for both practices and scrimmages during the week and weekends. Tournament coaches will schedule practice fields with the SYC Field Director only if their field is unavailable.
7. Playing Time – A player will play at least one half of each House Tournament game given the coach judges that the player has trained and competes with appropriate effort.
8. Uniforms - Tournament teams shall wear SYC issued or approved shirts and socks.

C. HOUSE ALL-STARS

1. House All-Star teams are open to the U-10 age groups and up and involve play against other SYC All-Star teams.
2. Team Selection
 - a. The House Commissioner will set the number of teams. The number of teams should be such that approximately 40-50% of league players are include in the post-season Tournament and House All-Stars teams. In order to provide enough teams for round robin play, the House Commissioner may exceed this guideline.
 - b. The League Director determines how the players will be divided into teams (including combined age group teams) with the key factor being the creation of equal and competitive teams.
3. Player Selection
 - a. Coaches shall nominate players who have shown exceptional improvement in skill, displayed exceptional effort, or exemplified team spirit and sportsmanship. House All-Stars are not intended to be just the next best players who did not make the Tournament teams.

- b. Players selected for a House Tournament Team may not participate on the House All-Star Team and should not be included in the selection process.
 - c. The All-Star Coach and/or League Director as necessary may select additional players.
4. Coach Selection - The League Director shall select the Head Coaches with the approval of the House Commissioner.
 5. Matches - The League Director will determine the time and location of House All-Star matches.
 6. Uniforms - All House All-Star players shall wear SYC issued or approved shirts and socks.
 7. Practice Policy
 - a. In-House All-Star teams may practice prior to their match, provided the practices do not conflict with House league practices and/or any House games of the players.
 - b. Practice fields and times must be scheduled through the League Director.

D. SOCCERFEST

Instead of a House All-Star tournament, the U-6 through U-9 Leagues conduct a post-season SoccerFest. This tournament is characterized by the following:

- It is open to all players in the leagues.
- It is a non-competitive, fun tournament where scores and standings are not recorded.
- SoccerFest is purely voluntary.
- Separate games are held for the Boys and Girls leagues.
- The games are small-sided.
- The House Commissioner will normally appoint a SoccerFest coordinator for the season

E. OTHER TOURNAMENTS FOR HOUSE TEAMS

1. Tournament Approval: House teams may only play in sanctioned tournaments approved by the House Commissioner.
2. Relationship to Tournament Teams: In cases of scheduling conflicts, players chosen for Tournament Teams are encouraged to play for that team.

CHAPTER 4 – TRAVEL PROGRAM

A. ORGANIZATION

1. Travel Commissioner is responsible for the operation of the Travel Program.
2. Deputy Commissioners are appointed and replaced by the Travel Commissioner.

B. OBJECTIVES

1. The Travel Program is designed for players (boys and girls) of advanced skills who desire to compete at a higher level of competition. SYC travel teams play throughout the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area in either the National Capital Soccer League (NCSL), the Old Dominion Soccer League (ODSL) or Washington Area Girls Soccer League (WAGS), as representatives of the Springfield Youth Club. They also frequently travel to other metropolitan areas throughout North America for tournament play and host out-of-town teams during tournaments in this area.
2. Travel teams require a higher degree of dedication of time and effort from players, coaches and parents. The teams may meet more frequently for practice than House Teams and they play more games. Most games are played on Sunday, but weeknight and Saturday games are not uncommon.

C. U-9 & U-10 DEVELOPMENTAL TRAVEL TEAMS

1. The soccer experience of our younger players should be focused on developing individual skills rather than on the outcome of competitive play. The younger ages are critical in the development of talented soccer players. With this in mind, the Club has adopted a development program for the youngest age groups in the Travel Program.
2. The primary objective of this program is to develop a pool of players with similar skill levels in order to field two or more competitive full-sided (11v11) travel teams at U-11.
3. Team Formation
 - a. Boys and girls will have one team with two groups. i.e. SYC United Blue & White or SYC Freedom Blue & White .
 - b. Each group will consist of 10 - 12 players, with a total of 20- - 24 boys and girls in the program.
 - c. Each group will be approximately equal in skill, with no designated A or B groups .until U10 or beyond.tryouts will be held and open to all age-eligible children typically in June before Fairfax County Schools begin summer vacation. For U9 girls playing in ODSL, they must turn 8 before the first ODSL game in September or sit out until their birth date. During the U10 Fall or Spring season, the groups may begin to align to a designated A or B format to prepare for competitive seeding in NCSL and WAGS during the U11 age group.

4. Coaches

- a. SYC will advertise and interview U-9 coaching candidates no later than the winter or spring prior to the first U-9 fall season.
- b. All U-9 coaching candidates must possess at least an E license.

5. Philosophy

- a. The focus of the teams will be player development instead of team performance.
- b. Player participation in SYC sponsored skill clinics will be highly encouraged.
- c. Parents' expectations will be set and goals established.

D U-11 AND U-12 TRAVEL TEAMS

1. The teams will separate.

2. Cooperation will be encouraged between the teams.

3. Team Formation

- a. We will encourage – but not mandate – that the better players be on the same team.
- b. Tryouts will be held and open to all age-eligible children.
- c. We would like to see 50% - 80% of the players coming from the U-9/10 Developmental Program.

4. Philosophy

- a. Players must compete for and earn a spot on the teams.
- b. Players will demonstrate a commitment to their teams, practices, and games.
- c. The teams will have two 1-1/2 hour training sessions per week.

E. U-13 THROUGH U-15 TRAVEL TEAMS

1. Team Formation

- a. For both boys and girls, the intent is to create one very strong team, with a second team that will be competitive.
- b. We would like to see at 40% -70% of the players coming from the Developmental Program.
- c. Tryouts will be held and open to all age-eligible children.

2. Philosophy

- a. Field one boys' and one girls' team that will be able to compete for the State Cup Championship, with a vision to compete at the Nationals.
- b. Provide teams with opportunity to take an international tour.

F. U-16 THROUGH U-19 TRAVEL TEAMS

1. Field one boys' and one girls' team that will be able to compete for the National Championship.

2. We would like to see 30%-60% of the players coming from the Developmental Program.

3. Provide teams with opportunity to take an international tour.

G. NEW TEAM FORMATION U-10 AND ABOVE

Selection is on a competitive basis.

1. A SYC Travel Team may be formed only with the express recommendation of the appropriate Deputy Commissioner, and approval of the Travel Commissioner.
2. Formation of more than one team within an age group will be consistent with the talent available and the competitive levels within the league and must be approved by the Travel Commissioner.
3. When more than one team is formed in the U-10 to U-14 age groups, the additional teams are to be considered as extensions of the senior or "A" team and are part of the overall program within that age group.
4. The "A" team is the team that finished higher in the league standings in the preceding season.

H. SELECTION OF COACHES

1. Notice: Coaches will be selected only after prior public notice that a position is available. Public notice may include the TORCH, handouts to League Directors, or ads in newspapers. The Travel Commissioner may make exceptions to these criteria in unusual circumstances with the consent of the Soccer Committee.
2. Selection Process: Each qualified applicant shall be afforded an interview with a selection committee at which time the applicant can provide his or her qualifications and be asked questions.
3. Selection Committee: The selection committee shall be comprised of no fewer than three individuals, which shall include the Deputy Commissioner of the applicable division--Boys or Girls, and two other individuals appointed by the Travel Commissioner who can delegate this responsibility to the appropriate Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner will advise the Travel Commissioner as to who is on the selection committee prior to any interviews. Each selection committee member will standardize and document their questions prior to the interviews and forward their questions, assessment of the responses and recommendations to the Deputy Commissioner
4. Decision: The selection of a coach shall be made by the Travel Commissioner based on recommendations of the selection committee
5. Training: To assure the highest level of play, coaches are expected to continually educate themselves in the techniques and strategies of soccer.
6. Participation: Coaches are expected to assist in administering the SYC Travel Soccer Program and the Virginian Soccer Tournament and to maintain positive and constructive relationships with VYSA, NCSL, ODSL, WAGS and local high schools. SYC players are encouraged to participate in the VYSA Olympic Development Program (ODP) tryouts, practices, games and tours. SYC coaches will not force the player and family to choose between their travel team, ODP and high school sports.
7. Evaluation Factors: The fitness of a coach to continue will be evaluated by the applicable Deputy Commissioner. Factors include
 - Knowledge of game
 - Relationship to players
 - Evidence of sportsmanship
 - Attitude
 - Cooperation with others
 - Adherence to SYC policy and Laws of Soccer
 - Adherence to WAGS/NCSL/ODSL rules where applicable
 - Understanding of and desire to work within SYC Travel Program

8. Dismissal:
 - a. A coach may be removed or suspended at any time for cause by the Deputy Commissioner with the approval of the Travel Commissioner. Any coach so dismissed may, within five days after being notified of said removal or suspension, appeal to the Soccer Committee. A written notice of appeal must be submitted to the Travel Commissioner in person or by mail, postmarked within the five-day appeal period.
 - b. The Travel Commissioner will immediately notify the Soccer Committee Chairperson who will schedule a hearing as soon as possible. Notice of this hearing will be given to the coach.
 - c. Upon receipt of the written notice of appeal by the Travel Commissioner and until the decision of the Soccer Committee is rendered, the removal or suspension will be stayed. Upon completion of the hearing, the Soccer Committee will render its decision and its reasons therefore in writing.
 - d. The Soccer Committee may uphold or reverse the removal or suspension or impose any other sanctions it deems appropriate under the circumstances presented. If the removal or suspension is upheld or the Soccer Committee imposes other sanctions, the removal, suspension, or other sanctions will become immediately effective.
 - e. The coach may within 10 days after being notified of the Soccer Committee's decision, appeal that decision to the SYC Board of Directors ("Board") by submitting a written notice of appeal to the President of the Board, in person or by mail postmarked within the 10 day appeal period. Upon receipt of the written notice of appeal, the President will notify the Board, which will determine whether to hear the appeal. Unless the Board orders otherwise, the removal, suspension, or sanctions approved by the Soccer Committee will not be stayed. No appeal can be made to the Board prior to the decision of the Soccer Committee.
9. Effective with the Spring 2003 season, all head coaches must submit an application for coaching via the SYC website. Individuals who do not follow this policy will not be permitted to coach.
10. Volunteer (Parent) Coaches. SYC is a non-profit youth organization and prides itself on volunteer (parent) coaches for both house (recreational) and travel soccer. Volunteer (parent) coaches (those coaches who have a son or daughter on a soccer team) will not charge the team either coaching or trainer fees regardless of their qualifications, experience or licensing levels. In return, their son or daughter does not have to tryout for the team, but receives an automatic roster spot. The team may vote to provide the volunteer (parent) coach an end of season gift certificate equivalent not to exceed \$100 in value. Cash or checks are not appropriate and will not be provided.
11. Paid Coaches or Trainers. Those coaches or trainers (without sons or daughters on the team) will originally be hired by majority vote of all team members and certified that they agree to the negotiated salary per season or per year or training fee per session evidenced by a written contract signed and dated by the paid coach or trainer with the team manager (representing the team). A majority vote is required each season or year to renew the paid coach or trainer contract. **As a guide only**, the normal trainer rate is \$100 per hour; with a paid coach for the U9 & U10 age group annually averaging \$2,400 per 24 players, and the U13-U19 age groups annually averaging near \$9,000 with a low of \$4,000 and a high of \$12,500. Please note that any paid coach or trainer is not an employee or contractor of SYC. The team, and not SYC is responsible for compliance with any applicable federal, state or local tax laws or regulations.

I. SELECTION OF PLAYERS

1. Selection of players for a SYC travel team is on a try-out basis only and roster selections within an age group are made by the Coach (and may be subject to review by the appropriate Deputy Commissioner and Travel Commissioner).
2. No players for a new team will be selected without prior public notice of tryouts. Public notice includes such things as The TORCH, handouts to league directors, sign-up sheets at registration, ads in newspapers, and appropriate websites. Where unusual circumstances warrant, the appropriate Deputy Commissioner may grant exceptions.
3. Each player selected shall attend at least one tryout. All current members of a travel team are required to attend at least one tryout session. No players are exempt from tryout out each year.
4. The basic philosophy of the SYC Travel Program is for teams in the same age group to cooperate with each other. The objective of the "B" team (or where applicable the "C" team) is to develop players so that they can progress to their highest level of play.
5. Players will play in their own age groups. Request for exception to this policy will be considered only in unusual circumstances. The appropriate Deputy Commissioner will make approval of such request with the concurrence of the Travel Commissioner only after consideration of the following:
 - a. When approval would be in the best interests of the SYC; the two age groups involved; and, the individual. As guidelines, the following factors should be considered:
 - i. SYC tries to field the most competitive teams possible in each age group. To take a good player away from his/her teams own age group generally weakens his/her team without substantially improving the older age group team.
 - ii. Each age group has a limited number of children from which traveling teams can be constructed. A reasonable balance of the number of children available must be struck for each age group.
 - b. Requests for permission to play for an older age group must be made in writing by the player's parent(s) -- not by the coach or team manager.
 - c. A coach may not, under any circumstances, offer a place on a team to any player from a younger age group before approval for that player to "play up" has been received from the appropriate Deputy Commissioner. **Violation of this provision is cause for removal of the coach.** The coach of a team trying out a younger player must immediately notify all coaches of the player's correct age group.
 - d. Disagreements with any decisions regarding requests to deviate from the policy of playing in your own age group shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures in Chapter 6 of this program guide.
 - e. A player authorized to "play up" retains that authorization as long as they remain a member of that age group.
6. Prior to the start of the Travel Team season, a player may request a voluntary release from a travel team and be assigned to a House Team. However, team assignment will be made based on the needs of the House league and not necessarily on a neighborhood basis. A player requesting a voluntary release from a

Travel Team after that team's season has begun is not guaranteed a place on a House Team. In the latter situation, placement on a House Team will be on a space available basis.

7. All Travel Team players must be current SYC Soccer Program registrants.
8. Registered House League players (i.e., a player with a valid USYSA card) may participate with travel teams in club tournaments without losing eligibility to play in the House League. However, House League players who participate in an NCSL, WAGS, ODSL, or State Cup game lose their eligibility to play in House League games for the remainder of that season.
9. Selection of Players will be in compliance with all applicable ODSL, WAGS, or NCSL rules.

J. PRACTICE

1. Field Selection

- a. SYC is allocated a limited number of soccer fields. The fields are to be used for practices and matches under the rules prescribed by the County as implemented by the Soccer Committee.
- b. Each coach has the opportunity to request the time and location of a practice. Those coaching more than one team will be given first choice as to time and location.
- c. Once a practice field is allocated to a coach, which is the only authorized location for practice. If problems arise or conflicts exist, contact SYC Soccer's Fields Director.
- d. Using another time or location is forbidden without the prior approval of the Fields Director.

2. Time

- a. Travel Teams are allocated two 1-1/2 hour practices a week on an assigned field.
- b. Additional practice time is allowed if the field space and time are available and do not conflict with other Travel and House teams.

K. RELATIONSHIP OF TRAVEL TEAMS TO LEAGUES AND SYC

1. All SYC Travel Program coaches, players and parents are expected to comply with the policies of SYC and the policies and rules of WAGS, ODSL and NCSL.
2. The appropriate Deputy Travel Commissioner will register SYC Travel Teams each season with the appropriate league and assure payment of all fees.
3. The appropriate Deputy Travel Commissioner will collect and assure that each SYC team pays all fees owed to the SYC. Teams that have not paid their fees by the beginning of the season will be precluded from league play until the fees are paid in full.
4. The appropriate Deputy Travel Commissioner will ensure that all team managers have their team parents register their player on-line at www.sycva.com prior to each season and prior to the team's first scheduled league game. If the on-line registration process is closed, team parents must go to the SYC Office to register in person or their son/daughter cannot play until they do.

5. The Deputy Travel Commissioners will assure that all SYC teams wear the SYC uniforms approved by the Soccer Committee. Coaches whose teams do not abide by the SYC approved uniform may be subject to disciplinary action.

L. USYSA NATIONAL/REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION EXPENSES

1. Each year the Virginia State Cup champion, and at times the runner-up, is invited to participate in the USYSA National and regional championship competition. To support SYC teams who have qualified for the USYSA competition, the Soccer Committee may authorize the payment of financial assistance to SYC teams as follows:
 - a. Regional championship competition: up to a maximum of \$1000 per team.
 - b. National championship competition: up to a maximum of \$1500 per team.
2. To be eligible for SYC assistance, the requesting team must be in good standing, be current on all fees and requirements, and have the request approved by the Travel Commissioner. The Soccer Committee will resolve all questions concerning the interpretation of this policy.

M. TEAM MANAGER

1. Purpose:

Each Travel Team shall have an individual who will serve as the Team Manager. The Team Manager will be the primary point of contact with the Club and will assist the Travel Commissioner in the management of the Travel Soccer Program by supervising administrative matters involving the Team and the Club and distributing information to all team parents.

2. Selection/Removal Process:

If the Team Coach is a paid coach, the position shall be filled as follows:

- a. The Team Manager must have at least one child participating in the Soccer Program at the time they are elected.
- b. The Team Manager shall be selected by a majority vote of the parents of the Team's rostered players.
- c. The Team Manager may be removed by a majority vote of the parents of the Team's rostered players or at the discretion of the DEPUTY Travel Commissioner.
- d. The DEPUTY Travel Commissioner shall resolve all team disputes concerning the selection or removal of the Team Manager.

3. General Responsibilities:

The Team Manager will represent the Team in all matters involving SYC. The Team Manager's duties and responsibilities will include the following:

- a. Is authorized to convene Team meetings.

b. Must designate a volunteer parent to act as the team treasurer/banker (not a member of the coaching staff) to establish a tax-exempt account for the team. The team account name cannot have "SYC or Springfield Youth Club," on it but it can be called the "Springfield (Team Name)." The volunteer team treasurer/banker and manager are the only two signature authorities on this team bank account, and the only two authorized to deposit and withdraw funds from the team bank account, and write team checks. The same two people are authorized to charge team expenditures to the SYC Virginian account established in the team name each summer after the Virginian team payouts are approved. The volunteer team treasurer/banker must provide a minimum of one budget update/expense report to the team per season, preferably during team meetings, but can be via email. The team votes (by majority) on the expenditure of all team funds, to include any reimbursements due to departing families prior to the voluntary release or transfer form being signed.

c. Coordinate the registration of the Team's players with SYC and VYSA.

d. Notify the Club that parents have complied with the SYC's volunteer requirement.

e. Coordinate the Team's compliance with the KidSafe program.

f. Certify the results of all Team votes.

g. Coordinate the Team's participation in the Virginian Tournament.

h. Ensure that the Team's coaches, parents and players comply with all SYC, League and VYSA rules and policies.

i. The Team Manager or his/her designee will remain on the sideline with the team during all games

CHAPTER 5 - SOCCER REFEREE PROGRAM

A. GENERAL

1. Program Objectives

The SYC Soccer Referee Program gives training and experience to persons interested in refereeing and provides qualified referees and assistant referees for the House Soccer Program.

2. Philosophy

Well-controlled games played according to the laws of soccer improve the overall quality of soccer experience. The opportunity to learn and to apply the rules of the game from the other side of the whistle is also important to our youth. By participating in the Referee Program, a referee improves his or her knowledge of the game and becomes better qualified to pass this knowledge along to others, whether as a player, coach or parent.

3. Eligibility

- a. Any SYC member, 13 years old or older, is eligible for the program. All persons must register with the Director of Referees.
- b. Referee candidates must attend a clinic on the rules and principles of refereeing and pass the USSF written test and demonstrate a current USSF certification prior to being scheduled for any games.

B. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The SYC Soccer Referee Program is run by the Referee Assignor, assisted by a Director for Referees and appropriate league officials as determined by the House Commissioner.

2. Referee Assignor

- a. Establish the policies and budget for operating the Referee Program, subject to approval by the Soccer Committee.
- b. Organize and manage a volunteer staff to conduct the program in accordance with approved policies.
- c. Coordinate Referee Program requirements with the House Commissioner, the Registration Coordinator and the Director of Referees.
- d. Operate the Referee Program and resolve all conflicts arising therein.
- e. Ensure that referees and assistant referees are paid in accordance with the rate schedule approved by the SYC Soccer Committee.
 - Establish procedures for reporting and certifying games worked.
 - Pay out will be made at the end of each season, only for SYC-sanctioned games.
- f. Develop and administer an incentive compensation program to reward those referees whose performance has been exemplary. The details of this program are subject to approval by the SYC Soccer Committee.
- g. Schedule and conduct a general referee meeting at the start of each new soccer season to cover the Referee Program and procedures for the coming season.
- h. Organize, schedule and conduct SYC referee training clinics. Referee clinics are given as required, however, a minimum of one clinic will be given prior to the start of each soccer season. Length of the

clinics will be appropriate to the material to be covered. The SYC Referee Test will be given at the end of the final session. Be responsible for preparing training materials used in the clinics.

- i. Present a session (as part of the pre-season coaches meetings conducted by the Commissioners) to refresh coaches with the laws of soccer. This session will primarily discuss referee responsibilities, control of the game and enforcement of the laws.

2. Director of Referees

- Assist in formulating the policies and budget for the Referee Program.
- Organize an Evaluation Committee that will evaluate referee performance and make recommendations for moving referees along in the program.
 - a. All first year youth referees will start as assistant referees in the three-man system. From there they will progress to the one-man system and finally to the center in the three-man system.
 - b. The Evaluation Committee will establish procedures, evaluate referees and assistant referees and make recommendations on the advancement of youth referees.
- Assist the referee assignor to ensure referees are qualified for the games for which they are scheduled.
- Devise and manage a system for obtaining feedback on referee performance from coaches through their respective league directors.
- Review game and referee reports, particularly of cautions and ejections, with the referee assignor to assure game management is appropriate and recommend corrective actions to the appropriate league directors and Deputy Commissioners.

4. Referees and Assistant Referees

- a SYC Referees and assistant referees are members of a select group striving to enhance the level of SYC soccer play. Because they are paid for their services, they are expected to perform to the best of their ability and devote full attention to their duties and responsibilities as referees or assistant referees whenever they are on the field acting in that capacity. Referees/assistant referees who fail to perform their duties in a professional manner will be dismissed from the program.
- b All referees and assistant referees are required to wear the appropriate referee uniform. They are expected to report to the field in uniform with all necessary equipment to include flags, watch, whistle, coin, paper and pencil, and caution/ejection cards. Referees and assistant referees provide their own uniforms and equipment.
- c Referees and assistant referees are expected to report to their scheduled field in sufficient time to check the field and perform other pre-game duties to permit the game to start at the scheduled time. Usually this requires the referee to be present a minimum of 15 minutes prior to game time.

- d Once a referee or assistant referee has agreed to officiate a game, the assignment is considered final. Referees/assistant referees who must make changes are responsible for finding their own replacement and they will clear the change with their scheduler a minimum of 24 hours before the day of the match. Failure to show up for games or obtain replacements will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the referee assignor. Appropriate loss of fees, or removal from program may result, depending on the decision of the assignor. If a referee/assistant referee cannot obtain his own replacement, he can obtain assistance by calling his scheduler provided he does so a minimum of 72 hours prior to the match.
- e The senior referee at each game is responsible for filing all game and other reports required by these instructions.
- f If a referee must issue a caution or ejection, he will report the circumstances of the incident on the game report form provided on the field, attaching supplemental descriptions of incidents and cards as appropriate. The report will include the name of all referees and assistant referees at the game, date and time of the game, league, name of player(s) concerned, type of caution or ejection, and circumstances of the incident. If a league disciplinary hearing is conducted, referees may be requested to appear and relate the circumstances of the incident.

CHAPTER 6 - MISCELLANEOUS POLICY & PROCEDURES

- A. When Fairfax County declares fields closed for play that means no games or practices for House or Travel Teams on those fields during the period of closure. Failure to abide by the rules may cause the loss of the field to the SYC, the offending team, and suspension of the offending coach.
- B. In the case of inclement weather, the House Commissioner is responsible for surveying fields and deciding whether they are playable. He will advise the House Program of the decision. Likewise, the Travel Commissioner, directly or through the Deputy Travel Commissioners, is responsible for advising WAGS, NCSL, and ODSL of field conditions at least 3 hours before the first scheduled game time for that day.
- C. In bad weather, even if fields have not been closed, practice is not to be conducted on playing areas.
- D. No complaint or inquiry regarding the Soccer Program will be investigated or considered unless presented in writing, including email, to the House or Travel Commissioners or Soccer Committee.
- E. No verbal abuse by coaches, players or spectators of the referee, assistant referees or the opposing teams' coach or players or toward our own players will be tolerated, per SYC's Code of Conduct
- F. The SYC Soccer Program exists for the fun, physical and social development of the youth of Springfield. The actions of all adults should be worthy of our boys and girls, and the actions of the boys and girls should make the adults proud.
- G. SYC Volunteer Credit
 1. Every family is expected to volunteer 4 hours of service to SYC each fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). Those families who provide volunteer service will have their volunteer fee waived for the next season. Volunteer service to waive volunteer fees can be within soccer, or it can be in support of an organization function, for example, one of the registrations. In House soccer, serving in one of the following positions or activities satisfies the annual service requirement: league director, head or assistant coach, field marshal, new banner maker, team parent, field set ups and takedowns of a game field, mowing a field. All activities must total at least 4 hours. The House and Travel Commissioners, as well as the House League Directors, may need help with other activities and can give volunteer credit whenever they feel a family has provided 4 hours of service.
 2. Each coach or travel manager will provide their Commissioner with a roster of their team with the families marked that should be given credit for their volunteer service. The roster must be submitted **no later than** the day requested by the Commissioner to the SYC Office for Registration. Parents are responsible to ensure that the coach or travel manager has properly annotated their volunteer service to receive credit.
 3. Travel Soccer teams are small business organizations that have a multitude of basic tasks that must be accomplished from season to season. The coach and manager cannot do all of these tasks without significant help. In Travel Soccer only, parents are expected to assist with team duties outside of the SYC volunteer requirement to waive the annual SYC fee in other sports. Examples include but not limited to: coach, manager, team practice and game equipment (portable goals, ice, Gatorade, wash clothes, sun/rain canopy), home game field setup and takedown, first aid, sideline sportsmanship liaison, uniform coordinator, treasurer/banker, fund raising, webmaster or photographer, tournament and hotel coordinator, training coordinator (indoor and camps), team spirit or social coordinator, and Virginian Team Rep. Non-support of your travel team can influence future decisions on continuation with that team.

The Virginian Tournament participation does not count for the 4 hours of SYC credit unless they are the Virginian Team Rep. Blanket volunteer credit for families that worked the Virginian will not be approved.

Parents are responsible to ensure that the coach or travel manager has properly annotated their volunteer service each season.

H. REFUNDS

It is the policy of Springfield Youth Club that the volunteer initiation fee is non-refundable.

Upon written request via US mail or email participants will receive a full refund of the activity fee(s) prior to the final in-person registration or at the close of online registration, whichever concludes last.

Upon written request via US mail or email 50% of the activity fee will be refunded during try-outs, drafts, pre-season clinics or uniform distribution.

No refunds will be issued after the official draft (football) and/or first game (remaining sports).

Request for refunds may be sent to:

SoizikSmith@sycva.com

Or

7075 Newington Road

Lorton, VA 22079

*Under extenuating circumstances, individual sport commissioners may approve any deviation of the official SYC refund policy.

I. QUESTIONS

If you have a question or problem concerning the House Soccer program, call 703-339-4118. Leave your name and a daytime telephone number and your call will be returned as soon as possible. You may also email us at Carolynbrennan@sycva.com.

Springfield Youth Club

Codes of Conduct

In order to insure that the principles of sportsmanship, fair play, skill development, and mutual respect among players, coaches, officials, and spectators are the primary considerations governing competition in Springfield Youth Club (SYC) sports activities, the following Codes of Conduct have been established and adopted.

The Springfield Youth Club Player's Code of Conduct

Each player participating in an activity of The Springfield Youth Club (the "SYC" or the "Club") will ensure that his/her playing conduct is that of a young lady or gentleman fairly competing to the limit of his/her ability. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, the player is expected to comply with the rules of the SYC Player's Code of Conduct as set out below.

1. Know the rules of the sport or activity that he or she is participating in and abide by them.
2. Respect the game officials and refrain from addressing them or commenting on their decisions during the play of the game. The team captain may address the officials during the game but only within the provisions of the rules, and in a courteous, respectful manner.
3. Maintain control of his/her emotions, avoiding the use of abusive language or profanity, humiliating remarks, and/or gestures of ill temper.
4. Do not physically assault, or threaten to physically assault, another player, game official or a coach.
5. Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team. Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship during and at the conclusion of the game, being humble and generous in victory, proud, and courteous in defeat.
6. Follow all building and facility rules and regulations, respecting at all times the property of others.
7. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on sportsmanship, courtesy, and manners of each individual player.

I (print name) _____ agree to abide by The Springfield Youth Club Player's Code of Conduct whenever participating in an SYC sponsored activity. I also acknowledge that failure to follow the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension from Club activities or expulsion from the SYC.

(Signature) _____

The Springfield Youth Club Coach's Code of Conduct

Each coach participating in an activity of The Springfield Youth Club (the "SYC" or the "Club") will ensure that his/her conduct is that of a lady or gentleman, demonstrating at all times the highest level of sportsmanship and fair play. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, every coach is expected to comply with the rules of the SYC Coach's Code of Conduct as set out below.

1. Know the rules of the activity or sport that he or she is coaching and abide by them.
2. Instruct team members in the rules of the game and motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
3. Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner.
4. Ensure that the players and spectators follow all building and facility rules and regulations at, and during, SYC sponsored activities.
5. Ensure that the fans of his/her team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at game sites. Assist game officials in maintaining control of spectators and players during the games.
6. Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team both during the play of the game and at its conclusion, win and lose.
7. Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
8. Maintain control of his/her emotions and avoid actions, language and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile or humiliating. Do not physically assault, or threaten to physically assault, any person (including, but not limited to, any player, spectator, parent, guardian, game official or a coach).
9. Instruct team support personnel (e.g., assistant coaches, line persons, scorekeepers, and timekeepers) in their responsibilities in accordance with established rules and procedures.
10. Never consume alcohol at SYC sponsored activities (especially in the presence of players) or allow it to be consumed during any SYC sponsored activity including, but not limited to, practices and games. Never be in an inebriated state at any SYC sponsored activities including, but not limited to, practices and games.
11. Never encourage, tolerate or indulge in substance abuse.
12. Never smoke or use tobacco products in front of players during any SYC sponsored activity including, but not limited to, practices or games.
13. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on its sportsmanship and courtesy.
14. Comply with the SYC Child Protection Policy which includes remaining at a playing site or practice field until all children on the team have been picked up by either their parent or their guardian.

15. Comply with the SYC Equal Opportunity Policy, which prohibits discrimination based upon race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, age, disability or handicap, sex, marital status, family responsibilities, matriculation, personal appearance, sexual orientation, political affiliation or veteran status.

I (print name) _____ agree to abide by The Springfield Youth Club Coach's Code of Conduct whenever participating in an SYC sponsored activity. I also acknowledge that failure to follow the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension from Club activities or expulsion from the SYC.

(Signature) _____

**The Springfield Youth Club
Code of Conduct for Parents, Guardians and Spectators**

Each parent, guardian and/or spectator attending an activity of The Springfield Youth Club (the "SYC" or the "Club") will ensure that his/her conduct is that of a lady or gentleman while observing the activity (including, but not limited to, a practice or competition, as well as the period of time after the activity, practice or competition has concluded). To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, every parent, guardian and/or spectator is expected to comply with the rules of the Code of Conduct for Parents, Guardians and Spectators as set out below.

1. Respect the rules of the game.
2. Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner.
3. Cheer for their team in a positive, supportive manner refraining at all times from making negative or abusive remarks about the opposing team.
4. Maintain control of his/her emotions and avoid actions, language and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile or humiliating. Any physical assault or threat of a physical assault, upon a player, game official, coach or other spectator is strictly prohibited.
4. Refrain at all times from coming onto the playing surfaces or from throwing objects or other foreign materials onto the playing surfaces. Exit in an orderly manner at the conclusion of the activity. Enter indoor facilities quietly and remain seated during the activity (including, but not limited to, a practice or competition).
5. Follow all building and facility rules and regulations, respecting at all times the property of others.
6. Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of the game, win or lose.
7. Realize, accept and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on sportsmanship, courtesy and citizenship of its fans.
8. Comply with the SYC Child Protection Policy which includes remaining at a playing site or practice field until all children on the team have been picked up by either their parent or their guardian

I (print name) _____ agree to abide by The Springfield Youth Club Code of Conduct for Parents, Guardians and Spectators whenever I am observing or participating in an SYC sponsored activity. I also acknowledge that failure to follow the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension from Club activities or expulsion from the SYC.

(Signature) _____