



*Ocean State Soccer School*



*There can be no tactics without skills!*

# *Ocean State Soccer School*

## *Policies & Procedures Manual*



*Remember - it's for the kids !!*



# **Policies and Procedures Manual**

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# Ocean State Soccer School



## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Ocean State Soccer School (OSSS) is a private, non-profit, all-volunteer organization with an on-going mission to provide quality Soccer instruction for children of all ages in North Kingstown and surrounding communities in the State of RI. The intent of this Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM) is to define the guidelines, in association with the Ocean State Soccer School’s By-Laws, under which OSSS operates.
- 1.2. Motions for any changes or amendments to the PPM may be submitted to the OSS Board of Directors in writing. Change requests must be submitted to the Board of Directors at least 30 days in advance of the scheduled monthly meeting. Any and all interpretations of the PPM will be made by the OSSS Board of Directors and shall be binding on all members of the organization upon implementation.
- 1.3. This revision of the PPM supersedes all previous versions of the same. If there is a conflict between this document and the OSSS By-Laws, the By-Laws shall be enforced.

## 2. Development Division

### 2.1. Description

OSS plays Developmental (Recreational) soccer in the Fall and Spring seasons of each year. The game schedule generally consists of 8-10 total games in each session. The Development division is run on a non-competitive basis so that each child will have the maximum fun and enjoyment playing the game of soccer. No standings or scores are kept. The goal is for all team members to participate an equal amount in all games and practices. Each player receives a participation award at the end of the session.

### 2.2. Definition of Age Groups and Team Selection

OSS organizes the Development division into the following age groups :

U4 or “Under 4”	U8	U14
U5	U9	U16
U6	U10	U19
U7	U12	

A player’s eligibility for a specific age group is determined by his/her age as of August 1<sup>st</sup>. For example, a player that turns 8 on Dec 15<sup>th</sup> would be eligible to play in the U7 group.

Team selection is based on a random assignment of all officially registered players as of the registration cut off date. No tryouts are held for the Development division. Cut off



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dates for registration for each session are published on the OSS web site. OSS makes every attempt to accommodate player requests to be “linked” with another player but does not guarantee both players will be placed on the same team. In the event multiple Competitive players are registered to play in the Development division, OSS will divide those players equally among the Developmental teams to foster a higher degree of fairness and equality during game play.

The number of players registered for a particular session determines the final grouping of teams. For example, in some sessions there may not be enough players to fill at least 4 U9 teams and therefore both the U9 and U10 divisions will be combined for that session. All teams formed are Coed teams. All-girls teams will be formed for U8 teams and older if the numbers support them.

### 2.3. Playing Up or Down

Players may petition the Board to request playing up one age group. For example, a U8 player may request to play in U10. The player must receive Board approval prior to joining the higher level team. The request to play up can be made through the online registration process, or by contacting any board member.

OSS does not allow players to play down in a division under any circumstances. This is a USYSA and Soccer Rhode Island requirement. This is for the safety of all the players.

### 2.4. Coaching Selection

OSS entertains requests to coach on an individual season basis, provided the applicant is 18 years of age or older. All coaches and volunteers receive no compensation for their services and must undergo a Background Criminal Investigation check (BCI) prior to being assigned to a team. Assistant coaches, team managers, and any volunteers must also undergo the BCI check. All use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco by OSS coaches is strictly forbidden on the practice or playing fields and may not attend practice or games while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. There will be zero tolerance of physical or verbal abuse from a coach towards players, referees, other coaches or parents.

(Reference OSS Zero Tolerance Policy in the Appendix). Teams can have up to two assistant coaches and one team manager. Anyone volunteering in this capacity must register online and be added to the team roster. A maximum of three coaches can be in the technical box during a game. Only volunteers who have registered and passed a BCI check are allowed on the field of play with the children.

Should more than one coach apply for a vacant coaching position, the following selection criteria will be used to fill the vacancy :

1. Immediate previous head coaching experience in OSS with highest level of USYSA/NSCAA credentials
2. Previous head coaching experience at OSS
3. Previous assistant coaching experience at OSS
4. Previous coaching experience outside of OSS



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5. Previous playing experience
6. Parent/guardian with a child on that team
7. Any other interested adult.

All coaches must read and follow the guidelines set forth in the OSS Developmental Coaches Handbook. All Developmental Coaches are selected by the Developmental Director of Coaches (DOC) or Selection Committee approved by the DOC. Selection of Coaches is subject to Board of Directors approval. Coach evaluations are also taken into consideration in the selection process.

### 2.5. Game Cancellation Policy

OSS provides facilities for playing soccer in all weather conditions. Soccer is a sport that is played in both good and adverse weather. Developmental games will therefore be played unless the weather presents an unsafe situation for the players, such as lightning or standing water on the fields. Game cancellations are made by the Board of Directors on Game Day and cannot be determined by the coach. Game cancellation messages are communicated both on the OSS web site, [www.oceanstatesoccer.org](http://www.oceanstatesoccer.org), and on the OSS hotline (294-7272).

Referees will remain on the field at least 10 minutes after the scheduled start time. After 10 minutes, it is up to the Board Member on Duty, after consulting with the Referee, to cancel the game. Coaches can arrange for an informal makeup game during the week or weekend, but Referees will not be supplied.

### 2.6. Playing time

Each player in the Developmental Division should be given equal playing time and should be provided the opportunity to play different positions. The exception to this rule would be for illness or injury.

## 3. Competitive Division

### 3.1. Description

The Competitive Division of OSS has a primary focus on further development of the player's skills at an increased level of competition, as compared to the Developmental Division. Competitive (or Travel) teams from OSSS play in tournaments, competitions and leagues in which scores are recorded and standings are kept. The goal of the OSSS Competitive Division is to develop players, teams and coaches to the best of their ability in representing OSSS at these various events.

### 3.2. Definition of Age Groups

Age groups for the Competitive Division follow the same groupings as described in Section 2.2.



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### 3.3. Team and Player Selection

Players for Competitive Teams are selected based on annual tryouts for each age division. All players desiring to play on a Competitive team at OSSS must attend the annual tryouts, unless excused in advance by the VP of Competitive, the Director of Coaches, or the Club Coordinator, held each Summer or Fall depending on the age group. Tryout dates and information is posted each year on our website. A pre-registration online is usually required. Each player is evaluated by at least two Competitive coaches during the tryout. Not all players that participate in tryouts are guaranteed a position on a Competitive team. A team will be formed if we have a qualified coach and enough qualified players. The goal is to select players and place them in an appropriate division of play where they can compete and place them with players of similar skill, ability, and age. Player selection is based on the following criteria:

- Skills level based on evaluation at the tryouts
- Seasons played in Developmental/Recreational soccer
- Seasons played in Competitive soccer
- Past evaluation scores (from previous seasons)
- Current team status

Teams will be formed based on the above criteria for individual players and the players will be placed into the appropriate division within their age group based on the following progression:

Gold, Silver, Blue, White for U10 and below; Anchor, Classic Gold, Classic Blue, and Rhody for U12 and up.

All Boys teams and All Girls teams will be formed. Coed teams will be allowed in the U8 and U10 divisions should the numbers not support having either All Boys or All Girls teams and the player's skill level is appropriate for the division of play. If a Girl desires to tryout for a Boys team, it is allowable. If the Girl is not selected to play on a Boys team following tryouts, the Girl is eligible to be selected to play on an All Girls team. Coaches of "A" Division teams will have first selection of players and will meet with the VP of Competitive and/or the player selection committee. Players are members of Ocean State Soccer and do not belong to the coaches. Player selection must remain confidential and is not to be discussed with the parents by the coaches. Rosters must be audited by the Competitive Coordinator to ensure that the rosters comply with SRI, USYSA, and OSSS guidelines and those of the league or tournament of play. Once the rosters are approved by the Club Coordinator and the VP of Competitive, the players can be contacted by the coaches. Ocean State will notify those players who do not make a team.

The coaches can recommend placement for their teams, but the OSSS Vice President of Competitive or the assignment committee will determine the appropriate placement for all teams and must follow league rules, SRI policies, and USYSA policies regarding team assignments. U8 and U10 players should all play equally or as close to equal minutes as possible. OSSS requires that all players U12 and older play at least 25% of the game



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unless the player is injured, ill, or out for disciplinary reasons. U8 teams will have a maximum of 12 players on each roster, U10 teams a maximum of 10 players on each roster, and U12 teams a maximum of 12 players on each roster. U14+ teams can have a maximum of 18 players.

### 3.4. Coaching Selection

Similar to the Development Division, the Competitive Division entertains requests to coach Competitive teams on an annual basis. All Competitive coaches and volunteers receive no compensation for their services, unless approved by the Board of Directors, and must undergo a Background Criminal Investigation check (BCI) prior to being assigned to a team. Assistant Competitive coaches and Team Managers must also undergo the BCI check. All coaches must be 18 years of age or older.

Each Competitive coach is evaluated by the Director of Coaching and Player Development, based on the following criteria:

- History and affiliation with Ocean State Soccer School
- Years of soccer coaching experience; Competitive and Developmental/Recreational
- Education, certification and licenses
- Soccer background, including number of years as a player
- Parental evaluations
- Game Day evaluations
- Practice evaluations

Note: All Head Coaches are required to have a Y1 Youth Module License for U8, a Y2 Youth Module license for U10. All Head Coaches for the U11 Division and higher are required to have an E license. U13 and above Anchor (or "A") coaches must have at least a D license. This is a requirement of Soccer Rhode Island (SRI).

A team's registered coaching staff will consist of a Head Coach, a maximum of two Assistant Coaches and a Team Manager. A registered Assistant Coach is not allowed to assume the role of Team Manager. Additional Assistant Coaches are allowed to participate in team practices, but they also must be registered with the OSSS and are subject to the Director of Coaching approval. Selection of all Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Team Managers must be approved by the OSS Competitive Director of Coaching and Player Development and the OSS Board of Directors.

Upon selection, the prospective coach is notified by the Director of Coaching and Player Development and assigned to a team. Head coaches are not allowed to select Assistant Coaches without approval from the Director of Coaching and Player Development. All Head Coaches are required to attend an OSSS sponsored Risk Management seminar each year. It is highly recommended that Assistant Coaches attend as well. Coaches are required to provide player evaluations to the club at the end of each Spring season.



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### 3.5. Playing Up or Down

The general philosophy of OSSS is that it is not beneficial, both physically and emotionally, for a youth player to play in an older age group. However, OSSS recognizes there are exceptions to the general belief. OSSS is concerned with balancing the individual player needs with the needs of the players/teams within their natural age groups. Therefore, this policy was created to address all requests to play in an older age group.

Soccer RI rules define youth age groups in 2 year increments (i.e. U8, U10, U12, U14, etc). As such, “playing up” is defined as a player from a lower age group playing in the next oldest group.

The following criteria apply for any players requesting to play an age group.

1. Request to play up must be made by the parent.
2. Players must attend tryouts for both the older age group and their correct age group, unless the tryouts are on the same day and/or at the same time.
3. The Competitive Director of Coaching and Development will evaluate the player during tryouts to determine if the player’s physical size, speed, skills and emotional maturity meet OSSS Competitive playing up requirements.
4. Any decision to play up will be made up by the OSSS VP of Competitive, and the Competitive Director of Coaching. The decision will be based on the best interest of the player, the player’s skill and maturity level, along with the needs of OSSS. If there are certain conditions in which a decision cannot be made by the Competitive Division, the issue will be decided by the Ocean State Soccer Board of Directors.
5. If the player meets the qualifications for playing up, a coach may select that player for his/her team, as long as the player, the player’s parent and the OSSS Competitive Director approves.
6. OSSS will only allow a maximum of 3 players to play up on any one team. There is no limit for U13 and up. This is in compliance with SRI Policies and Procedures.

Note: If OSSS recommends a player be moved up to a higher division of play following tryouts, the player must be evaluated to play in said division and must have the approval of the parent. If someone expresses interest in playing competitive soccer at OSSS following tryouts, that player must be evaluated and assessed prior to be eligible to be selected by a team. Also, this player can only join a team if there is a roster spot available.

OSSS does not allow players to play down in a Competitive division under any circumstances. This is a USYSA and Soccer Rhode Island requirement.



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### 3.6. Premier Players

Ocean State Soccer does not allow registered Premier players to play on Ocean State Soccer Competitive teams (effective beginning with the 2010/2011 soccer season).

If a player would like to return to the club, they are welcome to tryout if they are not actively registered with a Premier Club or if they obtain a player release from that Premiere Club.

### 3.7. Guest Players

The addition of Guest players to an Ocean State Roster must be done so in accordance with SRI Policies and procedures. Guest players can be added to tournament rosters to fill vacancies for players who can not participate or open spots on the roster to bring the number of players on the roster to no more than the OSSS limitation. The addition of guest players to a roster must be approved by the Competitive Division.

### 3.8. Prospecting of Players

Any coach wishing to approach a player with the intent of prospecting or evaluating a player for his/her team is obligated to first investigate the player's present or past association with any team or club. The players association should be established by questioning the player or parent of the player's past and present status.

A Head coach or Assistant coach may not at any time approach a player from any existing club team's roster with the intention of soliciting that player to play for his/her team while that player is registered with that existing club. Contact must be initiated by contacting the player's current Head coach and asking permission to speak to the player.

Although a group of coaches can rightfully assemble to plan and discuss their team, they cannot assemble to discuss coaches, members or players from existing teams with the intent to acquire those coaches, members or players. Any coaches engaged in this activity will be dismissed immediately from the OSSS organization.

### 3.9. Solicitation

Head coaches, Assistant coaches and/or Team Managers can not solicit money from players or player's parents as a levy for coaching the team. No member of the coaching staff or team management can solicit money from players or player's parents to compensate for travel or lodging. Coaches or any members of the team's management found engaged in solicitation activities will be removed immediately from the OSSS organization.



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However, any member of an OSSS Club team's staff may accept gifts of appreciation for their time and dedication to the team. "Gifts of Appreciation" are defined as articles, gift certificates, and/or monies given to the member of the team's staff by the players or the parents of the team

### 3.10. Game Cancellation Policy

OSSS Competitive teams will abide by the game cancellation policies of the league or tournaments in which they participate. Therefore, OSSS Competitive teams, players, or coaches are not allowed to cancel games.

### 3.11. Practice Policy

Teams are allowed to practice at Ocean State Soccer approved facilities up to 2 times per week for outdoor play and once per week for winter/indoor play. For indoor practice, a second slot is acceptable during a school vacation period or on a weekend if there are no games or for a team that is not participating in any League or Tournament play. If a player can not attend a practice, they should inform the coach in advance when possible. Coaches can not remove a player from a team for missing a practice or a game. Family and school come first. Practice times/locations will be specified by OSSS. Fields are not allowed to be used if they are closed for any reason. Fields will be open for use following an inspection by the Safety Officer.

### 3.12. Playing Requirements

Only Spring regular season play is required for all players. This includes the local instate soccer tournament of play and all playoff games. Tournaments outside the state and indoor play is not required but encouraged. Ocean State Soccer encourages players to play other sports and it is healthy for the player. Fall play is also not required and is an open format. Coaches and or players do not have to participate in Fall play. In house or travel play options in the Fall will be determined by the OSSS Board of Directors.



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## 4. Board Meetings

### 4.1. Board Members

The Board of Directors for OSSS is elected at the Annual General Membership meeting by the voting members. The Board is charged with setting the basic overall rules and policies of OSSS.

### 4.2. Meeting Attendance

The Board of Directors shall be elected at the Annual General Membership (AGM) Meeting by a plurality vote of the voting members. Any Director missing three (3) consecutive meetings without prior notifications or five (5) or more meetings without prior notification during the year (July 1-June 30) may be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

## 5. Referee Training Program

Each organization that is a member of Soccer Rhode Island is required to have a referee Development program. Only Ocean State Soccer Members are eligible to participate in the Referee Development Program and must pass an OSSS certification test and participate in the OSSS training program.

### 5.1. Certification

The United States Soccer Federation has established a national Referee development program, which oversees state and local Referee programs. Local administration is handled by a State Referee Administrator, a State Youth Referee Administrator and their assistants. The State team is responsible for certifying Referees at different grade levels according to standardized national tests and criteria. They are also responsible for organizing educational clinics given by trained Referee instructors to local Referees and Linesman.

Establishing and maintaining a Referee development program is required by the OSSS by-laws. The Director of Referees at OSSS shall be a state-certified Referee instructor and is responsible for the administration of a yearly Referee training program for all OSSS Referees.

### 5.2. Age Group Specific Referees

The Referees duty is to ensure the game is played fairly for the maximum enjoyment of the players with as little as possible interference from the Referee. The philosophy of OSSS modifications to the FIFA “Laws of the Game” is to educate players, coaches and referees through gradually increasing adherence to the Laws. Therefore, the following Referee structure will be utilized:



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<u>Level</u>	<u>Referees</u>
U4-U5	None
U6	1 Referee, OSSS certified
U7-U8	1 Referee, Registered/certified by the State
U9-U14	1 Referee, 2 Linesman: all Registered

## 5.3. Disciplinary Procedure

Referees are to officiate all games to the best of their ability. All Referees decisions are final. Respect for the Referee from coaches, players and parents is mandatory. Referees will report any unsportsmanlike behavior by coaches, players or parents to the OSSS Board of Directors. The Referee will not address a disruptive spectator in any manner other than to ask them to leave the playing area. (Please reference the Appendix for the Zero Tolerance policy).

## 5.4. Referee Evaluations

Coaches are encouraged to provide feedback on the Referees performance to the OSSS Director of Referees. This can be done via the Referee Assessment Form that is available at the OSSS Concession Stand.

## 6. Conduct and Discipline

### 6.1. Coaches Responsibility

Coaches are responsible for both their own actions and their player's actions on the field. Fair play must be encouraged and emphasized at all practices and games. Coaches must not criticize referees, other coaches, parents or players at any time. Coaches must read and be familiar with the Code of Ethics outlined in the Developmental Coaches Handbook. Head coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents, assistant coaches, and team managers. It is the responsibility of all coaches to understand the rules and policies of any League or Tournament play of which they are participating in.

### 6.2. Disciplinary Procedure

Any member of the OSS organization can file a complaint with the OSS Board of Directors for any perceived violation of our Code of Ethics. In addition, Referees in the U10 division and up are instructed to award Yellow and Red cards to players that commit dangerous fouls or use abusive language. Referees are also instructed to award Yellow or Red cards to coaches that criticize or commit acts of verbal or physical abuse to other coaches or players.

In the event the OSS Board receives a complaint regarding a coach, player or parent, the following procedures will take place:



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1. The OSS Director of Safety is responsible to convene the Disciplinary Committee to review the complaint. The Disciplinary Committee will be comprised of 3 OSS Board Members and 1 At Large OSS member.
2. The Disciplinary Committee will review the complaint, conduct an investigation with all involved parties and make a determination if there is a violation of the Code of Ethics.
3. In the event a coach, parent or player is determined to be in violation with the Code of Ethics, he/she will be issued an Initial Warning and informed of the Disciplinary Policy and subsequent of consequences of a repeat offense.
4. If the coach, parent or player is found to have a repeat offense within a 2 year period, then he/she will be suspended from all OSS participation for 1 year.
5. If the coach, parent or player is found to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense upon returning to OSS, then he/she will be banned for life from participating in all OSS activities.
6. Coaches are responsible to pay for any fines incurred by the team.

Note: Depending upon the severity of the offense, OSSS can dismiss a member at any time. The above process is a guideline.

### 7. Concession Stand

- 7.1. The Concession stand operates most Saturdays during both the Fall and Spring Developmental sessions. The Concession stand is an important source of income for OSSS and is supported primarily by volunteers. The official hours of operation are Saturdays during the playing season from 8am – 3pm.
- 7.2. The following policies apply with respect to the Concession Stand :
  1. Only persons of 16 years or older are allowed in the Concession stand during game days.
  2. Only the Director of Operations, President, Concession Manager, Property Manager, or those identified by the Board of Directors shall possess keys to the Concession stand.
  3. Requests to use the Concession stand must be made in writing to and approved by the OSSS Board of Directors.

### 8. Field and Equipment Use

- 8.1. Ocean State Soccer School owns and maintains all the facilities, fields, parking areas, concession stand, storage sheds and equipment located at 650 Stony Lane.



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- 8.2. Permission from individuals or organizations to utilize OSSS facilities must be granted in writing from the OSSS Board of Directors. Individuals or groups wishing to utilize the OSSS facilities must complete a Field Use Application form (available at [www.oceanstatesoccer.org](http://www.oceanstatesoccer.org)) and submit the Application to the OSSS Board of Directors.
  - 8.3. Fees for use of the OSSS facilities will depend upon the services needed, duration of use, and number of teams involved.
  - 8.4. Individuals or groups wishing to apply for usage of the OSSS facilities must meet the following criteria :
    1. Provide proof of insurance
    2. Pay in advance
    3. Sign waiver/consent of liability
    4. Remove all debris, waste and trash after use
    5. Conduct only soccer-related activities
  - 8.5. Teams that would like to scrimmage or utilize the fields must fill out the field use form, receive OSSS permission and must submit appropriate e-travel
9. Fund Raising
- 9.1. Members of the Ocean State Soccer School may conduct fund raising events from time to time to raise money solely for the benefit of OSSS.
  - 9.2. All fund raising activities must be approved in advance by the OSSS Foundation Director and the OSSS Board of Directors
10. Registration and Refund Policy
- 10.1. Each Developmental and Competitive season has registration deadlines to which all applicants must adhere. Late fees are automatically applied to those registering after the deadline. There are no late fees or sibling discounts for competitive players.
  - 10.2. For the Developmental seasons, OSSS will further establish a deadline for each season after which no refunds will be made.
  - 10.3. For the Competitive seasons, once a player has committed to a team and has registered on the OSSS web site, no refunds are allowed.
  - 10.4. Financial Aid is available to Ocean State Soccer players. A financial Aid application must be filled out and submitted to the Ocean State Soccer Safety Officer. The form is available on our website. An application must be submitted each season or for each event. Financial Aid will not be provided for equipment or player uniforms. The financial Aid form must be submitted prior to the registration deadline and Financial Aid is subject to OSSS Board of Director approval. The Financial Aid provided is



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limited to the value of one recreational registration fee per child and is subject to OSSS Board approval and funds available.

### 11. Web Site

11.1. The Ocean State Soccer School web site ([www.oceanstatesoccer.org](http://www.oceanstatesoccer.org)) is solely for the promotion, administration and support of the Ocean State Soccer School.

11.2. All content, forms and information appearing on the OSSS web site must be approved prior to publication by the OSSS Board of Directors.

11.3. Access to the OSSS Web Site will be limited to the following Board Members :

- OSSS President
- OSSS Foundation Director
- OSSS Recording Secretary
- OSSS Director of Referees
- OSSS VP of Development
- OSSS VP of Competitive

### 12. OSSS Laws of the Game

12.1. OSSS follows the FIFA “Laws of the Game” unless otherwise modified for OSSS seasonal play. A copy of the OSSS Laws of the Game is supplied to all Developmental and Competitive coaches at the start of each season. A summary of the OSSS Laws of the Game can be found in Appendix A.

12.2. In addition to the OSS Laws, the following Common Sense Rules also apply :

1. The field of play must be safe for all players
2. The goals and markings must be sufficient for the Referee to perform essential duties.
3. The ball must be safe for the players to use (balls that are too hard or have sharp edges must not be used at the discretion of the Referee).
4. The number of players on the field at one time from each team should be comparable so that the game will be competitive (for example, six players against twelve is not a competitive situation).
5. No player may wear clothing, jewelry that is dangerous to other players.
6. The players from either team shall be easily distinguishable, with the Goalkeepers being easily recognizable from the other player by wearing separate color from their teammates.
7. The Referees duty is to ensure the game is played fairly for the maximum enjoyment of the players with as little as possible interference from the Referee.
8. Players are entitled to the entire designated playing time for the game unless the game is suspended.
9. No team shall have an unfair advantage at the start of play, whether by place kick or drop-ball.



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10. The play continues unless the Referee stops the game or the ball goes entirely outside the field of play.
11. A goal is scored only when the entire ball has crossed the goal line and has not been propelled illegally by an attacking player.
12. A player may not gain advantage by being in an offside position. Offside is judged at the time the ball is played to the player, not at the time the player receives the ball.
13. Intentional fouls must be penalized,
14. Players who do not play the game fairly must be cautioned or ejected depending on the severity and extent of their conduct.
15. The Goalkeeper must not waste time by stalling tactics.
16. Free kicks must be taken without delay and without interference from the opposing team so that the game proceeds as rapidly as possible.
17. Penalty kicks must be taken precisely in accordance with the procedures of Law 14 so that neither team has an unfair advantage.
18. Throw-ins are to be taken without delay so that the game proceeds as rapidly as possible.
19. Goals kicks are to be taken without delay so that the game proceeds as rapidly as possible.
20. Corner kicks are to be taken without interference from the defending team.

### 13. OSSS Code of Ethics

13.1. In accordance with the goals and philosophy of Ocean State Soccer School, all coaches must demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Coaches must encourage their players to be as gracious in losing as they are in winning. Coaches should discourage the concept that winning is the only worthwhile result and promote the idea of players reaching the maximum potential for playing soccer, regardless of the outcome.

13.2. The following Code of Ethics apply to all members of OSSS :

1. The importance of winning must never supersede the players' safety and welfare. Winning is the result of preparation and discipline with considerable emphasis on the highest societal ideals and character traits. These values are not sacrificed for prestige or personal gain.
2. Coaches must adhere to the rules of the game. They must not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior or accepting illegal gains over an opponent.
3. The diagnosis and treatment of injuries is a medical problem and coaches must defer to the proper medical personnel without interference. Coaches must follow the directives of appropriate medical personnel.
4. Coaches must promote the educational Goals and Missions of the Organization and behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity and dignity of the Organization are not compromised.
5. Coaches must assure their programs are being conducted and promoted ethically and also be aware of any Organization activities which may affect their programs' performance and reputation.



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6. Coaches must thoroughly acquaint themselves with the rules of soccer. They are also responsible for assuring their players understand the intent and application of the rules.
7. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the game's rules and not circumvent the rules to gain advantage.
8. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field. Unsportsmanlike tactics (i.e. the intent to injure opposing players, illegal substitutions, taunting, deliberate faking of injuries and *professional fouls*) are considered unethical.
9. Fair play must be encouraged and emphasized within the training sessions and competitions.
10. Impartial, competent officials are essential for the success of any competition. Coaches must not criticize officials publicly or privately and must follow organizational rules dealing with comments on officiating.
11. The following points outline game day conduct.
  - (1) Treat officials with respect.
  - (2) If criticism is going to be leveled, complaints must be made in writing to the person responsible for officiating assignments.
  - (3) Coaches and Teams must not address the Referee before, during, or after the game in a demeaning way.
  - (4) Coaches must not incite players or spectators against the Referees.
12. Coaches must not make derogatory or misleading comments about officials, opposing teams and coaches, spectators, parents or other organizations.
13. Coaches must avoid any conduct that is construed as physically or verbally abusive.
14. Coaches must avoid verbal dissent during a game with an opposing coach or bench.
15. A coach's behavior and values must bring credit to his or her program, the Organization and the sport of soccer.



# *Ocean State Soccer School*



## *Appendix*



# Ocean State Soccer School



<b>OSS LAWS OF THE GAME</b>							
<b>LAW</b>		<b>U-5</b>	<b>U-6</b>	<b>U-8</b>	<b>U-10</b>	<b>U-12</b>	<b>U-14</b>
<b>Law I</b>	Field (Width X Length)	10 yds X 20 yds	20 yds X 35 yds	30 yds X 50 yds	45 yds X 70 yds	45 yds X 70 yds	45 yds X 70 yds
	Center Circle (Radius)	Mid Field Line	5 yds	6 yds	8 yds	8 yds	8 yds
	Corner Arcs (Radius)	None	2 ft	2 ft	3 ft	3 ft	3 ft
	Goal Box (Depth X Width)	None	3 yds X 9 yds	4 yds X 12 yds	6 yds X 19 yds	6 yds X 19 yds	6 yds X 19 yds
	Penalty Box (Depth X Width)	None	None	11 yds X 20 yds	14 yds X 35 yds	14 yds X 35 yds	14 yds X 35 yds
	Penalty Arc (Rad from penalty mark)	None	None	None	8 yds	8 yds	8 yds
	Goals (Height X Width)	4 ft X 6 ft	5 ft X 10 ft	6 ft X 12 ft	7 ft X 21 ft	7 ft X 21 ft	7 ft X 21 ft
	Coaches Box (Dist from Midfield)	None	15 ft x 30 ft	15 ft x 30 ft	15 ft x 30 ft	15 ft x 30 ft	15 ft x 30 ft
	Spectator Line (Dist from Touchline)	None	1 Yd	1 Yd	1 Yd	1 Yd	1 Yd
<b>Law II</b>	Ball Size (Number)	3	3	3	4	4	5
<b>Law III</b>	Number of Field Players	3 & no Keeper	4 & no Keeper	5 plus Keeper	7 plus Keeper	7 plus Keeper	7 plus Keeper
	Team Size	6-7	6-8	8-10	10-12	10-12	10-12
	Substitutions (Unlimited # of players)	Anytime	Deadball	USYSA	USYSA	USYSA	USYSA
<b>Law IV</b>	Players Equipment	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA
<b>Law V</b>	Referee	Coaches	OSSS	Registered	Registered	Registered	Registered
<b>Law VI</b>	Assistant Referee (Linesman)	None	None	None	Registered	Registered	Registered
<b>Law VII</b>	Game Length (Running Time)	Four 8 min Qtrs	Four 10 min Qtrs	Four 12 min Qtrs	Two 25 min Halves	Two 25 min Halves	Two 25 min Halves
<b>Law VIII</b>	Start of Play	Quarters & after Score - Goal Line	FIFA - 5 yds away	FIFA - 6 yds away	FIFA - 8 yds away	FIFA	FIFA
<b>Law IX</b>	Ball in Play - defender away	FIFA - 5 yds away	FIFA - 5 yds away	FIFA - 6 yds away	FIFA - 8 yds away	FIFA-FIFA	FIFA-FIFA
<b>Law X</b>	Method of Scoring	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA
<b>Law XI</b>	Offsides (If Assistant Refs available)	None	None	None	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA
<b>Law XII</b>	Fouls & Misconduct	None	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA
<b>Law XIII</b>	Free Kicks (Defender away in Yds)	None	All Indirect - 5 yds	All Indirect - 6 yds	FIFA - 8 yds	FIFA	FIFA
<b>LAW XIV</b>	Penalty Kicks	None	None	None	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA
<b>LAW XV</b>	Throw-ins	None	Kick-ins w/2nd attempt	FIFA w/2nd	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA
<b>LAW XVI</b>	Goal Kick	None	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA
<b>Law XVII</b>	Corner Kick (Defender away in Yds)	None	FIFA - 5 yds away	FIFA - 6 yds	FIFA - 8 yds	FIFA	FIFA



## *Ocean State Soccer School*



### **Ocean State Soccer School**

### **Zero Tolerance Policy**

This policy is intended to protect all players, referees, coaches and spectators at an ***Ocean State Field Site***. An ***Ocean State Field Site*** includes, but is not limited to, all home or away outdoor fields as well as any indoor facility at which OCEAN STATE SOCCER teams play.

All attendees, including Parents, Coaches, and Players, at an Ocean State Soccer Game must adhere to the following Rules:

1. No addressing the Referee at an Ocean State Field Site.
2. No Commenting about the performance or a "CALL" of a Referee.
3. Parents, Players, Spectators may only communicate to a Referee if the referee initiates communication or to point out emergencies or safety situations.
4. Coaches may respond to a Referee who initiates communication or as part of the process of making substitutions or to point out emergencies or safety situations. In addition, at halftime or at the end of the game, Coaches may ask for a clarification to a rule or call and /or to provide polite or friendly feedback.

Coaches can call the Ocean State Director of Referees and discuss the game call and provide feedback to the Director of Referees. A form will be provided to all Coaches (Developmental and Competitive) for feedback on games that have questionable call or the lack of a referee's ability. Please Note on the form the Game Date, Number, Age Group, where played and opponent Coaches Name and Telephone Number. The OSS Director of Referees will call the Coach and discuss the game with the Referee and follow up with the Opposing Organization.

Violations will be review by the Ocean State Soccer School Zero Tolerance Committee comprised of the following members: Director of Referees, President of Ocean State, Director of Competitive, and Director of Development of Ocean State. Disciplinary actions include but not limited to warnings, ejections, dismissals and /or other suspensions from Ocean State events and field sites. This policy includes Coaches who are ejected from a game (RED CARD) or ejected from a game for their teams Spectators harassing a Referee or Player. A coach should monitor the opposing coach's behavior and report such inappropriate behavior to the Ocean State Referee Director.

Remember these are our youth. It is just a game and Coaches and Parents must be role models and that the Players learn behavior from adults.



# *Ocean State Soccer School*



## Ocean State Soccer Concussion Policy

- If a referee stops a game due to a player(s) having received contact to their head(s), the player must be removed from the game immediately and will not be allowed back into the game. Should a coach suspect a player has a head injury and the referee is not aware of the injury, the coach should inform the referee. A coach cannot overrule a referee's decision to remove a player suspected of a head injury
- The referee will inform the OSSS referee director and the league or tournament office for which the team is participating
- If a player is injured the coach is required to fill out and submit the OSSS injury report form to the OSSS safety officer
- The player removed from the game can not return to the game or practice until a doctor authorizes that the player is able to return
- The doctor's note must be provided to the OSSS safety officer and/or the league/tournament office
- Upon receiving the doctor's authorization, the league/tournament office or OSSS will contact the coach him/her that the player is allowed to return.
- It is the coach's responsibility to monitor the health and safety of his/her players at all times.