

MSA POLICY CHANGES





DUMMY ROSTER

- **Policy 101 – Administration**
- **2. MSA Definitions – Page 4**
- **Dummy Roster** - a roster for a non-playing team which may have as few as one (1) player for the sole purposes of either a senior trial games participant maintaining their youth eligibility or an eligible youth registering with the U.S. Youth Soccer to participate only in its Olympic Development Program.

- **Policy 102 Registration**
- **2. MSA State Registration – Page 37**
- **8. Team Size:** A playing team roster for full sized teams must have a minimum of seven (7) to a maximum of eighteen (18) players. The two (2) exceptions are Dummy Rosters (**See Definition in Policy 101 Section 2 MSA Definitions**) and any Division III U14 – U19 teams who may carry up to a maximum of twenty two (22) players due to insufficient registered players for one more team. The maximum of 22 players will still enable each of these teams to meet the 50% playing time requirement. Check Small Sided Rules for other team sizes.



PLAYER REGISTRATION FEES

- **Policy 102 Registration**

- 2. MSA State Registration – Page 37**

- 5. Player Registration Fees:** The member organization must send MSA the required player registration fee for each registered team member including a multiple (**secondary**) registered player. It will send the player registration fee for the three (3) MSA playing divisions to the MSA Office, within 15 days of the start of Organization competition. Cities and municipalities must present payment **within 30 days** after presentation to the required city officials (**any delay must be noted to MSA**). These mailings will include an itemized accounting of player registrations by playing division using the Invoice form, in the GotSoccer system. On a monthly basis, registrars should send payment to MSA.



MULTIPLE REGISTRATION

- Policy 102 Registration
- 3. Multiple Registration (**Secondary Roster**) - Page 37
 - 1. Multiple Registration - (Secondary Roster) Multiple Registration/Secondary Roster in this section does not apply to Division II. (Refer to Division II registration and rostering in Policy 103 Section 7). All multiple registrations and rosters must be approved by the MSA State Registrar prior to registering and rostering. This multiple (secondary) registration policy is subject to the following conditions.
 - 2. A Division III Player may be registered/rostered on no more than two Division III teams in a seasonal year. The player must indicate their primary Division III team at their initial registration. If the player registers and rosters on only one team at this initial registration, this team is their primary team. He/she may subsequently register and roster on a second team as their secondary team within their own organization, if approved by their controlling organization. In Division III the multiple registration and secondary rostering can only be on a team in a different age group than the primary team in order to comply with the MSA policy governing age balance (see policy 103, Section 3.1).

MULTIPLE REGISTRATION CONTINUED

- **3.** Example in Division III – In the fall U16G have 16 players; U19G have 10 players; 5 of the U16G secondary players registers and rosters with the U19G's. In the spring, more players sign up adding players to the U16G and U19G. The five players that secondarily registered and rostered on the U19G must decide whether to remain on the U16G team or change their primary team to the U19G (See #8 below). This must be done prior to the Division III freeze date.
- **4.** A Division I Player may secondarily register and roster on another Division I team in their controlling organization if approved by it. A Division I player may be registered/rostered on no more than two Division I teams in a seasonal year. No Division I player can secondarily register on a Division III or Division II team. The player may not play in either the State Cup or in the Division I League Games of their secondary registered team.

MULTIPLE REGISTRATION CONTINUED

- **5.** The Division I Player must indicate their primary Division I team at their initial registration. If the player registers and rosters on only one team at this initial registration, this team is their primary team. He/she may subsequently register and roster on a second team as their secondary team within their own organization.
- **6.** A **Division I or Division III** player must play for their primary team in case of a game schedule conflict, this includes any player that has been asked to participate as a guest player with another team or organization.
- **7.** With their controlling organization's approval, a player may reverse their primary designation once per seasonal year. This reversal will be processed with the State Office as a Player Transfer in compliance with all transfer policies.
- **8.** A secondary registered/rostered player must pay the appropriate player registration fees for each team to MSA.



DIVISION II

- **Policy 103 Programs**
- **7. Division II – Intermediate Program – Page 48**
- **1. Purpose**

Division II is the MSA Intermediate playing division for Boys and Girls Under **9** through Under 19 teams. It is a combination developmental and all-star division designed to result in a more competitive level of play. Organizations must maintain recreational soccer program, in each age/gender group in which it intends to form a Division II team, to remain a full member of MSA.

- **2. Program and Classes**

The local organization shall determine the most appropriate assignment of these types of teams for the benefit of its organization. However, for each seasonal year, in order for the local organization to form USYS Premier Teams (2A) as defined below, the following additional requirements must be met:

U9 and Above Age/Gender Groups (s) – the local organization must maintain a minimum of on (1) Division 3 team per age/gender in which it intends to form USYS Premier Teams (2A).

Participation in either type of team is solely the decision of the local organization is not appealable to MSA.

DIVISION II CONTINUED

The Division II Program shall be organized into two classes of teams:

- USYS Premier Teams (2A) – U9 – U19 Primary registered teams that maintain a minimum roster of a full field players plus three for the purpose of playing in developmental competitive events

And

- USYS Recreational All Star Teams (2B) –U9 – U19 players secondarily registered to a team or pools for the purpose of limited developmental competitive play

- The permanent, rostered teams in the Program will be eligible to compete in the MSA President's Cup.
- The developmental player pools and the permanent-rostered teams may be formed in any manner, including tryouts. There is no player age variance required.
- Organizations may form more than one team or more than one player pool in any age division.
- There is no requirement for the composition of teams to be adjusted to insure a competitive balance between multiple teams.
- To be considered a Division II program, it must be opened to any and all players from its MSA-approved territorial boundaries and meet the following additional requirements.

DIVISION II CONTINUED

- **3. Objectives:** This Program is played in single age groups, regardless of class, Divisions U9 through U19. However, Organizations may choose to form in dual age groups if sufficient players are not available to form in single age groups but will be required to compete in the higher age group.
 - **a.** Division II teams may not be formed until after July 1st .
 - **b.** Secondarily-registered Division II Developmental Player Pools are to be composed of registered recreation players pursuant to all fees and player pass requirements
- **4.** Cautions and ejections earned in the MSA Presidents Cup must be reported appropriately. Suspension earned in, but not served in the MSA Presidents Cup must be served in the Regional President's Cup.
- **5. Passes and Travel:** Division II Teams are required to obtain player passes and travel permits as specified in the Division II Policy.

DIVISION II CONTINUED

- **7. Boundaries/Releases:** Division II teams may only be formed with players from within the sponsoring organization's boundaries as determined by the players domicile, except for releases authorized by MSA. Players may be released from their organization for Division II play only when the following conditions are met:
 - a. For recreational All Star Teams (2B), Released players are required to continue to play recreational soccer in their local organization, which takes precedence over Division II play in cases of a conflict. Documented failure of released players to actively participate on the player's primary Division III team in the home organization shall result in reversal of the release by MSA and removal of the player from the Division II roster. These releases may only occur within the players district of domicile.

DIVISION II CONTINUED

b. For all Division II Players - Players must try out and accept any offer of play for Division II in their organization of domicile when an age and gender appropriate **class** is available or planned. However, if the organization has not formed an appropriate Division II **class within 30 days after closed of their initial player registration** of any calendar year, that player is considered eligible for release to another organization.

- 1. Secondarily Registered and Released players (2b) in Division II revert back to their home organization for the next seasonal year.

8. Organizational Deadlines and Responsibilities: All organizations intending or considering forming Division II Teams must submit an online letter of intent, to the MSA Office no later than **April 1st** of the current seasonal year for the next seasonal year, describing the age/gender divisions within which the teams may be formed and whether the teams will be **classed as Premier Teams (2A) or Recreational All Star Teams (2B)**. It is recognized that secondary registered teams will form after recreational teams; however, organizations must immediately upon formation of teams, properly register the teams with the MSA State Office.

DIVISION II CONTINUED

- **9. Registration:** Player pools may be registered with the MSA Office effective September 1 of the new seasonal year. The registration procedure includes obtaining player passes and coach passes. The deadline for completing the registration process for a new team, (number of field players plus three) with the MSA Office is **April 1st**.
- **10. Rosters for Games or Events:** “Event” rosters must be created in GotSoccer by the local organizations registrar for games or events, such as tournaments. The event roster submission must be entered in advance of the event within the time constraints published by MSA on the Division II web site that conforms to the online facilities available. The event team may compete against other **USYS** teams for **which they are eligible**, or participate in any other event that is not in conflict with the Division III teams from which the **Recreational All Star (2b)** is primarily registered.
- **11. Event Team Roster Sizes:** Event Pool-Team Rosters must conform to the roster requirements of the event or tournament in which the Pool Team is participating.

DIVISION II CONTINUED

- **12. Recreational All Star (2b) Permanent Team Rosters:** Permanent team rosters will be selected from existing developmental player pools in **GotSoccer by the local organization registrar**. The deadline for submitting permanent team rosters shall be April 1st.
- **13. Game Scheduling:** Although it is not required, a scheduling meeting shall be held to facilitate inter-play between Division II Teams. Teams are not required to play any other Division II Team. Match scheduling is entirely up to each team.
- **14. MSA Sanctioned Tournaments:** **MSA will only sanction Division II tournaments that are operated within the GotSoccer Tournament system. GotSoccer Ranking Points from MSA Tournaments shall be used for seeding the MSA Presidents Cup.** Organizations are encouraged to include Division II brackets as a part of their Tournaments. Division II Teams may also compete in Competitive Tournaments.
- **15. MSA Sponsored Tournaments:** MSA shall sponsor the Presidents Cup Tournament as a Championship Tournament **for** Division II Teams. District level competitions may be played if sufficient numbers of teams warrant them. The Champions of the Division II portion of this event will proceed to the USYS **Region III Presidents** Cup. The MSA Council shall publish annually the tournament rules and make them an exhibit in this manual.

DIVISION II CONTINUED

- **16. Co-operation:** Organizations shall try to facilitate cooperation between coaches of Recreational Division III Teams and Secondly rostered Division II Teams to ensure that the player has the opportunity to compete at both levels; however, in the case of a conflict, players must play with their primarily registered team.
- **17. Violation Penalties:** Any violation of the requirement to play with the primary team or written report documenting coercion against a secondarily rostered Division II player shall result in suspension of the violating team for the two calendar months following the month of the violation. The team will be considered not in good standing during the suspension. Repeated violation shall be referred to the MSA State Level Disciplinary and Protest Committee, who shall act and impose additional penalties as they determine, are appropriate.
- **18. Disciplinary Reporting System:** Should a Division II League Play be scheduled, the current Division I discipline reporting system would be in effect for the all age groups playing in that League Play.



DIVISION II REGISTRATION AND RELEASES

- **Policy 103 Programs**
- **8. Division II Registration and Releases**
 - **1. Player and Team Registrations:** All registered Division II players and teams must meet the territorial boundary and registration policy requirements which are outlined in this manual.
 - **2. Player Releases:** All released players to Division II teams must meet the policy requirements for team release actions which are outlined in this manual with the following exceptions:
 - **a.** A Division II player may transfer to a Division I team in their controlling organization if approved by that organization.
 - **b.** A Division II player may transfer to another Division II team if approved by the controlling organization subject to the 14 day transfer and territorial requirements.

DIVISION II REGISTRATION AND RELEASES CONTINUED

- **3.** The MSA Registrar or appropriate MSA Staff member must approve and register all Division II players at least fourteen (14) days prior to the affected player participating in the MSA Division II State Championships. **Any Division III recreational player who completed his/her obligations for the seasonal year and was not previously rostered to a Division II team may be added to a Division II roster by 12:00 Noon on the Wednesday, subject to any district/organizational transfer requirements, prior to the Presidents Cup, and be allowed to participate in the Presidents Cup irrespective of the 14 day rule for Division II players.**
- **4. Player Releases:** A member organization must meet all outlined release policies in this manual.
- **5. Player Passes:** Each player must have a player pass for all games. These passes are obtained online at the MSA website in the player pass section.



DIVISION II PRESIDENTS CUP TOURNAMENT

- **Policy 103 Programs**
- **9. Division II Presidents Cup Tournament**
 - **1. State Cup:** The MSA Council shall annually sponsor and manage the Presidents Cup Championship **for** Division II Teams. Division II teams do not have a qualification process for this tournament as Division II teams are accepted and seeded by the Division II Vice President **based upon appropriate bracketing and GotSoccer ranking points**. The MSA Council shall publish annually the tournament rules and make them an exhibit in this manual.
 - **2. Playing Format:** The playing format for the President's Cup shall be determined by the Division II Vice President based upon the number of teams registered in each Age/Gender group with the following two exceptions:
 - **a.** Age/gender groups with less than six (6) teams but more than two teams will use a round robin format.
 - **b.** Age/gender groups with only two teams will play each other in the best-of-three format.

DIVISION II PRESIDENT CUP

CONTINUED

- **3. Rosters:** Rosters shall be frozen at 12:00 close of business 14 days prior to the Presidents Cup for Division II registered players. **Any Division III recreational player who completed his/her obligations for the seasonal year and was not previously rostered to Division II team may be added to a Division II roster by 12:00 Noon on the Wednesday prior to the Presidents Cup, subject to any district/organizational transfer requirements, and be allowed to participate in the Presidents Cup irrespective of the 14 day rule for Division I players.**
 - **a. Fees:** Fees for the Presidents Cup will be set annually by the MSA Division II Vice President.
 - **b.** The Playing Rules for the Presidents Cup Competition will be **in** accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game and its tournament rules.
- **4. USYS Region III Presidents Cup:** Champions of the MSA Presidents cup shall represent MSA at the USYS Regional Presidents Cup.
 - **a.** Championship team rosters may be supplemented in accordance with the Regional Presidents Cup Policies prior to competition in the Regional Presidents Cup.
 - **b.** The Regional Presidents Cup Committee may extend wildcard slots to a State Presidents Cup finalist



DIVISION I

- **Policy 103 Programs**
- **10. Division I State Division – Page 53**
 - **1. Purpose:** The Division I (State Division) is the highest playing level of MSA competition. A member organization forms these teams for the expressed purpose of playing competitive soccer and representing MSA in the U.S. Youth Soccer Region III Championships. For this reason, its player selection process does not have to conform to the Division III's (Recreational) and Division II's (Intermediate) team assignment requirements. An organization must have at least one primary registered Division I team in order to offer a Division I program. A primary registered team for Division I must have the maximum number of players allowed on the field plus two substitutes.
 - **2. Objective:** This program offers advanced level of playing competition which U.S. Youth Soccer policies require MSA to offer its registered players.
 - **3. Program.** A member organization must submit a Letter of Intent to field or not field a Division I team in each eligible age/gender division. This letter must be received by the MSA State Office by **April 1st** of each year. If an organization does not submit this required statement by this date, players within its territorial boundaries are free to tryout and play for other members' Division I teams. **Division I tryouts may begin the Monday following the appropriate MSA State Cup Championship Tournament.**

DIVISION I CONTINUE

- **4. Operation Committee:** The MSA Division 1 Operation Committee will recommend the Division 1 playing format. The MSA Division 1 Vice President will chair this committee. The committee will consist of the Director of Coaching or an appointed member from each MSA member organization that has at least 1 Division 1 teams. If a MSA organization does not have a DOC, a representative from their organization can be appointed by that organization to serve on this committee. Each committee member will have one vote.
- **5. Alterations:** Should USYS lower age groups for completion to the Regional and National Championship Series, the age groups encompassed by the USYS changes shall be automatically adopted by the MSA division I program in all of its respective rules and policies.
- **6. Sanction For Violation of Rules** Failure to comply with the “Rules for Registration of Youth Players” shall result in the offending coach, assistant coach, manager/trainer and/or team representative, and players being suspended from soccer activities for a period of not less than one (1) year.



DIVISION I LEAGUE PLAY

- **Policy 103 Programs**
- **13. Division I League Play Rules – Page 56**
- **1. Division 1 League:** This league is established as the State’s first round of qualification of the USYS National Youth Championship. The purpose is to qualify teams to the MSA State Championship Tournament and the National Championship Series. The league shall be open to all appropriately registered Division I teams. This league will be under the direction of the MSA Division I Vice President.
- **2. Fees and Intent to Play:** Fees will be set annually by MSA for each age/gender group to cover all applicable expenses.
 - a. Each team **participating in the USYS National Cup Series** is required to sign and submit a Letter of Intent to participate in the league by September 1st of the playing year. All team fees must be paid prior to official rosters and/or player passes being released by the MSA office or by September 1st whichever comes first. Any failure to pay appropriate Division I fees will result in forfeiture of bond money and disqualification from the State Championship Tournament.
 - **b. All U11-12 team’s fees must be paid prior to official rosters and/or player passes being released by the MSA office or by September 1st whichever comes first.**

DIVISION I LEAGUE PLAY

CONTINUED

- **3. Credentials:** Each Team must have the following credentials in their possession for each rostered player and be available for official review by MSA officials at any MSA League game.
 - 1. Approved MSA Roster
 - 2. Current Notarized Medical Release
 - 3. Birth Certificates or any other document recognized by USYS Rule 204. Proof of Age.
 - 4. Team specific MSA Member Pass
- **4. Scheduling/Playing Format:**
 - **Under 13 – Under 18 League Play Guidelines:**
 - **1.** The #1 and #2 teams from each age/gender division in the previous State Championship Tournament will be offered the opportunity to participate in the Region III Premier League. These teams will be seeded #1 and #2 respectively into the upcoming State Championship Tournament based on the final standings in Premier League play. These teams must have a minimum of 4 teams within their age division for the PL games to count as qualifying games. The 3rd place team(s) from the previous State Championship Tournament will be allowed to participate in the Region III Premier League if a slot becomes available. The 3rd place team(s) must also compete in the in-state league play.

DIVISION I LEAGUE PLAY CONTINUED

- **2.** All teams in each age division not participating in Premier League games as qualification will participate in a state league directed by the Division I Vice President.
- **3.** All league games must be completed by **April 30th** of the current season.
- **4.** **U13-u18** Leagues will be established under the following guidelines:
 - **a.** Age/gender divisions with 3 teams or less (excluding #1 and #2 Premier League teams) – **must play** 3 different Division I teams to qualify for the State Championship Tournament.
 - **b.** Age/gender divisions with 4+ teams (excluding #1 and #2 Premier League teams) – **must play** each team within their respective age/gender division at least one time to qualify for the State Championship Tournament.
 - **c.** **League games scheduling will be recommended by the Division I Operation Committee under the direction of the Division I Vice President.**
 - **d.** Points will be awarded as follows: win - three (3) points, tie – one (1) point, loss - zero (0) points.
 - **e.** All league games will be played in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game. A regulation game for the following age groups will be two halves each of the following lengths:

DIVISION I LEAGUE PLAY CONTINUED

» Game lengths:

- a. Under 13 – 35 minutes
- b. Under 14 - 35 minutes
- c. Under 15 - 16 - 40 minutes
- d. Under 17 and above - 45 minutes

» 1. No league game can be shortened and must be played within the length stated above. Only the referee has the authority to alter the time based upon the inclement weather policy.

- f. Any failure to pay appropriate Division I fees or violation of the established policies and procedures will result in forfeiture of bond money and disqualification from the State Championship Tournament.
- g. If a team a team drops out of the MSA State Cup after having been accepted to the MSA State Cup; that team will remain named in the State Cup Tournament if there is not a next seeded replacement team available. That teams games shall be scored as forfeits.

- **5. Withdrawal from League Play:** Any team that withdraws from the league or fails to participate in all league games as scheduled becomes ineligible for the MSA State Championship Tournament and further participation in the league for the remainder of the playing year. If a team withdraws from the league or is deemed ineligible for the State Championship Tournament, all games played will be void and no points will be awarded.

DIVISION I LEAGUE PLAY

CONTINUED

- **6. Forfeit Policy:** Any team(s) not ready to play at the scheduled starting time of the game shall be deemed to have forfeited the match. The match shall be recorded as a forfeit and the team that was present, and ready to play, shall be awarded a win. The team not present or ready to play shall be awarded the loss and will forfeit its bond. The game(s) will be scored as a 0-3 loss. The referee shall note the game as a forfeit and forward the report to the MSA Division I Vice President. Any team who fails to show up for a scheduled game must submit a written explanation to the MSA Division I Vice President within 48 hours of the scheduled game time. The explanation will cite the extenuating circumstances beyond their control, which prevented them from fulfilling their obligations. **The Division I Vice President will notify the team(s) involved within 48 hours after receipt of explanation whether the game should be rescheduled.**
- **7. Responsibilities of Each Team:**
 - 1. Coaches are responsible for controlling the actions of their players and spectators. Both teams will occupy the same sideline.
 - 2. Only three (3) team representatives will be allowed on the player sideline. All other representatives and spectators must be on the opposite sideline.
 - 3. The first team listed will be the home team and will change jerseys if there is a color conflict.
 - 4. Each team must have a match ball. The referee will decide on match ball.
 - 5. An official Game Card will be submitted to the MSA Division I Vice President within 48 hours by the official assignor upon completion of all scheduled games. Each manager or coach must sign the game card upon match completion verifying the correct score, cautions or ejections, etc.
 - 6. U16 & older teams must present a game roster with a maximum of 18 players designated on the game roster must not be in uniform and may sit on the players side.

DIVISION I LEAGUE PLAY

CONTINUED

- **8. Ties at the Conclusion of League Play:** If at the conclusion of league play, two or more teams are tied in the points awarded, the final standings will be decided in the following order:
 - 1. Head to Head game results - winner will advance.
 - 2. Goal differential – team with highest goal differential against opponent will advance (maximum of five (5) goal differential). (Example: A 7-0 game = 5-0 in calculating advancement; a 11-5 game = 10-5 in calculating advancement).
 - 3. Fewest goals allowed - team with fewest goals allowed will advance.
 - 4. Fewest accumulation of caution points, 1 point for yellow and 2 points for red.
 - 5. A playoff series established by the Division I VP to determine which team(s) will advance to the State Championship Tournament.
- **9. Protests:** Protests will only be considered on rule interpretations. Both the referee and opposing coach must be notified within one hour of the conclusion of the game and the protest must be submitted in writing to the MSA Division I Vice President within 48 hours with the appropriate protest fee.



MSA STATE CUP

- **Policy 103 Programs**
- **14. MSA State Cup – Page 60**
 - **1. State Cup:** The MSA Council shall annually sponsor and manage the Mississippi State Cup Championship.
 - **a.** The **MSA State Cup will be a competitive tournament that consists of** Under **13** through Under 19 gender/groups. The Under **13** through Under 19 division will include two rounds of play: The Division I League play will be the first round and will be used to qualify teams for this tournament. The second round will be the Championship Round. The winners of the Under **13** through Under 19 age/gender groups Championship Round shall represent MSA in the USYS Southeastern Region III Championships. Only teams that have entered the tournament through its first leg, i.e.; Division I League Play will be qualified for the Championship round. The MSA Council shall publish annually the tournament rules and make them an exhibit in this manual.
 - **b.** The **U11-U12 State Open Cup will be opened to all USYS/MSA Division I U11- U12 teams. The only requirement to submit an application to this tournament is for tournament registration fee and all Division 1 fees to be paid.**