

**VIENNA YOUTH SOCCER
POLICIES
Revised June 2, 2003**

Coaches/Assistant Coaches

Policy: Coaches in the VYS house program are all volunteers, but not necessarily parents of children in the program. The selection of coaches is based on past experience, willingness to learn by attending clinics, and possession of a genuine interest in the recreational needs of the children in our community.

Policy: The League Commissioner appoints House coaches.

Policy: Head Coaches must be twenty-one (21) years of age or older. Two (2) adults must accompany anyone under the age of twenty-one (21) coaching a team to all practices and games.

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Referees

Policy: VYS will provide certified referees for all U9 games and above to the greatest extent possible. In the event that a certified referee is unavailable, a volunteer may be designated to referee a game. However, VYS will only pay certified referees.

Policy: The Vice President for Referees will maintain a record of all certified referees. The Vice President for Referees may remove a referee from the VYS referee rolls at the VP's discretion.

Policy: The minimum age for a referee is thirteen. Referees should be at least two years older than the age group they are refereeing. Assistant referees can be any age (over 13).

Policy: The Vice President for Referees will oversee referee payment for all VYS House League matches.

Policy: Referees who have red carded a player or coach, or who have observed serious misconduct from spectators, should report the occurrence without delay to the appropriate age group commissioner and the Vice President for Referees.

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Rules of Play

Policy: FIFA rules, as outlined in the United States Soccer Federation Illustrated Soccer Rules Guide, shall form the basis of play. From time to time Vienna Youth Soccer will adopt variations and exceptions to these rules.

Policy: For House teams, if any team is up by three goals, the winning team should remove a player from the field. A player should be removed for each subsequent goal that increases the lead. Conversely, should the margin be closed, one player may be returned for each goal closing said margin. This rule can be suspended for end-of-season tournament play.

Tournaments

Policy: Any VYS team competing in tournaments outside of the intramural program must first apply for, and receive, permission from the VYS Board.

Policy: Intramural Tournaments - Leagues in VYS intramural program may hold tournaments at the close of each season. It is not required of each league, but dependent upon the number of teams registered and the willingness of the League Commissioner and his coaches to have one. In no instance are intramural tournaments to extend beyond the date established in the calendar for the end of the field permit date.

Policy: Travel Team Tournaments - Travel team tournaments are frequently held locally, outside Virginia, and internationally, placing a strong desire on Vienna teams to travel to many of them. Any team wishing to compete in any of these tournaments must follow their league and VYSA rules for permission to travel prior to the planned travel. The VYS Travel commissioner for that team must be notified of the planned travel prior to travel. Any costs are to be born by the individual teams.

Policy: Out of Town Tournaments - Periodically other communities hold tournaments for house teams only. Vienna intramural teams are encouraged to participate in these tournaments if it can be verified that these tournaments are not SELECT or ALL STARS teams.

Policy: All Star Tournaments - The creation of All Star teams during the intramural regular season for the purpose of participating in All Star Tournaments is permitted; however, All Star teams must be in addition to, not made part of, the regular intramural leagues.

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Conduct

Policy: Grievance Committee - A Grievance Committee, appointed by the President, chaired by a Vice President, is established to investigate problems or grievances arising during the course of the season. The Committee reports back to the Board with its findings and recommendations.

Policy: Rules and Discipline Committee – A Disciplinary Committee, chaired by the Vice President for Referees, is established, is established to respond to allegations of misconduct by or against game officials. The Committee shall publish an adjudication manual that will, at a minimum, address its membership and procedures.

Policy: Player Conduct - The conduct of players in the entire program, house and travel, is of direct concern to everyone connected with the game. Behavior that is unacceptable to the coaches or League Commissioners will not be tolerated and will be dealt with by the Grievance Committee. The Disciplinary Committee will deal with behavior that is unacceptable to the referees. Continuous poor conduct could result in suspension of the players for a period of time or expulsion from the program.

Policy: Players guilty of poor conduct may be benched for the remainder of a game, notwithstanding the requirements of the participation rule.

Policy: Coaches' Conduct - Coaches in VYS are expected to both teach and demonstrate to their players by their own actions the highest standards of sportsmanship. They should not tolerate unnecessary roughness , abusive language, or poor sportsmanship on the part of any player.

Policy: General Conduct – Commissioners, Coaches, Players, and Parents will restrain from heckling the referees or the players of opposing teams or from shouting criticisms of their own players'/team's mistakes.

Policy: League Commissioners - League Commissioners have a responsibility to see that the coaches and parents understand and practice the standards of conduct and sportsmanship required in the VYS program. A few words from the Commissioner early in the season may prevent the gradual evolution of misconduct and belligerence later on. Commissioners should take prompt and decisive actions to protect referees from abuse and harassment from coaches and spectators.

Policy: Commissioners are not allowed to stop play for any reason.

Policy: Commissioners themselves are not empowered to interfere with a referee's conduct of a game.

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Fields

Practices:

Policy: The VYS Field Assignor will assign practice fields, days and times to coaches based on their request to their respective Commissioner. Teams are allowed no more than two practice times per week on the County permitted fields.

Games:

Policy: The Field Assignor will assign game fields with input from the League Commissioners and the Fields Committee (Assignor, Liaison, Improvements, and Facilities).

Only the Commissioner or his/her designee may cancel scheduled intramural games. The League Commissioner can schedule make up games through the Fields Assignor.

Field Conditions:

Policy: VYS may, if necessary, cancel field use on their County permitted fields because of adverse field conditions. Coaches and Commissioners may not play on closed fields.

Policy: In cases of inclement weather or other issues that may cancel games for weekend play, a club-wide decision will be made by the VP of Fields and VP of House Commissioners and/or VP of Travel Commissioners whether fields will be closed to all leagues for weekend play, and will be announced as soon as feasible. If a decision is made to close the fields club-wide during the weekend, then no VYS activities may be conducted on any VYS-permitted fields. A decision will be made separately for Saturday's activities and Sunday's activities.

Policy: The U5 division may not have any practices, but will only hold the one-hour sessions at a time designated by the VYS fields assignor.

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Fee Structure

Policy: The Board of Directors shall establish the fee structure. Fees are intended at a minimum to cover all operating costs of the current VYS program, with consideration given and provision made for replacement of required equipment that is subject to depreciation and periodic replacement.

Policy: No child will be denied participation in a VYS sanctioned intramural event due to financial hardship. In the case of financial hardship, an officer of VYS may waive in whole or in part the assessment of any VYS fees.

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Player Information

Policy: A season in intramural play shall consist of no less than 8 nor more than 12 matches, exclusive of league playoffs and tournaments. The Board of Directors must approve exceptions prior to the publication of the match schedule. Once season play has opened, no match shall be rescheduled without the approval of the League Commissioner. Intramural match play on Sundays shall not commence before 12:00 Noon, except as approved by the Operations Committee.

Policy: All intramural players shall play a minimum of one half of each game for which he reports on time and in uniform, except as necessary for health or safety reasons. Any deviation from this practice shall require prior notification of the League Commissioner and the parent(s) or guardian of the player. However, Coaches are not required to endure constant poor behavior from a player. If a player presents disciplinary problems, the coach may restrict or suspend player participation in a game after first notifying the League Commissioner and the parent(s) or guardian. If disciplinary action is required during play to ensure that the game proceeds in accordance with the rules of conduct as prescribed by FIFA then that action shall be reported by the coach to the League Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident.

Policy: A player getting a red card will be out for the balance of that game. The player may not be replaced and the team shall play short for the rest of the game. . As a general rule, a player who receives a red card shall sit out the next game. The VYS Disciplinary and Grievance Committees will investigate and make recommendations on the severity of punishment and whether or not to keep the player from participating in additional future games. The Board of Directors will have the final authority on implementing the recommended punishment and decision of whether or not to keep the player from participating additional future games.

Policy: A player may not be dropped from the VYS program without the prior approval of the League Commissioner and the Operations Committee. The Commissioner will forward only those actions to the Operations Committee that has the commissioner's concurrence. Appeals of a League Commissioner ruling must be forwarded to a VYS Vice President.

Policy: Participation on a team by any player not registered in that league shall cause forfeiture of all games played by the team in which the unregistered player participated.

Policy: Tournament schedules for each intramural league shall be approved by the Fields coordinator prior to the start of the season. Tournament competition shall be intended to provide an incentive for improvement throughout the entire season.

Policy: In determining ties during the regular season standings the following method shall be used: Points will be awarded for regular season games on a 3 pts./win, 2/tie, 1/loss, and 0/forfeit basis. If there is a tie after awarding points, the following tie breakers will apply: 1st) compare total number of games won; 2nd) compare points resulting from competition between tied teams only; 3rd) compare goals allowed in competition between tied teams; 4th) compare goals allowed in all regular season games; 5th) if feasible, use playoff games. If all of the above fail to resolve a tie, request duplicate trophies. Goals scored shall not be used, nor will coin tosses or other chance methods.

Policy: Any additional awards for players and VYS volunteers not specifically approved by the Board are discouraged.

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Grade Level Exception Policy

Policy: For players in the U5 to U12 age divisions with birthdays that fall between August 1st and September 30th, and are registered in school in the higher grade level, their parents/guardians may choose to have them play with their child's grade level or with the VYS division level.

A player will only be eligible to play All Stars within the age division they play during the regular season.

There will be no play up into the U5 division, as per existing policy.

No division including U5 through U10 will be greater than 14 months with the grade exception.

VYS Age Divisions

The U11/U12 divisions can be separated into separate divisions, as long as each division has at least 70 players.

Reimbursement for "C" Licensing Course

For a VYS coach to be reimbursed for the "C" licensing course, the coach must have coached for VYS for at least six seasons, have obtained a prior license through VYS, have a current VYS travel team, have held their current license for at least two years, commit to keep their travel team in VYS for two years after obtaining the "C" license, and participate in training and mentoring of VYS coaches through open practices, training of coaches, and assisting in tryouts and practices, when requested. The coach must pass the course to be reimbursed, and send proof of course cost and of successfully passing the course to the VYS BOD for request for reimbursement. VYS will not pay for hotel and travel costs if the coach takes the course in another state. VYS will pay for the costs of the course up to the equivalent cost of the course taken through VYSA.

Travel Team Policies (Revised May 2003)

1. All travel teams will follow VYS by-laws and VYS Travel Team Procedures
2. Travel Team Committee will consist of the VP of Travel, NCSL, ODSL, WAGS commissioners, VYS coaching director, a VYS fields assignor, and VYS training director.
3. All VYS travel teams will operate in accordance to the rules of their respective league and the laws of the game.
4. All VYS Travel teams will be required to have a "D" licensed coach.
5. Travel team commissioners will facilitate the travel leagues.
6. VYS will start at least one boy's and girl's U9 travel team in the Fall season, provided there is a qualified coach, appropriate number of players, and parental support.
7. VYS will start additional boy's and girl's teams in subsequent seasons, provided there is a qualified coach, appropriate number of players, and parental support.
8. All travel team members will be a registered member of VYS.
9. Every VYS travel team will advertise and hold tryouts in June.
10. VYS uniform colors will be a combination of the following colors: Red, Black and White.
11. A Travel Team Committee member will refrain from the voting process, if the potential coach is related to him or her.

12. Coaches/managers should not offer places on VYS travel teams to house team players after the beginning of house league seasonal play except in the case of extreme need (ie loss of injured players etc.)
13. All VYS travel teams will be offered two weekday practices regardless of age and gender.
14. For rising U9 teams, the approved travel team coach(es) will be head coach for the spring season all star teams.