

SECTION I
Establishment

The Arbitration-Grievance Board (A.G.) is established under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Central Pennsylvania Youth Soccer League (CPYSL).

SECTION II
Responsibility and Authority

- A. Arbitration of Claims
The A.G. shall arbitrate all claims which arise from within the structure of the CPYSL and shall judge all matters pertaining to player and/or club infractions
- B. Authority
The A.G. has the authority to penalize all associations/clubs affiliated with the CPYSL and the individual officers, coaches, members and players thereof. Penalties shall include but not be limited to letters of censure, forfeiture of points in competitive standings, fines, the restrictions of playing fields, and temporary or permanent “suspension” from the activities of CPYSL or its member organizations.
- C. USYSA Rules
Nothing stated herein shall conflict with the rules or regulations of the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) or Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association (EPYSA) whose rules and regulations in these matters shall always take precedence.

SECTION III
Membership

- A. Members
The A.G. shall consist of seven to *nine members* (three board members and 4 or 6 members from affiliated clubs or associations) All are appointed by the CPYSL President, subject to the approval by the Board of Directors. The A.G. Chairman shall vote only in a case of a tie.
- B. Secretary
The A.G. Chairman shall appoint a recording secretary from the membership of the A.G. to record the minutes of all A.G. meetings and to maintain permanent records of all A.G. activities.

SECTION IV
Meetings

- A. Convene Meetings
The A.G. Chairman will convene the entire A.G. or panels consisting of three members of the full A.G. committee to hear appeals or at any other time when deemed necessary.
- B. Petitioning
Written petition to the A.G. Chairman from a majority of the A.G. membership, exclusive of the A.G. Chairman, shall be sufficient cause to convene the entire A.G.
- C. Quorum
A majority of the A.G. membership shall constitute a quorum. For hearing purposes, a minimum of three A.G. members shall constitute a quorum for hearing disciplinary cases.
- D. Referee Association
A representative of the referee's association may attend A.G. meetings but shall not be a voting member of the AG Committee.

SECTION V Procedure

All matters of concern to the A.G. or its subordinate authorities shall originate from the referee's game report or from a formal protest/appeal submitted in writing, by a "party of interest". The following procedures shall be followed:

- A. Referee Game Reports
The referee's game report shall be submitted to the appropriate subordinate authority or to such person or persons as may be designated to receive such reports. Game reports shall be post-marked no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the completion of a game. Where a player, coach, team official, or cautions or suspensions, or spectator problems, game protests, or field irregularities are involved, the referee's report shall be forwarded to the AG Chairman by the CPYSL.

Notwithstanding the fact that a referee's game report is postmarked after forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the game, the A.G., in its sole discretion, may determine to utilize the procedure hereunder and hold a hearing.

- B. Formal Protests
 - 1. Laws of the Game
All protests which arise from an infringement of the Laws of the Game are subject to a protest fee. Copies of the protest shall be made in triplicate; Two (2) copies shall be forwarded to the CPYSL Office, postmarked no later than forty-eight (48)

hours after the completion of the game in question accompanied by the protest fee (Amount designated by the Fee and Fine Schedule). The third copy shall be retained by the protesting party.

2. Registration

Protest made relevant to improper player registration shall be submitted in writing in keeping with the guidelines stated in Section V.B.1 above. Player registration related protests are not subject to mailing deadlines or fees.

3. Timely Grievances and Protests

Protest, claims or appeals not filed within the required time limit, or filed without sufficient supporting material, or filed without proper protest, claims or appeal fee may be rejected by the AG Chairman. All protests, claims or appeals not covered in Sections V. B. 1&2 must be filed within five days of the decision adverse to them.

4. Grievances and Appeals

The A.G. shall prepare the procedural rules for the governing the conduct and manner of the hearing.

C. Notice of Hearing

Notice of the hearing before the A.G. shall be served by 1st class mail by the Chairman or the Secretary of the A.G. no later than ten (10) days prior to the day of the hearing. The notice shall advise all interested parties of the nature, date, place and time of the hearing.

Having received hearing notice, the failure of any club or individual to appear shall not preclude the hearing of evidence and the rendering of a decision based upon such evidence.

Referees who disregard the hearing notice shall be reported to their referee's association.

D. Conflicts of Interest.

1. No club shall be represented at any hearing by an officer of the CPYSL, a representative to the CPYSL, a member of the A.G., or a member of the grievance committee of the CPYSL.
2. Further, any member of the A.G. who is a member of an involved club or who is a member of a club which may have an interest in the outcome, of the hearing shall not participate in the hearing.

E. Ex parte Communications

Telephone calls or written communications directed to a member or

members of the A.G. to discuss or explain the details of a given case may be cause for an adverse decision. Contact for procedural matters is allowed.

F. Publication of Decisions

The decisions of the A.G. shall be promptly served on all parties, the CPYSL, and the Referee's Association via 1st class mail. Verbal notification may supplement but shall not supplant this responsibility.

SECTION VI

Expulsion From Game and Suspensions

A. Player and Team Official

A player or team official who has been ordered from the field of play or from the sidelines by the referee shall automatically incur the penalty or penalties for the given offense or offenses as stipulated in Section VII of these rules. The referee's game report shall automatically initiate the action against the expelled individual.

B. Player Under Suspension

A player, while under suspension, shall not be released by his club until completion of the team's playing season or the end of the seasonal year.

C. Team Official Under Suspension

A team official, while under suspension, shall not change his club affiliation.

D. Serving Suspensions

All periods of suspension shall run continuously. Game suspensions in effect at the termination of one playing season or registration year shall remain in effect even into the following playing seasons or registration year until the full period of suspension has been satisfied.

Game Suspensions received as a result of misconduct in a league game, or as a result of infractions of league rules and regulations, must be served in the CPYSL.

SECTION VII

Penalties

All players shall be subject to the penalties stated below and in addition to other remedies set forth in herein. Player penalties are in accordance with the age group registered with rather than the player's chronological age.

A. Use of "Ineligible Players"

A club which, without league sanction, fields a player ineligible because of improper or non-registration shall suffer forfeiture of

games plus a fifty dollars (\$50) per ineligible player per game for the first offense and one-hundred dollars (\$100) per ineligible player per game for the second offense or more during a given registration year. A player who, during a given registration year, registers to play for a second club without first having obtained a release from the first club shall be suspended for four (4) games.

B. Suspensions for Misconduct Toward Game Officials

If serious injuries are inflicted to a game official due to an assault the minimum suspension will be at least five (5) years.

1. Deliberately striking or kicking or attempting to kick a referee, Assistant Referee(AR):

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	1 year	1 year
2nd offense:	2 years min.	2 years min.

- 2.a. The throwing of a soccer ball or any object and hitting a referee or AR:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	1 year	1 year
2nd offense:	2 years min.	2 years min.

- 2b The throwing of a soccer ball and other objects at a referee or AR:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	3 games	3 games
2nd offense:	1 year min.	1 year min.

3. The spitting on a referee or AR:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	1 year	1 year
2nd offense:	2 years	2 years mm.

4. The verbal threat of bodily harm or property damage directed at a referee or AR:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	3 games	3 games
2nd offense:	1 year min.	1 year min.

5. Gesturing or signaling obscenely at a referee or AR:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	3 games	3 games

6. Abusive language directed at a referee or AR:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	3 games	3 games
2nd offense:	4 games min.	8 games min.

7. Dissent:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	1 game	1 game
2nd offense:	2 games	2 games

C. Suspensions for Misconduct Toward an Opponent, Coach, Colleague, or Spectator

1. Fighting (i.e. engaging in combat with an opponent, coach, colleague or spectators by means of the mutual exchange of blows delivered by hand, head, foot or other portions of the body).

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	2 games	4 games
2nd offense:	4 games min.	8 games min.

2. Deliberately attempting to strike or kick an opponent, coach, colleague or spectator:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	1 game	2 games
2nd offense:	4 games min.	8 games min.

3. The throwing of objects (i.e., soccer balls, snow or ice balls, stones, rocks, dirt, mud, sand, etc.) at an opponent, coach, colleague or spectator:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	1 game	2 games
2nd offense:	2 games min.	4 games min.

4. The spitting at or on an opponent, coach, colleague or spectator:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	1 game	2 games
2nd offense:	2 games min.	4 games min.

5. The verbal threat of bodily harm or property directed at an opponent, coach, colleague or spectator.

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	1 game	2 games
2nd offense:	2 games mm.	4 games mm.

6. Gesturing or signaling obscenely at an opponent, coach, colleague or spectator:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	1 game	2 games
2nd offense:	2 games min.	4 games min.

D. Suspensions for Serious Foul Play and Persistent Misconduct

1. Serious foul play shall be understood to be play characterized by fouls, as defined by Law XII of the Laws of the Game of an aggravated nature committed with such fervor as to threaten an opponent with serious physical harm:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	2 games min.	2 games min.
2nd offense:	4 games min.	4 games min.

2. Suspensions for Abusive Language directed at an opponent, coach, colleague or spectator:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	1 game	2 games

3. Persistent Misconduct (i.e., *Unsporting behavior*, persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game, unauthorized entry onto the field of play, etc.):

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	1 game	1 game
2nd offense:	2 games	2 games min.

4. Dissent:

	<u>Under 14</u>	<u>14&Over</u>
1st offense:	1 game	1 game
2nd offense:	2 games	2 games min.

E. The Accumulation of Cautions

A player or team official who, in a given registration year, accumulates three (3) cautions shall be suspended for one (1) game. The second accumulation of three (3) individual cautions within the same registration year shall result in additional suspension equivalent to two (2) games. Further misconduct on the part of the individual during the same seasonal year shall be sufficient cause for the A.G. to consider additional penalties of increased severity. In each case, action against the individual is automatically initiated by the referee's game report.

F. Conduct Detrimental to the Good and Welfare of Soccer

Any player, team official, coach or Club officer whose conduct is considered to be detrimental to the good and welfare of soccer shall be suspended for one (1) game for the first offense and for a minimum of two (2) games for the second offense or more within two (2) year period. Such misconduct shall include but shall not be limited to misbehavior while a player, team

official, coach, Club officer or a spectator at a USSF sanctioned event.

G. Refusal to Play

A team or club which refuses to play a scheduled game or games as directed by "higher authority" shall forfeit said game or games and shall be held liable for payment of all applicable referee fees and fines.

H. Abandonment of Game

A game shall not, under any circumstances, be prematurely terminated by any one or both of the competing teams. Should a team terminate a game without the permission of the referee it shall forfeit said game, be held liable for payment of referee fees, where applicable, and shall be fined twenty dollars (\$20). Should competing teams concur and terminate a game without the permission of the referee, the home team shall be liable for payment of referee fees, each team shall be fined twenty dollars (\$20) and the game shall be replayed. The individual or individuals responsible for the abandonment of a game shall be suspended for four (4) games.

I. Forfeited Games

Should a game be forfeited to an opponent, the latter shall be credited with a one to zero win.

J. Player Transfers

An individual who intentionally submits false information relevant to his past player record or past or present club affiliation in order to register as a player or to effect a player transfer shall be suspended for four (4) games.

A club which intentionally submits false or inaccurate information to effect a player registration or to transfer shall be fined fifty dollars (\$50) and placed on probation for one (1) year.

K. Misconduct and Tournament Rules Violations During Privately Sponsored Play

1. Incidents of misconduct or tournament rules violations occurring during the playing of any privately sponsored competition shall be penalized as the Sections of these A.G. rules provide for such misconduct or rules infractions.
2. Where misconduct or rules violations have been displayed by a club official, coach or player not playing within the jurisdiction of the CPYSL at the time, but during a tournament sanctioned by the EPYSA or USSF shall be penalized in accordance with these AG Rules. A report from the appropriate authority may initiate disciplinary action.

L. Payment of Fines and the Reporting of Forfeiture Bonds

Unless appealed, fines not paid and forfeit bonds not reported within the time limits stipulated by the CPYSL shall cause the delinquent organization to be declared in poor standing. Clubs in poor standing shall be ineligible to

participate in further competition until the proper financial obligation has been fulfilled.

The CPYSL time limit for the payment of fines or the reporting of forfeit bonds shall be thirty (30) days from the date a fine is imposed or a bond is declared forfeited.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Suspension: This means the withdrawal of rights and privileges such as, but not limited to: the right to play, coach or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in the game of affiliated soccer. Any person or group (team, club, league, board, etc.) that has been suspended shall be in less than good standing for the entire term of the suspension with rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.

Second Offense: Except where stated otherwise, it shall be understood to mean the recurrence of a stated offense for the second or more times during a registration year. This definition shall not apply to an offense against a referee or AR which shall remain a permanent part of a player's or club official's record.

Ineligible to Play/ Ineligible Player: This means a player is registered and under suspension.

Year/Registration Year: August 1st thru July 31st of the following year.

“Interested party” or “party of interest”: May include, a Club or association president, team official, coach, player, Referee or Assistant Referee, tournament official, and any other representative of the EPYSA/USSF on behalf of their respective organization, or any other person or organization recognized by the AG Chairman, committee, or panel.

“Higher authority”: CPYSL policy as interpreted and applied by the Games Commissioner or the Referee.