

Buckeye Premier Youth Soccer League Policies

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1.0 APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE LEAGUE

1.1 Application to and participation in the OSA Buckeye Premier Youth Soccer League, 'BPYSL', is open to all teams upon acceptance. All teams make applications to the Buckeye Premier league with the understanding that final acceptance and placement within the divisions lies exclusively with Buckeye Premier. Teams from outside of the boundaries of the National Governing Body require approval from the team's National State Association and Buckeye's National Governing Body. Any rules in place by a State Association requiring their teams to play within their State Association are *not* bypassed by these rules.

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

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

2.0 ACCEPTANCE OF TEAMS

2.1 Payment of the league fees does not constitute acceptance. Teams that are not accepted will receive a full refund of the league fees.

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

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

3.0 FORMATION OF DIVISIONS

3.1 AGE GROUPS-

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

3.2 SEEDING/PLACEMENT OF TEAMS-

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3.2.1 Seeding of each Division is the responsibility of the Buckeye Premier Staff.

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

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

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

- Buckeye State Division
 - Buckeye State Black
 - Buckeye State Red
- Elite 1 Division
 - Elite Black
 - Elite Red
- Elite 2 Division
- Premier 1 Division
- Select Black Division
- Select Red Division
- Select Silver Division
- Select White Division
- Select Local

4.0 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

4.1 SCHEDULING

4.1.1 Team schedules will be self-scheduled by coaches or their representatives of the teams online via phone, texts, and email as set up by the league.

4.1.1.1 Any team that fails to have a team representative available during the time of online scheduling may be subject to a fee for excessive game change requests.

4.1.2 The BPYSL Management Staff will contract playing sites that best meet the objectives of the league.

4.2 UNPLAYED GAME SCORE RESOLUTION-

This policy is to be used when 2 teams are unable to re-schedule a game that has been cancelled and the following conditions have been met:

- The team requesting a resolution has completed the following:
 - Requested available re-schedule options from the opponent.

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- Provided at least 3 options to the opponent for a re-schedule date.
- All efforts to re-schedule the game have been exhausted by BOTH teams.
- Please Note:
 - The team who cancelled the game (not cancelled due to weather, refs, fields, etc.) should be making all efforts to accommodate the re-schedule including being willing to travel closer to the other team for the re-schedule.

If all efforts have been exhausted to re-schedule the game and the team requesting an 'Unplayed Game Score Resolution' has submitted a request, the following will occur:

1. The request will be reviewed by BPYSL staff.
2. If teams cannot come up with date to re-schedule the game:
 - a. If one of the teams had requested the originally scheduled game to be cancelled or changed, the opponent that is requesting the Unplayed Game Resolution will receive a 1-0 win in the standings.
 - b. If a game was cancelled due to weather, lack of referees, etc and the opponent does not make attempts to reschedule, the Unplayed Game Score Resolution will be awarded to the team submitting the request.

A team may also request a Forfeit if they feel the other team has not communicated or made any attempts to reschedule a game in which the other team did not show for or cancelled last minute. A forfeit must be approved by the OSA and Buckeye staff and has fee implications. Please see Forfeit guidelines 4.1.4 for details.

4.3 FORFEITS-

Teams must be available to play as scheduled. Any team that is determined by Buckeye Premier to have forfeited a match will have 3 points deducted from their accumulated points in the league's standings and be fined a \$200 Forfeit Fee (and will still be responsible for any referee, field, and assignor fees). The opponent may request a forfeit by completing the Forfeit Review Request found on the website. Forfeits must be reviewed by the staff and voted upon. The assignment of a forfeit to any team may affect their acceptance in subsequent years.

Please note: Forfeits are not easily granted due to the ramifications- we encourage requesting an unplayed game score resolution (see 4.2) unless you

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feel the team deliberately did not show or has made no reasonable effort to re-schedule.

4.4 REPORTING OF SCORES-

Scores are reported via the league's web site. Either team can post scores. Teams should post the score within 48hrs of the game being played.

The scoring system shall be:

- Win = 3 points
- Loss = 0 points
- Tie = 1 point
- Forfeit = -3 points

4.5 STANDINGS-

Season Standings: The final standings will be determined by using the scoring system described above and the team with the most points will be declared champions unless there is more than 1 team tied on points.

If teams are tied on Points, tie breakers to determine how the teams fall in the standings are in the following order:

- Head-to-Head (if only 2 teams are tied)
- Goal Differential (max of 4 per game)
- Least Goals Allowed

***If teams are tied after all tie breakers are considered, they will be declared co-champions.

5.0 MATCHES

5.1 MATCH DATES/TIMES-

5.1.1 Teams shall not schedule more than two matches in a day for any one team.

5.2 FAILURE TO PLAY AS SCHEDULED-

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

5.2.2 A Field Status will be posted on the league's web site as well as on social media (Band, Facebook, etc).

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

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Any team that does not show up at a scheduled match will be subject to paying fees including full referee fees, field fees, and assignor fees. In addition, if they are found to have forfeited the match, could be fined the forfeit fees.

5.2.4 The league's staff shall have the sole authority to rule on all matters not otherwise covered under these rules. Fines and other matters of discipline, (except yellow and red cards), may be appealed to the governing body of Buckeye Premier.

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

5.2.6 The Buckeye Premier league, upon a vote of the staff of Buckeye Premier league, may report any forfeited matches to their governing body. A team may be declared ineligible for the National Youth Championships should they forfeit two (2) or more matches.

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

5.3 INCLEMENT WEATHER-

5.3.1 Inclement Weather Notification-

In the event of inclement weather, teams should reference the website, social media outlets (Band, Facebook), and websites for the respective venue. In the event a team requests and is given permission to play a match at sites other than those provided by the league, teams are on their own for notification to the league and opponents of inclement weather.

5.3.2 If a match is halted at half time or during the second half of a match due to inclement weather, bad field conditions, etc. the final score will be the score at the time the match is halted. If fields are closed and/or matches are cancelled and the referees are not notified prior to their arrival at the site, the officials will be paid for their first scheduled match only. See Section 12.0

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6.0 RULES OF PLAY

6.1 MATCH LENGTH/BALL SIZE/MINIMUM & MAXIMUM # OF PLAYERS-

Matches will be played under the applicable rules of the National Governing Body. Teams are responsible for obtaining and being familiar with the National Governing Body's Administrative Handbook and the FIFA Laws as they govern league play with the modifications noted below:

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

Age Group	Length of Half	Ball Size	Minimum # of players for each team to be an official match.	Minimum roster size	Maximum roster size	Maximum # of players dressed at a game
Under 11's & Under 12's 9 v 9	30 Minutes	4	6	7	25	16
Under 12's 11v11 Under 13's & Under 14's	35 Minutes	5	7	7	30	18
Under 15's & Under 16's	40 Minutes	5	7	7	30	18
Under 17's, Under 18's, and Under 19's	45 Minutes	5	7	7	30	18

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

6.2 SUBSTITUTIONS-

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

6.2.2 Substitutions may be made when:

- the team is in possession of the throw in,
- when the opposing team is in possession of the throw-in and both teams have players at the half line awaiting an opportunity to enter the match,
- by either team when there is a goal kick,
- after a goal is scored, or

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- If a player is injured, the player may be substituted. A player for the opposing team may also be substituted, (1 for 1).

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

6.2.4 Field Sizes-

Age groups playing in an 11 v 11 format must meet the FIFA requirements of full-size fields with a field of not less than 60 yards x 100 yards, with goals 24 foot by 8 foot.

Age groups playing in a 9 v 9 format shall not be more than 50 yards by 80 yards and not less than 45 yards x 75 yards with goals measuring approximately 21 feet wide by 7 feet tall.

Age groups playing in a 7 v 7 format shall not be more than 45 yards by 65 yards and not less than 35 yards x 55 yards with goals measuring approximately 18 feet wide by 6 (or max 19 by 7) feet tall.

6.2.5 Official Match-

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

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

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

6.2.5.4 A team's failure to appear for a scheduled Buckeye Premier League match may result in an Unplayed Game Score Resolution or forfeit.

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

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6.3 PLAYER PASSES/COACH PASSES/ROSTERS/SUBSTITUTE COACHES-

6.3.1 Each team must bring their ***hard printed*** USYSA player and coach passes and a copy of their Official Roster to every match. A maximum of 18 players may dress and be used in any one match.

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

6.3.3 Player passes, coach passes, and any Director of Coaching pass shall be presented to the referee prior to the match. Passes will be returned to the team at the end of the match unless a player pass, coach pass, or DOC pass are retained by the referee due to a disciplinary matter (ie the issuance of a red card).

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

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

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

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

6.4 OTHER ITEMS

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6.4.1 Club Pass Players-

In All age groups, a team may elect to have an unlimited number of club pass players (formerly referred to as Guest Players) participate in a Buckeye Premier league match that are not rostered to their team provided they meet the criteria shown in paragraph (a) and 6.4.2 immediately below.

- a) Both the team that the players are rostered to and the team that the players will be playing for in the Buckeye Premier match **MUST** be sponsored by the same club and both teams must currently be participating in either the Buckeye Premier league or carded in the same national governing body (US Youth). US Club cards are **NOT** permitted.

6.4.1.1 The use of such players will be known as Club Pass Players (See section **6.4.1.6** for the definition of a club) and are subject to the following specific restrictions:

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

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

- c) A player may be a club pass guest player with another team from the same club regardless of the competitive division of the team the player is rostered to or the competitive division of the team the player will be a club guest player for, provided all of the other rules in this section 6.5 are followed. This means a player can be a club guest player, within their club, with an older team or with a team of the same age as the team they are rostered to, regardless of the competitive divisions of the teams involved.

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

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

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

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

6.4.1.6 For the purpose of this section **6.4**, the definition of a club shall mean all the players that are organized under a common organizational board of directors, with a common staff of coaches, with a common name, common uniform, common set of home fields, etc. In instances where two teams that previously played as separate teams and have now merged, they will only be considered as part of the club whose club name is listed first on the team roster.

6.4.1.7 Players participating in Buckeye Premier League matches must use the appropriate National Governing Body cards to participate. ie: US Youth and may not mix cards for play in Buckeye Premier League.

6.5 Transfers-

6.5.1 Transfers are unlimited in Buckeye Premier League and are not restricted by dates. However, check your National Governing Body for rules for participating in their State and National Championships. Procedures on how to process transfers is on the website.

6.6 Coach Passes-

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

6.6.2 Buckeye Premier will honor Director of Coaching Passes.

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6.7 Uniform Conflicts-

6.7.1 Uniform Colors and Conflict – Team 1 (may be shown as Home) should wear the lighter color uniforms and Team 2 (may be shown as Away) should wear darker color uniforms. Teams should always bring both colors. When there is a conflict in uniform color, the team listed first on the schedule (Team 1/Home) must change. The referee's judgment in this matter is final.

6.8 Prohibited Conduct-

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

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

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

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

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

All teams shall abide by all league, governing body, park, county, state, and national health mandates.

6.8 MISCELLANEOUS PLAYER ITEMS-

6.8.1 No player may be cut, dropped, or be forced to transfer from any team for any reason unless the situation is superseded by the National Governing Body rules.

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

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

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

6.8.4 A player may not be rostered on more than one team in this league at any one time unless the National Governing Body rules state otherwise.

7.0 MATCH CONTROL

7.1 THREE PERSON SYSTEM OF CONTROL/DUAL SYSTEM OF CONTROL-

7.1.1 11v11 Matches must be officiated using the three person FIFA/USSF Referee System when available.

7.1.2 The dual system of control (2 referees/2 whistles) may be used in U12 and younger age groups (9v9 formats) if so, authorized by a referee assignor.

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

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

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7.2 PAYMENT OF REFEREES-

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

7.2.2 Each team is responsible for payment of ½ the designated fees to the match officials.

7.2.3 Referees Fees shall be as follows:

Each Team must pay half of the Total Fees listed per game and we recommend bringing the exact amount per referee so they can easily split it.

PLEASE SEE THE BPYSL REF FEES on the website for current Referee Fee information.

8.0 TERMINATION OF MATCHES

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

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

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

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

9.0 EJECTIONS

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

9.2 Any player ejected from a match for Fighting, Striking or Violent Conduct shall receive a minimum of a two-match suspension from Buckeye Premier League play.

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9.3 Any player or coach that is ejected from a tournament match, including State Cups and the player or coach does not serve the appropriate suspension during the tournament, the player or coach shall serve the suspension in their next Buckeye Premier League match(es).

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

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

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

9.6 The referee must report all yellow and red cards to the league within 24 hours of the match completion- email to bpysl@ohio-soccer.org. Should parents be involved, they may also be subject to discipline including a prohibition from attending future matches.

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

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

10. PROTESTS

10.1 FILING OF PROTEST-

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

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

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

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

10.2 CONSIDERATION OF PROTEST-

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

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

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

10.2.3 The decisions of the Buckeye Premier Protest Committee on all matters of protest shall be final, subject to appeal to the National Governing Body as outlined in the National Governing Body's Bylaws.

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11.0 DISCIPLINE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- a) Severe verbal abuse of a referee or assistant referee,
- b) Extreme verbal abuse of a coach, player, or spectator,
- c) Threats of violence, whether directed against a player, coach, referee, Assistant Referee, or spectator,
- d) Recruiting or attempting to recruit a player,

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e) Improper removal of a player from a team roster during the seasonal year, (i.e., cutting a player from the team roster), as outlined in Section 8.1

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

a) Physical assault of a referee, player, coach, or spectator.

b) Deliberate submission of or use of a fraudulent birth certificate, player registration form, coach registration form, team roster, travel permit, player pass, coach pass, or other National Governing Body documents for the purpose of providing false information regarding the player's age. Such individuals, if they are adults, shall be suspended for a minimum of five (5) years. Any player, for whom such a fraudulent birth certificate, player registration form, coach registration form, team roster, travel permit, player pass, coach pass, or other National Governing Body document is submitted or used, shall be suspended for a minimum of 6 months.

c) A second offense of recruiting or attempting to recruit a player.

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

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

a) A person has been suspended pursuant to Section 11.3; in which case the Disciplinary Committee shall meet within 10 days to review the matter.

b) One or more of the persons who are alleged to have violated one or more portions of either the Code of Regulations or the Administrative Bylaws submits a written request to the President a postponement of the proceedings before the Disciplinary Committee. When such a request is received, a postponement of those proceedings may be granted for up to 30 days.

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

- a) Statement by the committee chairman as to the nature of the dispute under consideration by the committee and the names of the parties to the dispute.
- b) Identification of witnesses that will be present testimony for the committee's consideration.
- c) Opening remarks by the complaining party.
- d) Opening remarks by the party who is the principal of the dispute.
- e) Presentation and questioning by both parties of relevant witnesses and documentation.
- f) Questioning of principal by complaining party.
- g) Questioning of complaining party by principal.
- h) Questioning of the parties to the dispute by the members of the Disciplinary Committee.
- i) Closing remarks by the complaining party and the principal to the dispute.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12.0 GUIDELINES FOR LIGHTNING AND HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS

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

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12.1 LIGHTNING-

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

12.2 TORNADOS-

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

12.3 MATCH SUSPENSION REQUIREMENTS-

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

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

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

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

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

12.4 GAME DELAY/RE-START POLICIES-

This is the general policy and guidance for days with games backed up end to end all day (Saturday/Sunday) and games where sunset may impact play.

If lightning/thunder occurs at HALFTIME or in the 2ND HALF of a game - the game is terminated from that point and there will be no waiting for the 30 minutes to clear to continue - GAME IS OVER. The score should be recorded, and the game is complete. This is required to make room for the next game and/or allow referees to get to their next game.

If lightning/thunder occurs in the FIRST HALF, please wait the thirty minutes and resume the game from that point. Should a second lightning occur during the first stoppage or again during the first half - the 2nd half will not play and the game will play to the conclusion of the first half only and be a complete game.

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Should a THIRD lightning/thunder stoppage occur in the first half regardless of the timing ... the game is suspended at that point and the teams will need to reschedule.

13.0 FEES AND PENALTIES

13.1 FEES-

All U10 thru U19 teams that wish to participate in Buckeye Premier during the Fall season, (or the Spring season, if the Spring season is the first season of play during the current seasonal year), must register their team, players, and coaches in Buckeye Premier prior to registering their team, players, and coaches in another league.

If any team participated in a member league or association other than Buckeye Premier during the Fall season, they may participate in Buckeye Premier for the Winter / Spring season. Teams will use the player and coach passes, as well as the team roster issued to the team, for the Fall season if they are from the same National Governing Body. The team will submit the roster to Buckeye Premier and will be stamped with the Buckeye Premier Roster Approved stamp.

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

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

PLEASE SEE THE BPYSL LEAGUE FEES, REF FEES, and GAME INFO Link on the website for current League Fee information.

13.1.1 Payment for team league fees shall be paid within 30 days of a team's application to the league each season. A penalty of 10% of the amount due will be assessed on any amount due the league if not paid within 60 days of its due date. If a team withdraws from the league after they have been notified of their acceptance and self-scheduling has taken place, the application fee is forfeited.

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

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

13.2 Penalties-

If any team fails to play a match and has not provided the required notice for cancellation, they will pay full referee fees, field fees, and ref assignor fees. In addition, the team may be fined a \$200.00 Forfeit Fee.

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

13.2.2 If a match is scheduled to be played on an all-weather turf field and a team fails to attend a match or if a team cancels and reschedules a match on less than **14 business days' notice** and the league is unable to back fill the time slot, the team will be assessed the cost of the rental fee which is currently \$100 to \$150 per game. This penalty may be in addition to any penalty assessed pursuant to Section **5.2.4** and **13.5**.

14.0 RECRUITING PLAYERS AND HOLDING TRYOUTS

14.1 RECRUITING-

All teams, U10 through U19, (including coaches, players, parents and team supporters) that will be applying to participate in the Buckeye Premier league and current Buckeye Premier teams may NOT contact a player from another team that is registered in Buckeye Premier for the purpose of enticing the player to switch teams or to attend a tryout, except during the allowable period designated by the National Governing Body for each seasonal year.

14.2 CLUB/TEAM TRYOUT RULES-

Buckeye Premier Teams follow their National Governing Body and State Association tryout rules.

Failure to comply with this Section 14.0 before, during or after the formation of a team will result in penalties up to and including suspension of the person or the team involved from Buckeye Premier. In addition, whether the team or club involved is a current member of Buckeye Premier, failure to comply with any portion of this Section IX, may result in the rejection of the team or club involved from participation in the Buckeye Premier league during the subsequent seasonal year.

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15.0 RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

15.1 BPYSL shall comply with and assist as required USSF affiliate's Risk Management Program as designated by the BPYSL Board of Directors.

15.1.2 The President shall appoint one person to act in the capacity of the Local Risk Management Coordinator, (Local RMC) and one person as the Alternate Risk Management Coordinator, (Alternate RMC) and to perform the duties of those positions as defined by the USSF affiliate's Risk Management Program as designated by the BPYSL Board of Directors.

16.0 COMPLIANCE WITH OHIO LAW RELATING TO CONCUSSIONS IN YOUTH SPORTS

16.1 CONCUSSION-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16.1.7 Coaches shall have no standing to make an official determination as to whether a player on a team other than the team they are a registered coach that a player is exhibiting the signs, symptoms, or behaviors of a person who may have sustained a concussion under the requirements of Ohio's "Return to Play" law and/or this section **16.0**.

17.0 COMPLIANCE ALL STATE AND NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN YOUTH SPORTS

17.1 STATE AND NATIONAL PAPERWORK-

As part of the annual registration process, a parent or guardian of all players wishing to participate in BPYSL shall receive copies of all State and National requirements to play in BPYSL.

BPYSL shall comply with all provisions of the Ohio Revised Code regarding Lindsay's Law as well as Concussion Laws, in addition to any other State and National Requirements.