

**Royal Oak Youth Soccer  
Association  
Operating Rules**

# Royal Oak Youth Soccer Association

## Operating Rules OR.012

### Amendment Log

| Revision | Effective Season | Section                           | Change   | Approval                                  |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Original | Spring 2004      | All                               | Original   | April 2004<br>ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting   |
| OR.001   | Fall 2004        | 1.08                              | Add non-residents fee to play                    | May 2004<br>ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting     |
|          | Fall 2004        | 12.01                             | Add non resident fee                             | May 2004<br>ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting     |
| OR.002   | Fall 2004        | 2.06                              | Change U7/U8 roster sizes from 9 to 10 maximum   | June 30 2004<br>ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting |
| OR.003   | Fall 2005        | 2.06                              | Change U9/U10 roster sizes from 10 to 11 maximum | June 28 2005<br>ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting |
| OR.004   | Fall 2006        | Change Log                        | Add Amendment Log Table                          | Operating<br>Rules<br>Committee           |
|          | Fall 2006        | All                               | Add outline formatting                           | Operating<br>Rules<br>Committee           |
|          | Fall 2006        | 2.06<br>9.01LAW3.10<br>9.01LAW7.1 | Add table formatting as required.                | Operating<br>Rules<br>Committee           |

| <b>Revision</b> | <b>Effective Season</b> | <b>Section</b>  | <b>Change</b>   | <b>Approval</b>                    |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| OR.004          | Fall 2006               | 2.06<br>2.08.1a<br>4.02<br>7.02.1a)<br>9.01LAW1.3<br>9.01LAW2.1<br>9.01LAW3.1<br>9.01LAW3.10<br>9.01LAW3.11<br>9.01LAW7.1<br>9.01LAW13.1<br>9.01LAW14.1<br>9.01LAW15.1<br>9.01LAW16.1<br>10.01<br>11.08 | Revise division to include both divisions (Example: from U6 to U5/U6)   | Operating Rules Committee          |
| O.005           | Fall 2006               | 7.02.01 (a)<br>7.02.01 (b)<br>7.02.01 (c)   | Deletion.   | May 2006 ROYSA Board Meeting       |
| OR.005          | Fall 2006               | 9.01LAW1.c  | Modified substitutions during possession.   | May 2006 ROYSA Board Meeting       |
| OR.006          | Fall 2006               | 11.04.3<br>11.11.3<br>12.02<br>12.03  | Added section on ROYSA fees. Modified 11.04.3 and 11.11.3 to place fees in 12.02.   | August 2006 ROYSA Board Meeting    |
| OR.007          | Fall 2006               | 1.03  | Changed “least 30 days” to “by March 1 for Spring Season and August 1 for Fall Season”. Removed \$10.00. Added Section 12.02. | September 2006 ROYSA Board Meeting |
| OR.007          | Fall 2006               | 2.06  | Removed pre 2004-2005 roster size table.  | Obsolete information               |
| OR.007          | Fall 2006               | 9.01LAW3.10   | Removed pre 2004-2005 roster size table. Added “Left intentionally blank”.  | Obsolete information               |

|        |                |            |   |   |
|--------|----------------|------------|---|---|
| OR.007 | Fall<br>2006   | 9.01LAW7.1 | Changed from 40 to 35.  | September<br>2006 ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting   |
| OR.007 | Fall<br>2006   | 12.02      | Added Administration Fee<br>\$10.00   | September<br>2006 ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting   |
| OR.008 | Spring<br>2007 | 7.02       | Revised text for practice on<br>game fields and<br>consequences.                    | March 2007<br>ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting       |
| OR.009 | Fall<br>2007   | 12.03      | Added Referee Scheduler Fee   | August 2007<br>ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting      |
| OR.010 | Fall<br>2004   | 2.09       | Change from September to<br>November.   | March April<br>2004 ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting |
| OR.010 | May<br>2008    | 12.02      | Added Premiere fees.  | May 2008<br>ROYSA<br>Special Board<br>Meeting |
| OR.011 | Spring<br>2009 | 9.01Law7.1 | Changed from 35 to 40<br>minutes.   | April 2009<br>ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting       |
| OR.012 | Fall<br>2009   | 2.06       | Changed U9/U10 maximum<br>from 11 to 12.  | April 2009<br>ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting       |
| OR.012 | Fall<br>2009   | 1.08.1     | Redefined non-resident<br>players whose parents coach<br>or officiate as residents. | June/July<br>2009 ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting   |

|        |              |           |   |  |
|--------|--------------|-----------|---|--|
| OR.012 | Fall<br>2009 | 2.05.3    | Redefine a core team by adding 2.05.3.1 and 2.05.3.2.   | August 2009<br>ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting |
| OR.012 | Fall<br>2009 | 2.09      | Move Section 2.09 to Section 6.03. Deleted Section 2.09.  | August 2009<br>ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting |
| OR.012 | Fall<br>2009 | Article 3 | Add “These teams shall comply to ROYSA’s Operating and Premier Rules” to selection 3.01. Deleted Section 3.02 thru 3.04.          | August 2009<br>ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting |
| OR.012 | Fall<br>2009 | 4.01      | Add “Players must wear the uniform provided for all regular-season games and all ROYSA-sanctioned special games and tournaments”. | August 2009<br>ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting |
| OR.012 | Fall<br>2009 | 6.03      | Deleted “All players on house teams must play in their proper age group. Players may not move up to an older age group.”          | August 2009<br>ROYSA<br>Board<br>Meeting |

# Royal Oak Youth Soccer Association

## Operating Rules

(Effective Fall 2009)

As used in these Operating Rules, "the ROYSA" means the Royal Oak Youth Soccer Association. "Board" means the Board of the Royal Oak Youth Soccer Association, including elected members, officers, officials, and division managers.

References to the male gender in the Operating Rules in respect of players, coaches, officials and referees are for simplification and apply to both males and females.

### **Article 1. INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION**

**Section 1.01** Registration fees and registration procedures will be as determined by the Board.

**Section 1.02** When more than 3 children in an immediate family are registered, the player fee will be waived for the fourth (or higher) child registered in the ROYSA house program. If the fourth child is registered in the ROYSA Premier program, only the house portion of the fee will be waived.

**Section 1.03** Refunds of registration fees will be given if requested in writing by March 1 for the Spring Season and August 1 for the Fall Season less the administrative fee (Section 12.02). No other refunds will be granted except under unusual circumstances as determined by the Board. The board may waive registration fees due to financial hardship, only if a written request is presented during team and open registration dates.

**Section 1.04** Each player will be required to submit with his original (or first) registration form a copy of his birth or baptismal certificate or other similar form documenting date of birth.

**Section 1.05** In order to register, all players must have a release of liability signed by a parent or guardian every season.

**Section 1.06** No unregistered child shall participate in any games or practices.

**Section 1.07** Any player or parent who willfully falsifies his registration shall be suspended for the current season. The same shall apply to any player who signs his parent's name to his registration form.

**Section 1.08** A resident player(s) in ROYSA is defined as a player who must live in the City of Royal Oak or the Royal Oak Public School District, or attend a school within those boundaries, with the following exceptions:

- .1 Non residents may play in ROYSA if one of their parents, legal guardians, grandparents or siblings is a coach, assistant coach, team manager or ROYSA official. Said player shall be considered a resident player.
- .2 Non-residents may play, if the non-resident fee is paid pursuant to Section 12.01.
- .3 Premier and house teams are allowed to have a maximum of 3 non-resident players.
- .4 Outside groups such as private schools and other communities may register through the ROYSA provided they have a home field to play on.

## **Article 2. TEAM FORMATION, HOUSE TEAMS**

**Section 2.01** The ROYSA will be responsible for team formation.

**Section 2.02** Each team will be regarded as an individual unit.

**Section 2.03** The Board reserves the right to approve or disapprove of any team requesting entrance into the ROYSA.

### **Section 2.04 NEW PLAYERS**

- .1 A new player is defined as any player that did not play the previous season even if he had played in the ROYSA at some time in the past.
- .2 The division manager shall place all new players on teams. He shall use the following criteria for placing players:
  - .1 Honor requests if deemed reasonable and possible. This decision shall be that of the division manager.
  - .2 Place players according to the school they attend.
  - .3 Place players according to their age as much as possible.

- .4 Place players according to their geographic location. Keep players as close to home as possible.
- .5 Place players according to which core teams need players.
- .6 Division managers use their own judgment and place players to the best of their abilities.

#### **Section 2.05 CORE TEAMS**

- .1 For the purpose of determining teams for the coming season, all previously registered players will be segregated according to their team from the previous year.
- .2 A determination as to the number of teams needed shall be made based on the number of players in an age group.
- .3 The following classification of players shall constitute core teams:
  - .1 A team already existing in a division with a licensed coach and a minimum of 1 player.
  - .2 A team moving up from a younger division with a licensed coach and a minimum of 1 player.
  - .3 A team already existing in a division with a non-licensed coach and a minimum of 3 players.
  - .4 A team moving up from a younger division with a non-licensed coach and a minimum of 3 players.
  - .5 A team already existing in a division without a coach and a minimum of 6 players.
  - .6 A team moving up from a younger age division without a coach and a minimum of 6 players.
- .4 If there are more core teams than needed in an age group, core teams shall be selected in the priority .1 to .6 in Section 2.05.3.
- .5 Registered players on a core team may request to switch to another team if:
  - .1 A relative plays for or coaches another team.

- .2 The team the player is currently on is not comprised mainly of players from his school or neighborhood and the team he is requesting a transfer to be comprised mainly of players from his school or neighborhood.
- .3 The player requests a transfer to another team and the division manager deems it to be a reasonable request.
- .4 The placement does not create a disparate number of players on teams.
- .6 PLAYERS MAY NOT TRANSFER TO ANOTHER TEAM SOLELY TO GO TO A TEAM WITH A BETTER RECORD. Division managers must guard against coaches attempting to build powerhouse teams by enticing players to request their team.
- .7 Decisions of the division managers are final.

**Section 2.06**

The Michigan State Youth Soccer Association has mandated that "small-sided soccer" is to be phased in by the 2004-2005 soccer year. The number of players assigned to teams shall be:

| Age group | Minimum | Ideal | Maximum        |
|-----------|---------|-------|----------------|
| U5/U6     | 6       | 7     | 8 (in effect)  |
| U7/U8     | 7       | 8     | 10             |
| U9/U10    | 8       | 9     | 12             |
| U11/U12   | 11      | 12-13 | 14 (in effect) |
| U13/U14   | 14      | 15-16 | 18             |
| U15-U19   | 14      | 15-16 | 18             |

**Section 2.07** Players may be added to the roster, with the registrar's approval, after the season has started either to replace players no longer on the team or to increase the size of the team within prescribed limits.

**Section 2.08**

- .1 The division manager shall assign house team names using the following criteria:

- .1** U5/U6 - U7/U8 - Anything mythical, signifying something small or young, small or baby animals, birds, reptiles or insects.
  - .2** U9/U10 - U11/U12 - Large birds, animals or reptiles.
  - .3** U13/U14 & up - Professional or international soccer teams.
- .2** Division managers should try to make sure there is no duplication of names. For instance the U-8 boys and the U-8 girls division should not have two teams with the same name, one a boy's team and the other a girl's team.
- .3** Teams moving up to a new division may keep the current name if it does not conflict with any other team name, at the discretion of the Board.

### **Article 3. PREMIER TEAMS**

**Section 3.01** The Board shall have the power to form teams for the purpose of representing the ROYSA in Premier or Select leagues or programs. These teams shall comply to ROYSA's Operating and Premier Rules.

### **Article 4. EQUIPMENT**

**Section 4.01** The ROYSA shall furnish each player with a uniform. Players must wear the uniform provided for all regular-season games and all ROYSA-sanctioned special games and tournaments.

**Section 4.02** The ROYSA shall furnish each player with a uniform.

**Section 4.03** The ROYSA shall furnish each team with one (1) game ball per year. One (1) goalie jersey will be provided per year for each team, starting in the U9/U10 Division.

**Section 4.04** Each team shall be responsible for returning all equipment to the ROYSA including uniforms unless the uniform is given to the player by the ROYSA. All equipment is the property of the ROYSA unless otherwise determined by the Board.

**Section 4.05** The home team for any scheduled game shall be responsible for the corner flags, including returning them to the designated location at the end of the game.

**Section 4.06** The game ball provided by the ROYSA will be supplied by the home team and must be properly inflated. The visiting team should also have a game ball available and properly inflated. The referee shall decide on the suitability of any ball used.

**Section 4.07** The Equipment Manager and Goals and Nets Manager shall be responsible for all necessary repairs or replacement of equipment.

**Section 4.08** The Board must approve all advertising on the ROYSA uniforms or other equipment.

**Section 4.09** ROYSA assumes no liability for incidents occurring while wearing merchandise displaying the ROYSA trade name unless the activity is a sanctioned ROYSA event.

## **Article 5. LEAGUE RULES - TEAMS**

**Section 5.01** No team may enter into games outside the ROYSA without the prior approval of the division manager. The division manager must inform the Board.

**Section 5.02** The Board will decide if a team is to be terminated during the season. In that event, the Board shall determine the disposition of the players.

## **Article 6. LEAGUE RULES - PLAYERS**

**Section 6.01** A coach or manager, WITH BOARD APPROVAL, may remove a player from the team for misconduct. The coach or manager must submit in writing to the Board a request for disciplinary action on a player.

**Section 6.02** Any player who is competing, or plans to compete in league play in any other soccer league may not play in the ROYSA unless the player has obtained permission of the Board of the ROYSA and is dual registered with the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association.

**Section 6.03** Age groupings shall follow the United States Youth Soccer Association guidelines. The age for the players shall be determined by the player's age as of August 1. Players on house teams must play in their appropriate age group. Players with August

to November birthdays may request to move up to the age group one year above. The parent must submit a written request to move up, which will be kept on file with the ROYSA registrar. Approval of the division manager(s) is required. Another request must be written to return to the original age group.

**Section 6.04** Premier players must follow Premier Division Guidelines for age group placement.

## **Article 7. COACHES AND MANAGERS**

**Section 7.01** Coaches and managers may establish rules governing practice sessions and individual team policy, but not to conflict with the ROYSA rules.

### **Section 7.02**

- .1** A team will be allowed one practice or scrimmage on a game field during season with permission granted from the Scheduler. Proper procedure to secure permission is:
  - .1** Submitted via email request for field usage (date and field) at least 72 hours prior to need to ROYSA Scheduler ([Scheduler@roysa.com](mailto:Scheduler@roysa.com)) and carbon copy to division manager. Telephone requests will not be honored.
  - .2** Scheduler will either grant or deny request, based on a number of factors: field conditions, booking conflicts, or if team has all ready used in turn.
  - .3** The request for field practice will not be granted until after the season starts in the spring and no earlier than one week before the season starts in the fall (if fields are ready).
  - .4** The request for practice can only be for the size field that team is currently using.
  - .5** If a team needs to exceed its one game field practice per season, the coach may make a request through the scheduler for additional practices. Scheduler will bring the request to the ROYSA Board for approval.
- .2** Consequences of unauthorized field usage.

- .1 First Offense:** Verbal and written documented with scheduler and divisional manager, loss of one time practice, and call from divisional manager explaining rules.
- .2 Second Offense:**
  - .1 **Recreation Team:**** Review with Coaches Committee on proper procedures and possible points taken from standings.
  - .2 **Premier Teams:**** Review with Coaches Committee on proper procedure and fines. Fines are to be taken from team budget.
- .3 Third Offense:**
  - .1 **Recreation Team:**** Meet with Coaches Committee on possible suspension or fines.
  - .2 **Premier Teams:**** Meet with Coaches Committee on possible suspension or fines. Fines are to be taken from team budget.

**Section 7.03** All coaches and managers must participate in the ROYSA fundraisers to the extent determined by the Board.

**Section 7.04** All coaches and managers must be at least eighteen (18) years of age, and complete the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association's "Risk Management" policy.

**Section 7.05** All teams shall send at least one (1) representative to the ROYSA membership meetings.

**Section 7.06** A coach is expected to keep his team for at least one season.

**Section 7.07** Before a game, coaches should introduce themselves to the referee and each other. After the game, opposing teams should line up at mid-field to shake hands and congratulate each other. This procedure should be emphasized to the players.

**Section 7.08** Every coach should refrain from smoking while at practices and games.

**Section 7.09** All coaches should obtain and be familiar with the FIFA Laws of the Game, which are the official rules of soccer, and the USSF Advice to Referees. All coaches also need to know what rules the ROYSA modifies for younger players. The referees officiate at many different age levels and in several different leagues, all of which have different rule modifications. They can't be expected to remember all the age-group modifications, so avoid a hassle by going over them before the game.

**Section 7.10** All coaches may make proposals to the Board. Such proposals should either be made at the ROYSA general membership meeting or be submitted in writing to the Board. The Board welcomes comments from coaches.

**Section 7.11** All coaches and teams must show up for all scheduled games unless notified in advance by a ROYSA official that the game has been postponed or canceled.

**Section 7.12** Coaches should remember that they are in a position where they have considerable influence on children of an impressionable age. Therefore, their conduct (attitudes as well as actions) should remain at all times of such standard as to set a good example for their players. This includes practice as well as game situations. Conduct that is deemed to be detrimental to the best interests of the players or the ROYSA is subject to reprimand and/or suspension by the Board.

**Section 7.13** Prior to the start of the season, the Treasurer of the ROYSA provides checks to cover referee fees for every home game on the teams' schedules. The division manager distributes the checks to coaches. Any money left at the end of the season due to cancelled games or missing referees must be returned to the division manager, who will forward it to the Treasurer.

## **Article 8. SPORTING BEHAVIOR**

**Section 8.01** All participants in the ROYSA, including parents and fans, should keep in mind that youth soccer is a service to the community. It can only prosper if we keep the welfare of the children as our prime consideration.

### **Section 8.02**

**.1** It should be understood by all coaches that the ROYSA exists to:

- .1** Teach the skills and rules of soccer to our youth.
- .2** Promote the principals of good sportsmanship.
- .3** Enable everyone to have fun.

**.2** Coaches should, at all times, set good examples for their players.

**Section 8.03** "Playing to win" should be stressed more than winning itself. Leading a team to victory should not be foremost in the mind of any coach. If it is done in such a

manner as to deny any child the right to play, the League will not sanction this type of behavior. The ROYSA rules concerning playing time for all players are covered in Article 9, Section 9.01, Law 3.

**Section 8.04** Referees are vital to the game. They should be treated with respect at all times. Referees are human and they will make mistakes. They will, however, call a better game if they are not under pressure from the sidelines. Honor their decisions and teach your team to do likewise. Harassment of officials by coaches, players or spectators will not be tolerated. Referees are gaining experience in youth leagues.

**Section 8.05** One of the beauties of soccer is that the sportsmanship is of prime concern to everyone involved. The games are for friendly competition, and the players and coaches should regard their counterparts on the opposing teams as colleagues. Spirited play is encouraged but bad mouthing the opponents is not in the best interest of the game or the ROYSA. Swearing, telling a player to trip an opponent, harassing players on either side are examples of the kind of behavior that will not be tolerated. This applies to players, coaches and spectators.

**Section 8.06** Teams should not "run up" the score against weaker opponents. Coaches should implement changes in strategy and player positions to keep the difference in scores reasonable.

**Section 8.07** The conduct of coaches and other adults should set a good example for the players. Conduct that is deemed to be detrimental to the best interests of the players or the ROYSA is subject to reprimand and/or suspension by the Board.

## **Article 9.** LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

**Section 9.01** The FIFA Laws of the Game and the decisions of the International Board will govern play and be the official playing rules of the ROYSA with the following modifications, recommendations and notations.

### **Law 1** THE FIELD OF PLAY

- .1 The referee shall determine if a field is unplayable. Officials of the ROYSA or the City may also determine if a field is unplayable. If they do so then the teams and referees involved will be notified as to any game cancellations or changes, if possible.
- .2 Hazardous playing conditions are defined as:
  - a. Tornado warning
  - b. Lightning
- .3 Field dimensions for the various age groups will be per Michigan State Youth Soccer Association guidelines. Note that for U5/U6, U7/U8, and U9/U10, the Penalty Area and Goal Area are defined to have the same boundaries.

**Law 2**        THE BALL

- .1 Ball sizes will be:
  - a. U5/U6 - U7/U8 = Size 3
  - b. U9/U10-U11/U12 = Size 4
  - c. U13/U14 & up = Size 5

**Law 3**        NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- .1 Substitutions are unlimited in number and are allowed at the following times:
  - a. On a goal kick by either team.
  - b. On a throw-in by the team in possession.
    - 1) U5/6, U7/8, and U9/10: Substitutions are allowed for both teams on a throw-in regardless of possession.
    - 2) U11/U12, U13/U14 and U19: If the team in possession of the throw-in is substituting, the other team may substitute as well, provided it can be done in a timely manner.
  - c. After a goal by either team.
  - d. When play is stopped following an injury.
  - e. At the start of a half or overtime period.
  - f. A player receiving a caution may be substituted.
  - g. Substitutions in the U5/U6 division are allowed at any stoppage in play.
- .2 Where required, complete line-ups must be presented to the referee before each game. No other players may be used.

- .3 At the end of the game, the completed game sheet must be verified and signed by the referee and both coaches. It will then be sent to the proper authority.
- .4 The referee must be notified and must approve any substitution prior to the substitute entering the field of play. The referee may ask any player to identify himself at any time.
- .5 Substitutions should take place in an organized and rapid manner.
- .6 If it is determined that a team has played an ineligible player, the game(s) in which the player appeared shall be considered as forfeited and the points derived there from will be awarded to the other team(s).
- .7
  - a. **All players in attendance at a game are to play at least approximately 1/2 of each half. Because of limitations on when substitutions can be made, it may not be possible for all players to play exactly 1/2 of each half, but coaches *must* try to adhere to this guideline as closely as possible. Players may play more than 1/2 of each half, but not less. While the minimum playing time is 1/2 of each half, ideally coaches should try to give their players an equal amount of playing time.**
  - b. Coaches may reduce the playing time of a player for disciplinary. The reasons for reduced playing time *must* be explained to the player and his parents before such actions are taken. Parents may appeal such actions to the Board in writing.
  - c. **LACK OF PLAYING ABILITY IS NOT A REASON TO RESTRICT PLAYING TIME.**
  - d. Playing time may be reduced due to illness or injury.
- .8 Coaching is allowed from the touchlines, but only by the coach and assistant coaches (limit 3). Where provided coaches shall remain in the technical areas. Coaches and non-playing players must remain between the front edges of the penalty boxes and on their own side of the field. No artificial devices such as bullhorns or megaphones are permitted.
- .9 It is the coaches' responsibility to control their team's fans. The referee may ask the coach to do so. Spectators are to remain between the front edges of the penalty boxes.
- .10 Left intentionally blank.

.11 The Michigan State Youth Soccer Association has mandated that "small-sided soccer" is to be phased in by the 2004-2005 soccer year. The number of players on the playing field, including the goalkeeper, for the various age groups will be:

| <b>Age group</b>      | <b>Minimum</b> | <b>Maximum</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| U5/U6 (No goalkeeper) | 3              | 4              |
| U7/U8                 | 4              | 5              |
| U9/U10                | 5              | 6              |
| U11/U12               | 7              | 8              |
| U13/U14 and up        | 7              | 11             |

**Law 4**      PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT

- .1 Uniform shirts and shorts should be matching and should be distinguishable from other teams. In cold weather sweatshirts (preferably matching) may be worn under the team jersey. Jackets may be worn under team jerseys subject to the referee's approval that the jacket is not potentially dangerous. Sweatpants may be worn in cold weather.
- .2 Goalkeepers shall wear colors that distinguish them from the other players and the referee.
- .3 Players wear glasses at their own risk. Because of the possibility of serious injury the decision to wear glasses should be carefully considered by the parent or guardian. Sports goggles are highly recommended, especially at older ages.
- .4 Casts or orthopedic braces must be well padded and, in the opinion of the referee, pose no risk to the player with the cast or brace, or to the other players on the field.

**Law 5**      REFEREES

- .1 After each game, where required, the referee should file his game report with the proper authority. The referee should report any incident, protests or disputes and should indicate all players and coaches that were cautioned and/or ejected with the reason for that action.

- .2 The referee should report any cautions or ejections to the division manager on the game sheet, who will then continue further disciplinary action if necessary. (see Law 12 Misconduct).
- .3 In case the assigned referee fails to appear, or becomes incapacitated, a referee may be appointed by mutual agreement by both teams prior to the start of the game. Once appointed, that person becomes the official referee for that game. As such, his decisions are final. If the assigned referee arrives late, after play has begun with a substitute referee, he may not take over until there is a convenient stoppage in play. If a substitute referee is used, the reason should be noted on the score sheet if used. If no satisfactory substitute referee can be found, the game will be postponed and this should be reported to the division manager.
- .4 The home team shall pay the referee prior to the start of the game.
- .5 If the game cannot be played, scheduled referees who show up at the field are entitled to the full game fee, unless informed in advance by the referee assignor that the game is cancelled.

**Law 6**      ASSISTANT REFEREES AND CLUB LINESMAN

- .1 Each team shall supply an individual to serve as a club linesman for each game, except where neutral assistant referees have been assigned. This individual must report to the referee before the game for his approval and instructions. The referee must approve of linesmen and may remove and replace them at any time.
- .2 The referee may over-rule a linesman and the referee's decision is final. If the referee does confer with the linesman, the linesman should give a fair and impartial account of the action in question. In general, linesmen are limited to calling when the ball has gone out of play.
- .3 Coaching by the linesman is not permitted.
- .4 Any linesman change should be reported to and approved by the referee before the change is made.

**Law 7**      DURATION OF THE GAME

.1 The duration of the game will consist of two equal periods (halves), which will be as follows for the various age groups:

| Age Group | Length of each half |
|-----------|---------------------|
| U5/U6     | 20 minutes          |
| U7/U8     | 25 minutes          |
| U9/U10    | 30 minutes          |
| U11/U12   | 35 minutes          |
| U13/U14   | 40 minutes          |
| U15-U19   | 45 minutes          |

**Law 8**      START OF PLAY

.1 No modifications.

**Law 9**      BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

.1 No modifications.

**Law 10**      METHODS OF SCORING

.1 No modifications.

**Law 11**      OFFSIDE

.1 There will be no offside in the under 6 age group.

- .2 No modifications for all other age groups, but this law should be studied well including the decisions of the International Board. This is one of the most misunderstood laws. Two points are worth mentioning:
- a. It is the position of the player when the ball is played, not where he is when he receives the ball. If
    - 1) A player is not in an offside position when the ball is played to him by a member of his own team, he does not become offside if he goes forward during the flight of the ball.
    - 2) The player in the offside position shall not be penalized unless in the opinion of the referee the player is participating in the play or in some manner gains an advantage by being in an offside position.

## **Law 12**      FOULS AND MISCONDUCTS

- .1 Attempting to kick a ball that is in the possession of the goalkeeper shall be considered a dangerous play, and an indirect free kick will be awarded. Repeated offenses of this type are to be cautioned. Possession is defined as having a ball within the goalkeeper's hands and is also a finger, hand or arm on a stationary ball brought under control by the goalkeeper. If in the opinion of the referee this is viewed as kicking or attempting to kick the goalkeeper, the infraction is a foul with a direct free kick restart. It could also be immediately sanctioned by a caution or send-off.
- .2 Upon receiving an ejection or receiving a third caution during a season, the player or coach will receive an automatic one game suspension which is to be served in the next following game, unless the Board waive the suspension, or impose another penalty in addition to or in place of the suspension. Decisions of the Board shall be final.
- .3 Assault of a referee, assistant referee, linesman, coach, player or spectator will be considered a very serious offense and will result in suspension of the remainder of the season or longer. **It also can be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.**

**Law 13**      FREE KICKS

.1 In the U5/U6 and U7/U8 groups, all free kicks shall be indirect.

**Law 14**      PENALTY KICKS

.1 There will be no penalty kicks awarded in the U5/U6 and U7/U8 groups.

**Law 15**      THROW-INS

.1 In the U5/U6 and U7/U8 groups one (1) foul throw is allowed. The referee will explain the error to the player and then allow a second throw-in by the same player. In the U5/U6 group if the second throw is a foul, play will continue. In the U7/U8 age group if the second throw is foul the ball will be turned over to the opponents for a throw in.

**Law 16**      GOAL KICKS

.1 No modifications for the U11/U12 and older age groups. For the U5/U6, U7/U8 and U9/10 age groups it should be remembered that the boundary of the goal area is the same as that of penalty area.

**Law 17**      CORNER KICKS

.1 No modifications.

**Article 10.**      PLAYER PASS CARDS

**Section 10.01**      All players in the U9/U10 and older age groups shall have player pass cards. To be valid, the appropriate division manager or the ROYSA registrar must stamp a player pass card.

**Section 10.02** Where required, players shall present their pass to the referee before the start of the game. All passes are to be returned to the coach.

**Section 10.03** If a player is ejected, the referee will report it on the game sheet.

**Section 10.04** Should a player's pass card be misplaced he shall be permitted to play in the game. However, he shall be open to "challenge" by the opposing team.

**Section 10.05** If a coach desires to "challenge" he shall notify the referee and the opposing coach that the player is under "challenge" (not to be confused with protest) prior to the start of the game.

**Section 10.06** The player(s) being challenged shall give their name, signature and birth date to the referee, who shall note this information on his game report. The referee shall make this information available to the coach making the challenge at the conclusion of the game.

**Section 10.07** The division manager shall then contact the ROYSA registrar for verification that the challenged player(s) is properly registered. If the registrar's records show that the player is properly registered, the matter is finished.

**Section 10.08** If the player is not properly registered, his team shall automatically forfeit the game and may face further disciplinary action by the Board depending on the nature of the violation.

## **Article 11.**        MISCELLANEOUS

**Section 11.01** If occasions arise that are not fully covered by these rules, the Board of Directors of the ROYSA has absolute power to decide on such matters.

**Section 11.02** Any team playing a game without complying with the operating rules shall forfeit the game.

**Section 11.03** All games are to be played as scheduled unless weather or field conditions necessitate rescheduling the game.

### **Section 11.04**

- .1 To avoid the necessity of schedule changes, teams should provide the scheduler requests for dates to be avoided. These requests will be honored if reasonable and if provided well in advance of the season.

- .2 Changes may be requested prior to the beginning of the season by the date set by the scheduler, without payment of a fee.
- .3 After that date, teams may request a schedule change by paying the ROYSA Treasurer a fee (see Section 12.02) and obtaining the permission of the division manager, who will then notify the scheduler. If reasonably possible, he will make the change and inform the referee assignor. All changes must be requested at least one week before the originally scheduled time for the game.

**Section 11.05** If games are postponed for inclement weather or poor field conditions, the ROYSA will reschedule the game and inform the respective coaches as to when the games will be played.

**Section 11.06** All games are to start on time. After 15 minutes delay, the tardy team will be considered the loser and the opposing team will receive the points. This may be waived with mutual agreement of both coaches and the referee. Games that start late may need to be shortened to keep the following games on schedule.

**Section 11.07**

- .1 If a game is not played for the full scheduled time because of weather or darkness, the game shall be considered complete if half the game was played. If at least half the game was not played, it shall be rescheduled if possible.
- .2 If a game is terminated for any other reason, the division manager shall have the power to reschedule the game, order it to stand complete as played, or declare a forfeit, depending on the circumstances.

**Section 11.08** The standing of the teams in the U11/U12 and older age groups in their respective divisions shall be figured on a point system: 3 points for a win and 1 for a tie.

**Section 11.09** If at the end of the season, two or more teams are tied for a trophy position, all will receive trophies for that position.

**Section 11.10** In case a team disbands, or if for any reason a team shall not have played half of it's scheduled games, the games played shall not count for or against the opposing team.

**Section 11.11**

- .1 Games are subject to protest if the Laws of the Game, decisions of the International Board, or the ROYSA modifications as listed herein were violated and if the error resulted in a decision that directly affected the outcome of the game.
- .2 Judgment calls will NOT be subject to protest.
- .3 Any protest should include the rule under which the game is being protested and should be forwarded to the President of the ROYSA in writing and not to the referee. If the game occurred in an age group where game sheets are used, it must be noted on the game sheet that the game is being protested, or the right to protest will be forfeited. To protest a game, the protest fee (see Section 12.02) must be included with the written protest within two (2) weeks of the date the game was played. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld. The fee will be forfeited if the protest is not upheld. The president shall inform the other team involved in a protested game that a protest has been filed, and shall bring the matter before the Board at the next meeting. Decisions of the Board will be final. Any Board member involved in a protest must disqualify himself from voting on the matter.
- .4 In the event that a decision on a protest must be made before the next scheduled Board meeting, the President and division manager shall decide the issue. The Board shall be informed of this decision at the next meeting.

**Section 11.12** In the case of dispute between teams, players, and/or officials, legal proceedings cannot be taken without the consent of the ROYSA.

**Section 11.13** A plea of ignorance to the Bylaws, Operating Rules and Constitution is not sufficient and violators may expect appropriate actions by the Board of Directors.

**Article 12.**        FEES

**Section 12.01** Non-resident fee shall be paid by any players as noted in Section 1.08 in the Operating Rules. Said non-resident fee shall be reviewed and voted on by the board on a yearly basis at the end of every Spring season. Further, said non-resident fee shall apply to any non-resident players registered after the Spring 2004 season. The non-

resident fee for non-resident player registered prior to Fall 2004, shall be waived, as long as said player is registered with ROYSA continually, for every season thereafter.

**Section 12.02** ROYSA operating fees are:

Recreational Registration Fees:

U5/U6: \$45.00 per season  
 U7/U8: \$50.00 per season  
 U9/U10: \$50.00 per season  
 U11/U12: \$50.00 per season  
 U13/U14: \$50.00 per season  
 U15 – U19: \$50.00 per season

Premier Registration Fees:

U10 – U19Premier: \$45.00 per season plus the Recreational registration fee

Non-resident fee: \$0.00 per season  
 Late fee: \$20.00 per season per family

Administration fee: \$10.00  
 Rescheduling fee: \$20.00  
 Protest fee: \$25.00

**Section 12.03**

The payment of referees for house recreation games is:

| Division  | Referee | Assistant Referee |
|-----------|---------|-------------------|
| U5/U6     | NA      | NA                |
| U7/U8     | \$15.00 | NA                |
| U9/U10    | \$20.00 | NA                |
| U11/U12   | \$22.00 | \$15.00           |
| U13/U14   | \$28.00 | \$18.00           |
| U15 – U19 | \$38.00 | \$24.00           |

The Referee Scheduling Fee is \$1 (one dollar) for each position at a ROYSA sponsored home game. This fee is paid to the Referee Scheduler for ROYSA. This fee will be paid within 14 days after the end of the season. No additional referee scheduling fee shall be paid for rescheduled games.

Approved by the ROYSA Board as amended, April 6, 2004