

OTERO COUNTY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

BY-LAWS

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GENERAL

The OCYSL shall be operated in accordance with the [by-laws](#) of the USYSO (US Youth Soccer Association) and NMYSO (NM Youth Soccer Association, www.nmysa.net), and as modified or adapted herein. Play shall be IAW the [USYSO Rules of the Game](#), and refereed in accordance with [FIFA Laws of the Game](#).

OTERO COUNTY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE BY-LAW ADDENDUM

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OTERO COUNTY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE (OCYSL) BY-LAWS

1.01 NAME

This League shall be known as the Otero County Youth Soccer League and may be referred to as “OCYSL”

1.03 BOUNDARIES AND TERRITORIES

The boundaries of this League shall be a geographical subdivision of the territory of the State of New Mexico as created by the New Mexico Youth Soccer Association (NMYSA) and known as District 8.

1.04 COLORS

The representative colors of this League as established by the NMYSA for the purpose of identifying District 8 select teams shall be royal blue and silver.

1.04.1 (per BOD, 19 June 2006) Each player registered in OCYSL must purchase their uniform from OCYSL and wear them in all games. Uniforms consist of two shirts (one blue, one silver) with the OCYSL logo and numbering (starting with the number “2”) on the back, black shorts and black socks. Shirts must be tucked in, and socks must completely cover the shin-guards. Uniforms may be worn in subsequent seasons while they remain in good condition and fit appropriately.

1.05 AFFILIATIONS

This League is affiliated with and shall comply with the authority of the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and New Mexico Youth Soccer Association (NMYSA).

1.06 AUTHORITIES

1.06.01 OCYSL GOVERNING AUTHORITIES AND DOCUMENTS

This League shall be governed by its By-Laws, General Procedures and Rules, and any other document adopted by the BOD, except when superseded by the USSF, USYSA or NMYSA.

1.06.02 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The governing authority of this League shall be vested in the BOD. The members of the BOD and the powers and responsibilities of each member are designated in Paragraph 2.02

2.01.02 UNAFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

All teams, clubs or leagues not holding membership in NMYSA shall be considered "Unaffiliated Organizations." Any OCYSL-registered team playing games with un-affiliated teams within District 8 must have approval of the District 8 Commissioner. Games played with affiliated teams from other districts or from outside New Mexico must have approval of the responsible District 8 Commissioners and/or the NMYSA BOD.

2.02 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 2.02.01 a. President
- b. Vice-President
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
- e. Registrar
- f. Scheduler
- g. Referee Administrator
- h. Age-Group Commissioners
- i. Risk Manager

2.02.02 RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The BOD shall be responsible for and have sole authority for the following:

- a. Establishing, amending, interpreting and enforcing the League By-Laws, General Procedures and Rules and any other governing documents.
- b. Establishing fees and approving the collection of income and the payment of bills associated with the operation of this League.
- c. Establishing procedures for the formation of non-club teams and district select teams.
- d. Approving club procedures for the formation of club teams.
- e. Approving and registering all teams affiliated with this League.
- f. Establishing minimum qualifications for League referees and coaches.
- g. Approving all persons serving as referees or coaches within this League.

- h. Approving all soccer clinics or camps conducted for the benefit of players, coaches and/or referees of this League.
- i. Purchasing, maintaining and issuing uniforms and equipment for non-club teams and qualifying clubs.
- j. Purchasing and maintaining and field equipment (nets, corner posts, lining equipment, etc.).
- k. Working with appropriate parties and agencies to secure and properly maintain game and practice fields within Otero County.
- l. Preparing practice schedules and allocating practice fields for all OCYSL teams.
- m. Approving the use of game fields located in the communities of affiliated clubs, but which have been made available to the League.
- n. Scheduling all games involving League-registered teams or fields allocated to League use.
- o. Assigning referees to all games involving League-registered teams playing on fields allocated to League use.
- p. Establishing procedures for making fields game-ready.
- q. Maintaining current files on team records and age-group standings.
- r. Approving the formation and operation of tournaments sponsored or sanctioned by this League.
- s. Establishing procedures for and approving participation of League teams and/or district select teams in games or tournaments sponsored by the state or any other organization.
- t. Approving all fundraising projects conducted for the benefit of this League or any of its affiliated clubs or teams. League teams are strictly prohibited from using the Leagues name, or in any way, associate the League with any individual solicitation of funds. Competitive and Club teams may fundraise on the individual teams' basis by following the rules set forth by NMYSA and USSF for such sponsorship.
- u. Making temporary rules, procedures or regulations for the specific cases or occasions not provided for in the By-Laws, General Procedures and Rules or other governing documents, but which are deemed necessary by the BOD to carry out the objectives of this League.
- v. Reviewing and approving the By-Laws and policies of affiliated clubs and ensuring consistency of their operations with the governing documents of the USSF, USYSA, NMYSA and OCYSL.
- w. Suspending, barring completely or otherwise disciplining for just cause any player, coach, referee, team assistant, League or club officer, or other person affiliated or associated with any member team or club; or any team or club within the League.
- x. Requiring any League official leaving office for any reason to turn over all equipment, materials, documents or other items belonging to the League to the President or presiding officer within 15 days of departure from office.

2.02.03 DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- a. **PRESIDENT.** Shall, subject to the control of the BOD, exercise general supervision, direction and management control over the business activities of the BOD. He/she shall preside over all meetings of the BOD and the Executive Committee. He/she shall appoint at the beginning of each season or as the need arises, subject to the approval of the BOD, the members and /or chairpersons of any standing or ad hoc committees. He/she shall be an ex-officio member of all standing and ad hoc committees. He/she shall have such other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the By-Laws or the BOD.
- b. **VICE-PRESIDENT.** Shall, in the absence of the President, preside over and conduct meetings

of the BOD and the Executive Committee. He/she shall be the Alamogordo real-property manager, working with the City of Alamogordo and Alamogordo Public Schools to secure and properly maintain game and practice fields within the city. He/she shall maintain the field equipment for all Alamogordo fields. He/she shall prepare practice schedules for all Alamogordo fields. He/she shall regularly report game scores, team standings and similar information to the news media.

c. SECRETARY. Shall keep an accurate record of all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and give notice and agenda of meetings. He/she shall prepare League correspondence as directed by the President or presiding officer. He/she shall maintain the files of the League and be responsible for the preparation of the annual report to be submitted at the Annual General Meeting.

d. TREASURER. Shall give receipt for all monies received which shall be deposited in a recognized bank in the name of the League. All accounts shall be paid by check and shall bear two (2) signatures. The President, Vice- President and Treasurer shall be the recognized signatures of checks issued by the League. The Treasurer shall properly balance the receipt book and vouchers for accounts (savings/checking) according to the bankbook or statement, whichever is currently up-to-date, and produce these documents when required by the BOD. He/she shall be responsible for preparation of all papers pursuant to and maintenance of the Articles of Incorporation and tax-exempt status of the League. He/she is responsible for developing the budget and planning expenditures of the League.

e. REGISTRAR. Shall be responsible for the training of League and club personnel to ensure proper registration of players and teams within the League. He/she shall be responsible for the registration of players and teams with the NMYSA. He/she will certify the registration data for each player and will serve as the authority for this data for insurance and other purposes.

He/she shall prepare pass-cards for all registered players. He/she shall prepare the rosters of League teams playing in NMYSA sponsored tournaments. He/she shall prepare and certify the rosters of League teams playing in non-NMYSA sponsored tournaments. He/she shall serve as chairman of the Credentials Committee for any tournament sponsored or hosted by this League.

f. SCHEDULER. Shall schedule all games, both home and away, played by teams registered with this League and all games played on fields allocated to League use, whether or not they involve League-registered teams. He/she shall print and distribute original or revised schedules to all affected teams as needed. He/she shall compile and maintain current files of all teams' scores and age group standings.

g. REFEREE ADMINISTRATOR. Shall schedule referees and assistant referees for all games involving League registered teams played on fields allocated to League use. He/she shall maintain complete and accurate records of all games worked by each referee and assistant referee to ensure proper payment of referee fees. He/she shall maintain accurate records of scores for all games U-10 and above.

h. CLUB COMMISSIONERS. Shall represent the interest of their respective affiliated clubs before the BOD and shall ensure that their respective organizations adhere to League rules and policies.

i. AGE GROUP COMMISSIONERS. Shall represent the interest of non-club (recreational) teams within their respective age groups before the Board of Directors and shall administer the League's governing documents among those teams. Within their respective age groups, each commissioner shall be responsible for carrying out the following activities in accordance with League policies and procedures:

1. Distribution of League uniforms and equipment at the start of seasonal year.
2. Assist the Registrar with formation of teams and selection of coaches.
3. Regular field supervision during periods of game play.
4. Collection of scores of all games involving club or non-club teams, playing at home or away. Collection of scores for U-10 and above teams from winning coaches. Timely reporting of these scores to the League Vice-President and League Scheduler.
5. Notifies all parties of any schedule changes.

j. **RISK MANAGEMENT MANAGER** The Risk Management Manager will ensure that background disclosure forms are received for all board members, coaches, assistant coaches, team parents and/or any adult dealing with children in an official capacity with OSCYL. He/she will be responsible for the completed forms to reach the state office for official background check. He/she will also be responsible for the distribution of returned approval cards. As risk manager, he/she will be responsible for taking part in the all tournaments as Field Marshal in charge of all risk management issues related to said tournament. The Risk Management Manager will be responsible for the safety maintenance of all OCYSL equipment according to NM state regulations. He/She will be responsible for administrative paperwork concerning league related accidents or injuries.

2.03 STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

2.03.01 STANDING COMMITTEES

The following standing committees and others as needed shall be appointed yearly by the President with the concurrence of the BOD:

- a. Tournament
- b. Fund Raising
- c. Clinics and Camps
- d. Uniforms and Equipment

2.03.02 AD HOC COMMITTEES

Ad hoc committees required to assist in attaining the goals of this League shall be appointed by the President on an annual basis with the concurrence of the Board of Directors.

2.04 ELECTION, REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION OF OFFICERS

2.04.01 ELECTION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

all elective offices will be voted upon, with the Vice-President, Treasurer, Risk Manager and Scheduler being elected to a one-year (1) term. The terms of office of Club Commissioners shall be as prescribed by their respective clubs.

- a. An individual may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same elected office.
- b. Each member in good standing present at the Annual General Meeting shall have one (1) vote. No proxy votes will be accepted.
- c. The President, Secretary, Registrar and Referee Administrator shall be elected in even numbered years. The Vice-President, Treasurer, Scheduler, and Risk Manager shall be elected in odd numbered years. Age Group Commissioners shall be elected annually.
- d. The election of officers, excluding Club Commissioners, shall be conducted at the Annual General Meeting.
- e. Voting shall be by individual members in good standing who are at least 18 years of age.

- f. The candidates for the offices of Vice-President, Registrar and Age Group Commissioners shall be Otero County residents.
- g. Election to an office will be by majority vote. In the event a candidate does not receive a majority vote, a runoff of the top two candidates will determine the winner.
- h. The election or appointment of Club Commissioners shall be as prescribed by their respective clubs.

2.04.02 REMOVAL OF ELECTED OFFICERS

- a. Requests for removal of an elected official shall be made in writing to the President of the Board by at least three (3) persons who are members of the Board, defining why such action is necessary. Specific charges and supporting data must be provided with the request. If the President is the subject of the removal action, the request shall be made in writing to the Vice-President.
- b. The motion for removal shall be voted upon by the BOD (except the subject member) at a special meeting of the BOD to be held within two weeks of receipt of the written request.
- c. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the BOD shall be required to remove a member.
- d. A special election by the BOD to fill a vacancy shall be held within 30 days of the vacancy. A simple majority vote of the BOD shall be required to elect a replacement.
- e. Any officer elected according to 2.04.03d shall fill the unexpired term of the removed officer. If the remaining term of office exceeds one (1) year, the elected official may serve only one (1) additional term in that elected office.
- f. A member of the BOD missing three (3) consecutive meetings without being excused by the President (or presiding officer) may be removed from office by a majority vote of the BOD.

2.04.03 RESIGNATION OF OFFICERS

- a. The resignation of any officer shall be made in writing to the President or the BOD at large.
- b. When filling a vacancy due to a resignation, the procedures of 2.04.02 d & e shall apply.

2.05 MEMBERSHIP

2.05.01 CLUB TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this League shall be by affiliated select teams and clubs meeting the requirements as specified in the By-Laws. Players shall be organized into teams, which shall be registered with the League. Membership shall also extend to any individual who is either:

- a. a properly registered player, with current registration fee for the seasonal year.
- b. the parent or guardian of a player described in Paragraph 2.05.01a.
- c. an elected or appointed official of the League, a coach or assistant coach of a registered team, or a referee or assistant referee actively engaged in working League games.

2.05.02 SEASONAL YEAR REQUIREMENTS

Member clubs and teams or new clubs or teams applying for membership shall annually submit properly completed player and team registration forms prepared in accordance with correct registrations and procedures, along with appropriate registration fees.

2.05.03 NOTICE OF CLUB LIABILITIES

Each club, upon acceptance as an affiliate of the League, shall be furnished with a copy of the League Constitution, By-Laws, and General Rules, Appeals and Disciplinary Procedures. This

shall be deemed sufficient notice of their liabilities. By acceptance, the affiliate club shall agree to abide by their provisions.

2.05.04 LEAGUE AFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS

Clubs desiring to apply for affiliation in OCYSL shall consist of team(s) and submit the following to the League President:

- a. Letter requesting permission to become affiliated with the League, including the names of the Club officers, and attaching a copy of the Club Constitution and By-Laws.
- b. Complete projected annual budget.
- c. The required number of competed NMYSA team rosters for each team in the Club.
- d. Full payment of all League, NMYSA, and USYSA dues and fees.
- e. A completed League player registration form for each player.
- f. Proof of age for each registered player as specified by NMYSA rules (note: The Club shall be responsible for having such proof of age in its possession in the event a team travels to tournaments or the player's age is challenged by another club).

2.05.06 REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBERSHIP

All members shall abide by the By-Laws, General Procedures and Rules and other governing documents of this League, and all applicable rules and regulations set forth by the USSF, USYSA and NMYSA.

2.07 MEETINGS

2.07.01 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE AND DATE

The BOD shall call for an Annual General Meeting of the League. The date of the meeting will be on or before 31 May of the stated seasonal year. The League Secretary shall publish written notification of the meeting in the local newspapers serving the communities served by OCYSL. Such notification shall be published not later than 14 days prior to the meeting. Public service announcements (PSAs) on local radio and television stations should also be considered. The announcement shall contain the meeting date, time and location.

2.07.02 VOTING PROCEDURES AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The voting procedures shall be in accordance with Paragraph 2.04.01 of these By-Laws.

2.07.03 ORDER OF BUSINESS AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The order of business at the Annual General Meeting shall be the following:

- a. Call to order
- b. Credentials
- c. Introduction of guests
- d. Acceptance/modification of minutes from previous AGM
- e. Presentation of annual report
- f. Approval of budget for next seasonal year
- g. Unfinished (old) business
- h. Election of Officers
- i. New business
- j. Items for the good of the game
- k. Adjournment

2.07.04 BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) / EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)

Regular meetings of the BOD shall be held monthly during the League season or more frequently if deemed necessary by the President or Executive Committee. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held monthly during the League season or more frequently if

deemed necessary by the President or Executive Committee. The suggested agenda for Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings shall be provided in advance of the meeting and shall be as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Call to order | j. Risk Management Manager's Report |
| b. Roll call | k. Referee Administrator's Report |
| c. Introductions | l. President's Report |
| d. Acceptance of minutes | m. Committee Reports |
| e. Correspondence | n. Unfinished business |
| f. Treasurer's Report | o. New business |
| g. Registrar's Report | p. Good of the game |
| h. Vice-Presidents's Report | q. Adjournment |
| i. Scheduler's Report | |

2.07.05 CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE BOD/EC

The BOD shall meet whenever the President or Executive committee deems it necessary, or if they are directed to do so by four (4) or more members of the BOD. The Executive Committee shall meet whenever the President deems it necessary, or if he/she is directed to do so by three (3) or more members of the Executive Committee. Whenever possible, 48-hours notice will be provided.

2.07.06 VOTING AT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The following members of the BOD shall have one (1) vote each:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Vice-President | e. Scheduler |
| b. Secretary | f. Referee Administrator |
| c. Treasurer | g. Each Commissioner |
| d. Registrar | h. Risk Manager |

The President shall vote only in the event of a tie.

2.07.07 VOTING AT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Each member of the EC shall have one (1) vote with the President voting only in case of a tie.

2.08 QUORUM

At all meetings of the BOD and/or the EC, two-thirds (2/3) of the votes of said BOD shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of OCYSL business.

2.09 SEASONAL YEAR

The seasonal year for this League shall be from September 1 through August 31. Insurance coverage shall be for the same period of time. A player's baseline age for the Fall/Spring season is set as the player's birth-age on August 1.

2.11.04.01 In accordance with NMYSA and USSF guidelines, the following person involved with youth soccer are required to fill out the [New Mexico Youth Soccer Disclosure Statement For Certification.](#)

1. League and team Coaches
2. Assistant league and team coaches
3. Team managers (responsible for the team's administrative jobs, such as telephone calls, arranging transportation, scheduling refreshments etc.)
4. Team Chaperons used for out-of-town trips
5. League Board of Directors
6. Club Board of Directors

- 7. Special Committee chairman and members.
- 8. Club referees not registered in USRA

2.11.04.02 Forms are available online at www.ocysl.net registration page, and must be completed prior to the start of each soccer season. All completed forms will be forwarded to NMYSA and entered into the state's database. Currently, there is no cost to the League for this process. Upon completion, NMYSA will send out a risk management card and all listed above must keep on hand during games and practices.

2.15 DISSOLUTION

Should this League be dissolved, all assets remaining after payment of all debts shall be disposed of in like manner as described in NMYSA bylaws

3.03.03.01 Playing-up will be allowed up to one age group

3.03.03.02 In order to play up, individuals must try-out with a coach or coaches from the higher age group and show appropriate skills and maturity in order to qualify for a higher age group.

3.03.03.03 If/when a player has been accepted to a higher age group and at a later time decides to return to his or her age group, for whatever reason, he/she will not be allowed to play-up again in that current playing season.

3.03.03.04 If a team has competitive players on their roster a portion of those players maybe on the field at any one point in time. Competitive players will have an identifying mark on their player card indicating that they play for a competitive team.

U-8 – 1 Competitive Player on the Field

U-10 – 2 Competitive Players on the Field

U-12 and Above – 3 Competitive Players on the Field

3.05.04.01 Planned roster limits are:

U16	18 players
U11, U12:	18
U9, U10:	14
U7, U8:	10
U6:	8

3.05.06.01 The official OCYSL schedule will be maintained on www.OCYSL.net. Each coach will be allowed to submit two scheduling requests for BOD approval prior to the first official posting.

3.05.10 Teams are formed in the following manner:

3.05.10.01 Returning players (without conflicting coach/friend/practice requests) will be assigned to their previous team/coach. Coaches are encouraged to pre-register returning players en-masse with the Registrar

3.05.10.02 The Registrar may attempt on a first-come-first-served basis, but cannot guarantee, compliance with coach/friend/practice requests, not to conflict with OCYSL policy.

3.05.10.03 Players desiring to register AFTER rosters are full (3.05.04) will be placed on a waiting list. The BOD may allow for overages.

3.05.10.04 Players desiring to register after registration ends will be placed on a waiting list,

used to balance teams, or used to form a new team IAW coach availability

3.05.10.05 After team assignment, any transfers must be approved by the BOD

3.05.10.06 Each coach will receive an official league roster for his/her team. Only players listed on the roster are eligible/authorized to practice/play with the team. Any roster changes must be approved by the Registrar. Additionally, each coach will receive their players' membership forms; these must be on-hand for ALL practices/games since they are the signed consent form authorizing transport/treatment, if required.

3.05.10.07 Registration forms must be accompanied by completed and signed OCYSL *Code of Conduct* and OCSYL *Release from Liability* forms in order to be considered complete.

3.10.01 When coaching staff is limited, fielded teams may need to be increased to maximize play-time. BOTH coaches must agree, and should have a MINIMUM of two eligible players on the sidelines:

U11, U12:	Normally 9 v 9, (minimum: 8)
U9, U10:	Normally 7 v 7, (minimum: 6)
U7, U8:	Normally 5 v 5, (minimum: 4)
U6:	Normally 4 v 4, (minimum: 3)

OCYSL Game Day Policies & Procedures

Field Preparation

The first two teams scheduled to play on a field each game day are responsible for preparing the field for play. Both teams are responsible for putting up the nets and for checking and clearing the field of debris prior to the start of the game.

The final two teams scheduled on each field are responsible for taking down the nets and returning them to the buckets and taking down the flags.

Home Team/Visiting Team

The first team listed in the pairing for a game shall be the home team. The home team is responsible for providing a game ball. The home team will wear the Silver Uniform; the visiting team will wear the blue uniform.

PLEASE ADVISE YOUR PLAYERS TO BRING BOTH UNIFORM SHIRTS TO ALL MATCHES.

Participation

During the course of the recreational and the district tournaments, against district and non-district teams, any league player in any age group who is present for his/her team's game, dressed in a complete team uniform, shall play at least 50% of the game, unless;

1. The player has not attended practice regularly.
2. The player's parent requests otherwise.
3. The player is sick or injured to such a degree that the coach feels that it could be injurious to participate.

In the U-13 and older age groups, a coach may withdraw the half game playing rule for disciplinary reasons, provided he/she notifies the player and parent prior to the day of the game of the specific reasons for the action. Prior to the start of any game, a coach having informed the player on the sideline who is not going to participate at least half of the game for the foregoing reasons, must inform the officials and the opposing coach of the fact. The half game rule does not apply to the League's Competitive teams while playing outside the OCYSL (i.e. Las Cruces, El Paso, or tournaments).

Sidelines

Coaches and Players from both teams will be one sideline, with the parents and other spectators on the opposite sideline. Only players and coaches with OCYSL player pass cards will be allowed on the sideline with the team and coaches during the game. No one is allowed to stand behind ANY goal or end line during the game. Teams/Spectators are responsible for picking up their trash after all games and practices that teams participate in.

Coaching from the Sidelines

The coach may convey tactical instructions to players during the match. The coach and other officials, however, must remain within the confines of the technical area, where such an area is provided and they must conduct themselves, at all times, in a responsible manner.

Conduct of Coaches

A coach may be asked to leave the game area if he/she commits one of the offenses specified for players in [Law 12](#). If the coach commits a “Red Card” offense, the referee shall suspend the game until the coach has left the game area. Coaches receiving red cards shall receive the additional suspensions specified for players as shown below.

Conduct of Players -- Yellow Cards – Red Cards

Players and/or coaches receiving red cards will be suspended for the remainder of the game in which they receive a red card, and receive the additional suspension specified below. Suspensions apply to their next scheduled game(s) recreational or competitive teams or a combination. A player and/or coaches may be given a “Yellow Card” as a means of a warning for any misconduct perceived by the game official.

Reason for Red Card	Additional Game Suspension
Persistent Misconduct after receiving A caution	1
Foul or abusive language	1
Serious foul play	1
Violent conduct	Determined by the OCYSL Board
Attacking Referee	Determined by the OCYSL Board

Players and Coaches participating in a game while under suspension will receive another red card, and incur an additional one game suspension.

Players and coaches receiving three red cards during the season shall be suspended from play for the remainder of the soccer year.

Conduct of Spectators

A spectator may be cautioned or asked to leave the game area if he/she commits one of the offenses specified for players in [Law 12](#). If the spectator commits a red card offense, the referee shall suspend the game until the spectator has left the game area. If the spectator refuses to leave the game area, the referee has the discretionary power to terminate the game. It is the coach’s responsibility to take the actions necessary to ensure the good conduct of his/her team fans.

No-Shows for Non-League Games

It is important that any league team scheduled to play a non-league game with an out-of-town team either at home or away, fulfill its obligation to play the game. Only extreme unforeseen circumstances should cause a change in the game schedules. If a change is required, the League Scheduler must approve it. Any League team that fails to meet its obligation with out-of-town teams without prior permission of the League Scheduler shall have any future non-league games removed from its schedule.

Protests

Formal protests are strongly discouraged. If a coach protests, it must be reported to the youth/coach commissioner immediately after the game, and followed up in writing to the League President within 24 hours. A filing fee of \$25 must accompany the written protest. A committee consisting of the head referee and three members of the BOD shall expeditiously adjudicate the protest, and direct the appropriate action.

Slide Tackles

Slide tackles are prohibited in the U-6, U-8, and U-10 age groups.

Weather

Any decision to postpone or cancel a scheduled game due to weather prior to the opening kick-off shall be made by the Board Members. Once a game is in progress, the decision to stop is up to the discretion of the referee. Because our local weather conditions change so rapidly, coaches should have their teams at the game site a half-hour prior to the scheduled start of the game, regardless of the weather, unless they have been officially notified earlier than the game has been postponed or canceled. Games will be played in light rain or snow. Games canceled by the League prior to kick-off will be rescheduled.

Pass Cards and Controlling Unregistered Players

All players U8 and above will be issued pass cards. For U-6, coaches need to provide official rosters for the other coach; player's name and number must be listed on it. Players must wear league uniforms (adopted July 06).

Player pass cards will be issued to all OCYSL Recreational teams U-8 and above, Competitive and Tournament teams. Once issued, game or tournament officials prior to the start of each game in which the teams are participating in will inspect pass cards. **Players without pass cards will not be allowed to play, unless the coach has not been issued a REGISTERED player's pass card.**

Game Cancellation and Make-Up Game Policies

1. The team asking to cancel a game must notify the Youth/Coach Commissioner within 24 hours or sooner before the game time. If notification is not met in a timely manner, it will be a forfeit against the team canceling the game. *There will be no make-up game if this should happen.*

2. The Youth/Coach Commissioner will notify the other team's coach of the game cancellation. It is up to the coach to notify all of his players on his/her team.
3. If the game should be made up at a later date and time, it should be discussed and decided upon by both team's coaches as to the agreed upon time and date. It is up to one of the coaches to call and notify the Youth/Coach Commissioner and the Referee Scheduler as to the preferable date and time. It will be to the discretion of the Referee Scheduler as to agree on the date and time based on referee availability.
4. **There will be no make-up games due to a team not being able to field enough players on game day. No exceptions.**

Game Scores

The League shall maintain and record scores for league games U-10 and above. All scores will be reported to the Youth/Coach Commissioner for recording by the winning team coach. All scores will be compiled by Youth/Coach Commissioner, submitted to the League Scheduler, and posted on the OCYSL's website. Referees will also record all scores for official purpose and submit them to the Referee Administrator within 3 days of completed game on their game reports. **No official record of game scores will be kept for the U-6 and U-8 age groups.**

Expulsion of a Player

Coaches are expected to handle player misconduct and negative attitudes on an individual basis. However, if a coach concludes that the only solution to a player's constant disruptive influence is the removal of that player from the team, the coach may petition the BOD, through the Youth/Coach Commissioner to have that player removed from the soccer program.

Injuries

There is always the possibility that a player may sustain some physical injury while he/she is an active member of an OCYSL team. If a player does sustain an injury, whether soccer related or not, it is important to ensure that the coach, the League, and the BOD, are not held liable for any aggravation of the injury or for additional injury caused by the continued participation in League activities while under medical care. Therefore, any coach who has a player on his/her team who sustains an injury that could be aggravated by further soccer participation or an injury which could lead to further injury by playing soccer, must receive a signed medical release of liability from the player's parents before the player may resume participation in the soccer program. A copy of the release is included in this handbook, and may be copied as needed.

If a player is injured while under a coach's supervision, the coach may seek emergency medical care from a duly licensed doctor or dentist, if the player's parent has signed the medical treatment consent statement on the player's registration form. Depending on the nature of the injury the coach shall make an attempt to contact the injured player's parents prior to seeking medical care. A coach will need written parental consent in order to return an injured player into the game, and note the incident in question. **A written report of injury/accident will be filed with the League within 24 hours of the incident BY THE COACH and given to the League**

Registrar/Risk Manager. NMYSA provides all registered players with secondary medical insurance coverage. Any player needing information about this coverage should contact the League Registrar.

Membership Forms/ Medical Releases

Coaches will be given the first copy of each of their player's membership forms. They are to have these forms in their possession at all practices and games, as these forms contain the signed authorization of the player's parent (s) to transport the player and/or obtain emergency medical treatment of the player if he/she is injured.

Practices

A practice schedule including day and field assignments for every OCYSL recreational team will be issued by the League prior to the beginning of practices. After the first game of each season, all teams are limited to two practices a week. Exceptions must be approved by the board. For a prescribed period of time prior to the first game of the season, all teams are permitted to hold as many practices as desired. However, practice field assignments are enforced during this period. Any OCYSL team using a field assigned to another team for extra practice must vacate if the assigned team arrives for its practice.

Safety During Play

Players must have shin guards and water for ALL practice and games. Players must remove all jewelry and have NO metal in hair. Players are not to play in the dark. Players are NEVER to hand on goals as they become loose in the ground over time and pose a danger.

Out-of-Town Travel

Teams, coaches, and spectators traveling to out-of-town games are to conduct themselves in a courteous and sportsman like manner. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their teams and team's fans. Players receiving red cards or coaches being ejected from games shall be subject to the same disciplinary actions from the League as would have been incurred if the offense had occurred at home.

Camps and Clinics

The OCYSL contracts with profession soccer camp operators and coaches to bring both beginner and advanced player camps to Alamogordo each summer. These camps are usually a week long with half or whole day sessions. The OCYSL also hosts coaching clinics in which the participants take classroom training and field practice under nationally certified coaches. Coaching licenses at any one of the three state levels can be earned. The clinics are held whenever there are enough potential coaches to make scheduling practical. All NMYSA Youth Modules 1 & 2, higher degrees of licenses are required if coaching U-12 and above at competitive team and competitive club levels. The OCYSL also conducts beginner and upgrade training of referees annually, usually at the beginning of each soccer year pending on instructor availability. OCYSL supports all coaching and referee education for the better of youth soccer.

Otero County Youth Soccer League Parent Sport Code of Conduct:

The Otero County Youth Soccer League Board of Directors has implemented the following Parent Sport Code of Conduct for the important message it holds about the proper role of the players and parents who participate in OCYSL. Parents should read, understand and sign this form prior to their child participation in our league (Adopted 12/08).

- Any parent guilty of improper conduct at any game or practice will be asked to leave the soccer activity and be suspended from the following game. Repeat violations may cause a multiple game suspension, or the season forfeiture of the privilege of attending all games.

- The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles:

- Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Good Citizenship

- The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character".

- I therefore agree:

- I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- I and my guests will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators at every game, practice, or any other sporting event.
- I and my guests will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules in to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning.
- I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard.
- I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning.
- I will promote the physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront the officials or the coaches during the game, and I will take time to speak with coaches after the game or at practice.
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

Dated: _____

(Signature)

(Address)

Release From Liability

I, _____, the parent or lawful guardian of _____, hereinafter referred to as "player", in consideration of the player being permitted to participate in games and practices conducted under the auspices of the Otero County Youth Soccer League, do hereby release, waive, and discharge the Otero County Youth Soccer League, its officers and members, directors, coaches, referees, and other participants from all liability to releaser his ward, the player, for any and all loss or damage or any claim of damages resulting therefore account of the injury to the player while the player is participating in activities of the Otero County Youth Soccer League.

The undersigned does hereby acknowledge that he/she has consulted with the player's physician concerning the safety of the player's further participation in activities of the Otero County Youth Soccer League and the he/she and made an informed decision based on the advice of such physician that the player may participate in the activities of the Otero County Youth Soccer League.

The undersigned agrees to indemnify the Otero County Youth Soccer League, it's officials and member, directors, coaches, and referees, and each of them, from any loss, liability, damage, or cost that he/she amey incur due to the participation of the player in activities of the Otero Youth Soccer League, and hereby assumes full responsibility for the risk of further bodily injury, death or other damage due to the participation of the player in the activities of the Otero Youth Soccer League.

Dated: _____

(Signature)

(Address)