

**Michigan State Premier Soccer Program  
Bylaws and Rules and Regulations  
Table of Contents**

<u>Pages</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	<b>ARTICLE I Name and Purpose</b> Article I. Section 1. Name. Article I. Section 2. Purpose.
1	<b>ARTICLE II Members</b> Article II. Section 1. Membership. Article II. Section 2. Method of Entry. Article II. Section 3. Divisional Placement of Teams. Article II. Section 4. Notice of Meetings. Article II. Section 5. Conduct of Meetings. Article II. Section 6. Application Fees.
2	<b>ARTICLE III Directors</b> Article III. Section 1. Number and Qualifications. Article III. Section 2. Selections. Article III. Section 3. Quorum. Article III. Section 4. Action by Unanimous Written Consent. Article III. Section 5. Vacancies. Article III. Section 6. Regular Meetings
3	Article III. Section 7. General Powers as to Negotiable Paper. Article III. Section 8. Powers as to Other Documents. Article III. Section 9. Disciplinary Authority.
3	<b>ARTICLE IV Committees</b> Article IV. Section 1. Special Committees Article IV. Section 2. Other Committees Article IV. Section 3. Procedures.
4	Article IV. Section 4. Committee Action Without a Meeting
4	<b>ARTICLE V Officers</b> Article V. Section 1. Chairperson of the Board. Article V. Section 2. Vice Chairperson of the Board. Article V. Section 3. Secretary. Article V. Section 4. Registrar
4-5	Article V. Section 5. Treasurer.
5	Article V. Section 6. Scheduler. Article V. Section 7. Statistician. Article V. Section 8. Commissioner. Article V. Section 9. Chairperson Emeritus.
5	<b>ARTICLE VI Advisors</b> Article VI. Section 1. Referee Advisor.
5	<b>ARTICLE VII Fiscal Year and Notices</b> Article VII. Section 1. Fiscal Year. Article VII. Section 2. Notices.
6	<b>ARTICLE VIII Miscellaneous</b> Article VIII. Section 1. Affiliation. Article VIII. Section 2. Duties of Delegates. Article VIII. Section 3. Activities. Article VIII. Section 4. Gifts. Article VIII. Section 5. Dissolution. Article VIII. Section 6. Discrimination.
6	<b>ARTICLE IX Amendments, Rules, and Regulations</b> Article IX. Section 1. Amendments. Article IX. Section 2. Rules, Regulations and Policies.
7	<b>MICHIGAN STATE PREMIER SOCCER PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS</b> Rule 1. General Cases and Line of Authority.
7-8	Rule 2. Disciplinary Ruling and Minimum Punishments.
8	Rule 3. Insurance. Rule 4. Laws of the Game.
8-9	Rule 5. Game Rules.
9	Rule 6. Age Limit Definition.

9-10	Rule 7. Proof of Age.
10	Rule 8. Player Registration, League Entry and Team Affiliation Requirements.
	Rule 9. Challenge of a Player not in Possession of a Player Pass Card.
10-11	Rule 10. Player Release, Transfer, and Roster Limit.
11-12	Rule 11. Game Reports
12	Rule 12. Requirements of Players.
12-13	Rule 13. Coaches.
13	Rule 14. Uniforms
	Rule 15. Game Schedule.
13-14	Rule 16. Determination of Divisional Champions.
14	Rule 17. Ignorance of the Rules.
	Rule 18. Interpretations of the Bylaws and Rules.
	Rule 19. Rulings of the MSPSP Board of Directors.
	Rule 20. Team Definition.
	Rule 21. Elite Division Admission.
	Rule 22. Under 19 Open Division.

**BYLAWS  
and  
RULES AND REGULATIONS  
of  
MICHIGAN STATE PREMIER SOCCER PROGRAM**

**BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I  
Name and Purpose**

**Article I. Section 1. Name.**

The name of this program shall be Michigan State Premier Soccer Program. The Premier Program may also use a name mutually agreed upon between itself and its' major sponsor(s) for the purpose of advertising, and public and/or community relations. Affiliated leagues shall not use the word "premier" in their league names

**Article I. Section 2. Purpose.**

The purpose of this Premier Program shall be to promote the development and execution of highly skilled youth soccer, sportsmanship, quality coaching and officiating within the State of Michigan.

**ARTICLE II  
Members**

**Article II. Section 1. Membership.**

Membership shall be restricted to MSYSA affiliated member organizations. No team or club may be a member of this Premier Program but shall only be a member of the Premier Program through an affiliated MSYSA member organization. Any member organization affiliated with MSYSA is eligible for membership. The term member organization shall be used as defined in the MSYSA bylaws.

**Article II. Section 2. Method of Entry.**

Leagues must notify the Premier Program of the number of teams, which the affiliated league wishes to sponsor. This notification must be submitted on the designated Premier Program form, signed by an authorized League official, and must be received by the Premier Program no later than the date specified by the Premier Program.

**Article II. Section 3. Divisional Placement of Teams.**

This premier program starts at 11v11, however, any team may enter provided Article 1, Section 2 is adhered to. Affiliated leagues may sponsor U13 teams in the fall season only; no U13 teams will be accepted in the spring season. U13 teams will be placed into divisions by the MSPSP board. If the MSPSP program exceeds 22 new teams or more for U13, they will be divisioned by a random draw. Existing teams shall be grouped into playing divisions based upon the record of team during the previous MSPSP season. All other teams shall be placed in the lowest division of play in a divisional availability basis (matrix will be set by the MSPSP Board of Directors.) The MSPSP reserves the right and may relegate out the bottom 25% of teams in each and every age group based on maximum points.

**Article II. Section 4. Notice of Meetings.**

The MSPSP Board of Directors at their discretion shall call meetings of member leagues and/or team representatives. Notice of such meetings shall be made as determined by the MSPSP Board of Directors to provide sufficient notification, and shall include the time, date and place of such meetings.

**Article II. Section 5. Conduct of Meetings.**

Meetings of the member leagues and/or team representatives shall be presided over by a Chairperson of the meeting who shall be the Chairperson of the MSPSP Board of Directors or, if the Chairperson is not present, by the Vice Chairperson or, if neither is present, by the Secretary or, if the Secretary is not present, by any other member of the MSPSP Board of Directors. In the absence of the Secretary, a person will be chosen to act as secretary of the meeting. All meetings of this Premier Program shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition. Attendance at all meetings of the Premier Program is required of the MSPSP Board of Directors and its member leagues and/or team representatives.

**Article II. Section 6. Application Fees.**

Application fees for all teams in the amount determined from time to time by the MSPSP Board of Directors shall be payable at the time of team registration. All teams and sponsoring leagues fines and/or bonds must be paid prior to registration. All payments must be drawn on U.S. banks, financial institutions, or U.S. currency. No foreign financial institutions drafts will be accepted.

**ARTICLE III  
Directors**

**Article III. Section 1. Number and Qualifications.**

The property, business, and affairs of the Premier Program shall be managed by its MSPSP Board of Directors. The MSPSP Board of Directors shall consist of the following: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Scheduler, Commissioner, Statistician, and Chairperson Emeritus (an ex officio non-voting member).

**Article III. Section 2. Selections.**

- (1) The Chairperson, Secretary/Treasurer, and Scheduler, shall be elected by the MSYSA affiliated leagues in odd numbered years, at the annual general membership meeting of that body and shall serve a term of two years beginning on July 1st of the year in which elected.
- (2) The Vice Chairperson/Registrar, Statistician, and Commissioner shall be elected by the MSYSA affiliated leagues in even numbered years and shall serve term of two years commencing on July 1 of the year in which elected.
- (3) The MSPSP Board of Directors may appoint, at their sole discretion, other agents of the Premier Program, who shall serve at the discretion of the MSPSP Board of Directors. Directors, officers and agents need not be members of an affiliated league.

**Article III. Section 3. Quorum.**

A majority of the MSPSP Board of Directors then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and the action of a majority of the MSPSP Board of Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the action of the MSPSP Board of Directors, except as action by a majority of the Directors then in office may be specifically required by other sections of these bylaws. If at a meeting of the MSPSP Board of Directors there shall be less than a quorum present, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum shall have been obtained.

**Article III. Section 4. Action by Unanimous Written Consent.**

If and when the MSPSP Directors shall severally or collectively consent in writing to any action to be taken by the Premier Program either before or after the action is taken, that action shall be as valid corporate action as though it had been authorized at a meeting of the MSPSP Directors and written consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the MSPSP Board of Directors.

**Article III. Section 5. Vacancies.**

Whenever any vacancy shall occur in the MSPSP Board of Directors by reason of death, resignation, removal, or otherwise, a majority of the MSPSP Directors then in office, though less than a quorum, may fill the vacancy at any meeting, and the person so elected shall, if confirmed by the MSYSA, MSPSP Board of Directors, be a director until affirmed by the membership as provided in Article III Section 2. The resignation of a Director shall be effective upon receipt by the Premier Program or a subsequent time as set forth in the notice of resignation. A Director or the entire MSPSP Board of Directors may be removed, with or without cause, by a vote of the majority of the members entitled to vote at an election of MSPSP Directors. If a Director misses three consecutive meetings, this Director must declare his/her intentions to the membership, and failing to do so, this office shall be declared vacant and filled in accordance with this section.

**Article III. Section 6. Regular Meetings.**

Meetings of the MSPSP Board of Directors shall be held monthly and can be held without notice at such other times or intervals and at such places within the State of Michigan as may from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board. The resolution may authorize the Chairperson to fix the specific date and place of each regular meeting, in which case notice of the time and place of such regular meetings shall be given in the manner hereinafter provided with respect to special meetings of the Board. Delegates meetings will be held monthly at a time and place and in a manner designated by the Premier Program MSPSP Board of Directors. Each member league currently sponsoring a team or teams must send a delegate to attend the monthly meeting. Any league not in attendance and not excused will be subject to fine as set by the MSPSP Board of Directors.

**Article III. Section 7. General Powers as to Negotiable Paper.**

The MSPSP Board of Directors shall, from time to time, prescribe the manner of making, signing, or endorsing of checks, drafts, notes, acceptances, bills of exchange, obligations and other negotiable paper or other instruments for the payment of money and designate the officer or officers, agent or agents, who shall from time to time be authorized to make, sign or endorse the same on behalf of the Premier Program.

**Article III. Section 8. Powers as to Other Documents.**

The MSPSP Board of Directors subject to approval of MSYSA Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute or deliver any conveyance or other instrument in the name of the Premier Program, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. When the execution of any contract, conveyance or other instrument has been authorized without specification of the officers authorized to execute, the same may be executed on behalf of the Premier Program by the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, and attested by the Secretary, the Treasurer, or Registrar.

**Article III. Section 9. Disciplinary Authority.**

The MSPSP Board of Directors has authority to bar completely, suspend or otherwise discipline any player, coach, manager, team assistant, trainer, club officer, league officer, or other person associated with any team playing within the Premier Program, whether such person is paid or unpaid by one or more players, teams, clubs, or leagues.

**ARTICLE IV  
Committees**

**Article IV. Section 1. Special Committees.**

The MSPSP Board of Directors may designate two or more of their number to constitute a special committee, who, during intervals between the meetings of the MSPSP Board of Directors and subject to such limitations as may be required by law or imposed by resolution of the MSPSP Board of Directors, shall have the right and may exercise all powers and authority of the MSPSP Board of Directors in the management of the business and affairs of the Premier Program, except that such special committees shall not have power or authority to:

- (A) Amend the article of incorporation;
- (B) Recommend to members a dissolution of the Premier Program or a revocation of a dissolution;
- (C) Amend the bylaws of the Premier Program;
- (D) Fill vacancies in the Board.

**Article IV. Section 2. Other Committees.**

The MSPSP Board of Directors may designate one or more of their numbers to constitute any other committee, who shall have only such powers as are expressly granted to them in such resolution. Subject to the approval of the MSPSP Board of Directors, the Chairperson may appoint other committees as required. The resolutions establishing committees and designating their members shall be passed by a majority of the MSPSP Directors then in office.

**Article IV. Section 3. Procedures.**

All committees, and each member thereof, shall serve at the discretion of the MSPSP Board of Directors. The MSPSP Board of Directors shall have the power at any time to increase or decrease the number of members of any committee, to fill vacancies, to change any member and to change the functions or terminate the existence of any committee. The MSPSP Board of Directors may designate one or more MSPSP Directors or other persons as alternate members of a committee who may replace an absent or disqualified member at a meeting of the committee. In the absence or disqualification of a member of a committee, the members present at a meeting and not disqualified from voting, whether or not they constitute a quorum, may unanimously appoint another member of the MSPSP Board of Directors to act at the meeting in place of an absent or disqualified member. The Special Committee and all other committees, if the MSPSP Board of Directors shall not have designated a chairperson thereof, shall elect a chairperson from their membership. All committees shall elect a secretary who need not be a member of the committee and who shall keep minutes of all meetings of the committee, which shall be submitted at the next meeting of the MSPSP Board of Directors for approval. Regular or special meetings of any committee may be held in the manner provided in the bylaws for regular or special meetings of the MSPSP Board of Directors, and a majority of any committee shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

**Article IV. Section 4. Committee Action Without a Meeting.**

If and when members of the Special Committee or any other committee shall severally or collectively consent in writing to any action authorized to be taken by the committee, either before or after the action is taken, the action shall be valid committee action as though it had been authorized at a meeting of the committee and the written consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the committee.

**ARTICLE V**  
**Officers**

**Article V. Section 1. Chairperson of the Board.**

The Chairperson of the Board shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the MSPSP Board of Directors. He/she shall be the chief executive officer of the Premier Program and shall have general and active management of the activities of the Premier Program, and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board are carried into effect. As Chairperson, he/she shall attend all MSYSA Delegate and Board meetings and report all program activities to the MSYSA Board of Directors. He/She shall execute all authorized conveyances, contracts, or other obligations in the name of the Premier Program except where required by law to be otherwise signed and executed and except where the signing execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the MSPSP Board of Directors to some other officer or agent of the Premier Program. He/She shall assure all Premier Program MSPSP Board of Directors members and Committees have their duties completed in a timely and proper fashion.

**Article V. Section 2. Vice Chairperson/Registrar.**

The Vice-Chairperson/Registrar of the Board, in the absence of the Chairperson, shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the MSPSP Board of Directors. He/She shall represent the Program at all functions/meetings in the absence of the Chairperson. He/ She shall be the MSYSA Delegate for the Program. He/She shall be responsible, along with the other members of the Board, for preparing the coaches packets that are handed out prior to the start of each season.

The Vice-Chairperson/Registrar shall keep a complete record of all teams and players for the purpose of player registration and team affiliation. He/She shall issue pass cards to each player, coach, assistant coach, and manager. He/She shall keep a count of all players and coaches. He/She shall provide a copy of all rosters to any member of the MSPSP Board of Directors requesting such copy and the MSYSA Registrar, and, shall notify all MSPSP Board of Directors upon request and the MSYSA Registrar of all changes in the team rosters

**Article V. Section 3. Secretary/Treasurer.**

The Secretary/Treasurer shall attend all meetings of the MSPSP Board of Directors and all meetings of the member leagues and/or team representatives, and shall record all votes and minutes of all proceedings in a form and manner specified by the MSPSP Board of Directors. He/She shall give or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the member leagues and/or team representatives and any meetings of the MSPSP Board of Directors for which notice may be required, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the MSPSP Board of Directors or the Chairperson, under whose supervision he/she shall act. He/She shall execute with the Chairperson all authorized conveyances, contracts or other instruments in the name of the Premier Program except as otherwise directed by the MSPSP Board of Directors. He/She shall keep in safe custody the seal of the Program, if there is one, and affix or cause it to be affixed to any instrument requiring a seal. The Secretary will have the responsibility of filing the Michigan Annual Report. He/She shall send out, to member leagues, team representatives, MSPSP Board of Directors members, and/or Committee members, all official correspondence from the MSPSP Board of Directors or any of its' Committees or members.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall have custody of the funds and securities of the Premier Program and shall keep full and complete records and shall deposit all moneys and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Premier Program in such depositories as may be designated by the MSPSP Board of Directors. He/She shall disburse the funds of the Premier Program as may be ordered by the MSPSP Board of Directors, making proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall render whenever The MSPSP Board of Directors may require it, an accounting of all transactions as Secretary/Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Premier Program. If required by the MSPSP Board of Directors, the Secretary/Treasurer shall give the Premier Program a bond in such sum and with surety or sureties as shall be satisfactory to assure the restoration to the Premier Program (in case of death, resignation, or removal from office) of all books, records, papers, vouchers, moneys, negotiable paper, and other property of whatever kind in his/her possession or under his/her control and belonging to the Premier Program.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall also be responsible for preparing any and all Federal and State tax returns. The Secretary/ Treasurer shall be responsible for preparing any and all papers regarding the Tax Exempt status of the Premier Program. He/She shall submit the financial records to the auditor within 30 days of the fiscal year end. The Premier Program's audited Financial Report shall be submitted to the MSYSA days 30 prior to the MSYSA AGM. He/She shall, with the approval of the MSPSP Board of Directors, prepare the budget and set the registration fees. He/She shall collect all application fees, moneys from sponsor(s), performance bonds, fines, or other miscellaneous

income. He/She shall be responsible for the payment of all bills incurred in the operation of the Premier Program and shall review and approve any expenses the MSPSP Board of Directors or Committee members may expend in the performance of their duties.

**Article V. Section 4. Scheduler.**

The Premier Scheduler shall be responsible, together with the MSPSP Board of Directors, for the divisional placement of all teams registered in the Premier Program. He/She shall make or cause to be made a schedule for the regular playing season for each division. The Premier Scheduler must approve any changes in the schedule. He/She shall issue any forfeits for games scheduled that are not played. He/She shall be the final approving authority in the determination of rescheduling disputes.

**Article V. Section 5. Statistician.**

The Statistician shall be responsible for making sure accurate and up to date standings are kept for all divisions. He/she shall be provided a report from the program administrator of all violation and suspension data gathered from game sheets. He/she will make sure all suspensions are served. He/she shall provide a report to the MSPSP Board of Directors with this data.

**Article V. Section 6. Commissioner.**

The Commissioner shall investigate all protests and issue a decision along with the MSPSP Board of Directors. He/She shall issue a report, in writing, to the MSPSP Board of Directors as to the disposition of every protest. He/She shall act as chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee. He/She or his/her appointee shall preside at all Disciplinary Committee meetings and hearings.

**Article V. Section 7. Chairperson Emeritus.**

The Chairperson Emeritus is the immediate past Chairperson of the MSPSP Board of Directors and shall provide advice and consul to the MSPSP Board of Directors and shall perform other duties as mutually agreed upon. The Chairperson Emeritus shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of the MSPSP Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE VI  
Officers**

**Article VI. Section 1. Referee Advisor.**

The Referee Advisor shall receive all referee correspondence and make any necessary recommendations to the appropriate referee organization(s) and take any necessary action.

**ARTICLE VII  
Fiscal Year and Notices**

**Article VII. Section 1. Fiscal Year.**

The fiscal year of the Premier Program shall be July 1 through June 30.

**Article VII. Section 2. Notices.**

Any notice required by statute or by these Bylaws to be given to the member leagues and/or team representatives, to the Directors, or to any officers of the Premier Program, unless another requirement is provided herein or in any statute, shall be sufficient if given by depositing it in a United States post office box or receptacle in a sealed, postage paid wrapper, addressed to the member, trustee or officer at his/her last address as that appears on the records of the Premier Program, and the notice shall be deemed to have been given at the time of the mailing

**ARTICLE VIII  
Miscellaneous**

**Article VIII. Section 1. Affiliation.**

The Premier Program shall be an Affiliated member of and comply with the authority of the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association, the United States Youth Soccer Association and the United States Soccer Federation. Except where restricted or prohibited by law, these bylaws and superseded by the requirements of the United States Youth Soccer Association.

**Article VIII. Section 2. Duties of Delegates.**

Delegates should regularly meet with all team coaches sponsored by their League. All team profiles, team rosters, team information sheet, and player registration forms will be distributed through the league delegate. The delegate will be responsible to return all registration information to the Premier Program for the teams they are sponsoring at the Registration meeting.

**Article VIII. Section 3. Activities.**

In the accomplishment of its purposes and exercise of its powers, no part of the assets, funds or income of the Premier Program shall inure to the benefits of any private individual, corporation, contributor or member as earnings or dividends of the Premier Program. No substantial part of the activities of the Premier Program shall be carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation or other political action. The Premier Program shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign or publish or distribute any statement or spend any funds on behalf of any candidate for public office. The accomplishment of its purpose and exercise of its power by the Premier Program shall be in conformity with the requirements of Act 54, Michigan Public Acts of 1963 as amended or supplemented by State or Federal Legislation.

**Article VIII. Section 4. Gifts.**

The MSPSP Board of Directors, the Chairperson, or any person expressly so authorized by the MSPSP Board of Directors may accept gifts on behalf of the Premier Program for the general purposes of the Premier Program, but no conditional contribution, gift, bequest or devise for the purpose more restricted than the general purposes of the Premier Program shall be finally accepted without prior approval of the MSPSP Board of Directors.

**Article VIII. Section 5. Dissolution.**

Upon liquidation and /or dissolution and winding up the affairs of the Premier Program, whether voluntarily or otherwise, and after payment of all debts and liabilities of the Premier Program, the assets of the Premier Program remaining in the hands of the MSPSP Board of Directors shall be distributed, transferred, conveyed, delivered and paid over to the MSYSA.

**Article VIII. Section 6. Discrimination.**

Girls teams, boys teams, and coed teams (which shall be considered a boys team) shall be established on an equal basis.

**ARTICLE IX  
Amendments, Rules, and Regulations**

**Article IX. Section 1. Amendments.**

These bylaws may be altered or repealed or new bylaws in lieu thereof by a two-thirds vote of the affiliated leagues at the MSYSA general membership meeting with votes being cast in the same ratio as used for MSYSA business.

**Article IX. Section 2. Rules, Regulations, and Policies.**

The Rules, Regulations and Policies of this Premier Program as now established and as hereafter amended may be altered, repealed, or new Rules and Regulations, and Policies may be adopted in lieu thereof by a majority of the MSPSP Board of Directors then in office and present at a meeting of the MSPSP Board of Directors, if a notice of the proposed alteration, repeal or substitution is contained in the notice of the meeting and the proposed alteration, repeal or substitution is approved by the affiliated league at the MSYSA annual general membership meeting with votes being cast in the same ratio as used for MSYSA business.

**MICHIGAN STATE PREMIER SOCCER PROGRAM  
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**Rule 1. General Cases and Line of Authority.**

**Section 1. General Cases.** In general cases, the Premier Program shall be responsible for governing those persons associated with its' functioning and operation. It is the duty of all officials and coaches to report immediately any infraction of these rules to the Premier Program MSPSP Board of Directors.

**Section 2. Line of Authority.** Should any person, team or league want to appeal any adverse decision, the line of authority shall be to the Premier Program MSPSP Board of Directors and then to the MSYSA.

**Rule 2. Disciplinary Ruling and Minimum Punishments.**

**Section 1. Offensive, Insulating or Abusive Language.** Players, coaches, or other team officials guilty of using offensive, insulating or abusive language before, during, or after a game as evidenced by the issuance of a Red card by the official at the game site shall receive a minimum of a two (2) game suspension. Any other person associated with the team guilty of the above offenses may cause the senior official to receive disciplinary action.

**Section 2. Violent Conduct and/or Serious Foul Play.** Players guilty of violent conduct or serious foul play before, during, or after a game as evidenced by the issuance of a Red card by the official at the game site shall receive a minimum of a two- (2) game suspension.

**Section 3. Persistent Misconduct.** Players, coaches, or other team officials guilty of persistent misconduct before, during, or after a game as evidenced by the issuance of two Yellow cards or a Red card by the official at the game site shall receive a minimum of a one (1) game suspension.

**Section 4. Pushing or Striking.**

- (1) Players guilty of pushing or striking any coach, team official, or referee shall receive a minimum of one (1) year suspension; whether or not such an offense occurs at a game.
- (2) Coaches, managers, or other team officials guilty of pushing or striking any league official, coach, manager, player, referee, or assistant referee shall receive a minimum of a two- (2) year suspension; whether or not such an offense occurs at a game. Repeat offenders shall be barred from any further participation in the Premier Program.

**Section 5. Sent Off.** Players or team officials sent off the field by the official at the game site shall receive a minimum of a one- (1) game suspension.

**Section 6. Alteration and/or Falsification of Birth Records and/or Rosters.** Any coach, manager, team official, or player who knowingly alters any roster or game report or causes any roster or game report to be altered, or falsifies any birth date or causes any birth date to be falsified, or affixes or causes to be affixed to any pass card a photograph of any person other than the person named thereon may receive up to a seven (7) year suspension.

**Section 7. Multiple Offenses - Coaches and/or Teams.**

- (1) Any coach, manager, team official, or player receiving three (3) Yellow cards in any single playing season shall automatically be issued a Red card for the next physically played Premier Program game. This is considered a one- (1) game suspension.
- (2) Any coach, manager, team official, or player receiving two (2) Red Cards is immediately suspended without notice from participating at any Premier Program games until an appearance before Premier Program Disciplinary Committee. It is incumbent upon the offender to request such a hearing from said Committee.

**Section 8. Tournament Suspensions.** Any Red card suspension from any USYSA sanctioned Tournament not served within the issuing tournament(s), shall be served with a one (1) game suspension in the next physically played Premier Program game. Additional tournament issued suspensions shall be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee for the imposition of additional penalties.

**Section 9. Playing Suspended Players.** Any coach who allows a player to play in a game, during which that player was to serve a suspension, shall receive a two (2) game suspension. Repeat offenses by the same coach shall result in a Disciplinary hearing at which further action may be taken. Any team, which allows a player, who has received three (3) Yellow cards or a Red card, to play in a game, during which that player was to serve a suspension, shall suffer a forfeit of that game, and may be subject to a fine set by the MSPSP Board of Directors.

**Section 10. Participation by Suspended Team Officials.** Any coach who allows a team official (coach, assistant coach, manager, etc.) to participate in a game, during which that team official was to serve a suspension, shall receive a two (2) game suspension. Repeat offenses by the same coach shall result in a Disciplinary hearing at which further action may be taken.

Any team, which allows a team official to participate in a game, during which that team official was to serve a suspension, shall suffer a forfeit of that game, and may be subject to a fine set by the MSPSP Board of Directors.

**Section 11. Failure to Appear.** Any coach, manager, team official, or player who fails to appear at a scheduled disciplinary hearing without due cause and seventy-two (72) hours notice will be suspended until such time as another hearing can be scheduled.

**Section 12. Application of Suspensions.** All suspensions and/or probation's listed in sections 1 through 10 of these rules apply to the next physically played Premier Program game, whether or not such game is within the same season or seasonal year. Any forfeited game, canceled game or postponed game is not considered a played game.

**Rule 3. Insurance.**

Insurance shall be obtained through MSYSA via each team's affiliated league.

**Rule 4. Laws of the Game.**

**Section 1. Rules of Play.** The rules of play shall be the "Laws of the Game", as published by F.I.F.A. All contests sanctioned by Premier Program shall abide by the "Laws of the Game", and the modifications as permitted by the Premier Program shall be published under separate cover.

**Section 2. Bylaws.** All teams, players, coaches, managers, team officials, clubs, and/or leagues will follow the Bylaws of this Premier Program, MSYSA and USSF.

**Rule 5. Game Rules.**

**Section 1. Abandonment of Game.**

- (1) Any game, which is abandoned because of inclement weather or darkness after 2/3 of the regulation time has been played, will be considered as a completed game. If 2/3 of the regulation time has not been completed, the game will be replayed in its entirety prior to the end of the scheduled season.
- (2) Any game abandoned for any other reason shall result in a review by the MSPSP Board of Directors as to the circumstances leading to the abandonment and a decision shall be rendered.

**Section 2. Length of Games and Size of Ball.** The length of games and the ball size shall be as follows:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Length of Game</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>
U-19	2 – 45 Minute Halves	Size 5 Ball
U-17	2 – 45 Minute Halves	Size 5 Ball
U-16	2 – 40 Minute Halves	Size 5 Ball
U-15	2 – 40 Minute Halves	Size 5 Ball
U-14	2 – 35 Minute Halves	Size 5 Ball
U-13	2 – 35 Minute Halves	Size 5 Ball

**Section 3. Substitutions.** The number of substitutions shall be unlimited unless competition under MSYSA jurisdiction determines otherwise. Substitutes may not enter the field of play until receiving a signal to do so from the referee and must do so at the half line. Substitutions may be made at the following times:

- (A) Prior to a throw-in, with the following exception: If the team taking the throw-in does not substitute, then the substitution is prohibited.
- (B) Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
- (C) After a goal is scored by either team.
- (D) After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play.
- (E) At half time.
- (F) After a Yellow card, the carded player(s) may be substituted, and if substituted, the opposing team may substitute a like number of players.

Substitutes may not enter the field of play until receiving a signal to do so from the referee.

**Section 4. Reporting of Scores.** The winning team is responsible for notifying the Premier Program Statistician of the outcome of the game per instructions issued prior to the beginning of each season immediately following the game, to notify him/her of the outcome. In the event of a tie score, the home team shall be responsible for reporting the score. If A Game Score Is Not Reported Properly Within Forty-Eight (48) Hours Of The Date And Time The Game Is Played, A Penalty Set By The MSPSP Board or Directors for Each Violation Shall Be Imposed Upon The Team In Violation.

**Section 5. Delayed Game Start.** Any team delaying the start of a scheduled game by more than fifteen (15) minutes without authorization from the Premier Program shall forfeit the game to their opponent and shall be responsible for full payment of the game officials' fees.

**Section 6. Failure to Appear for a Game.** In the event that both teams do not appear for a scheduled game and the Referee rule the grounds playable, then both teams shall be assessed with a loss and the referee's fees.

**Section 7. Coaching from the Sidelines.** Giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position is allowed pursuant to and in accordance with FIFA rules of the game. No mechanical or electrical devices are permitted and no coach manager, team official, or substitute is to be anywhere except on the sidelines within 25 yards of the halfway line of that team's bench side of the field during the game. Only those persons in possession of a passcard shall be allowed within the permissible coaching area. Likewise only persons with a pass card showing them to be a player, coach, assistant coach, manager, or team official shall be allowed to coach (give direction from the sidelines). Teams shall take opposite sidelines for their benches. Home teams have choice of preferred sidelines. Parents must take the same sideline as their respective team.

**Section 8. Home Team Responsibilities.**

- (1) If that both teams wear uniforms that are of the same or similar colors, the home team must effect a change to colors that are distinct from those of the opponent. (See Rule 12 Visitor may change)
- (2) The home team shall be responsible for the condition of the grounds, the proper field markings, and proper equipment. Goal nets and corner flags are required.
- (3) The home team shall be responsible for providing a game ball.
- (4) In the event the referee declares the condition of the grounds improper due to improper or no markings, no corner flags, or no nets; the game is to be rescheduled. Both teams will pay their half of the referee fees for the cancelled game. The referee fees for the rescheduled game will be paid in full by the team whose field did not comply with the MSPSP Rules and Regulations. The rescheduled game will take place at the home field of the original visiting team.

**Section 9. Team Display of Sportsmanship.** The traditional line-up for good sportsmanship shall take place prior to the start of the game and be presided over by the referees and coaches. All players, substitutes, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, or other team officials shall participate. Infraction of this rule constitutes unsporting conduct and is subject to disciplinary action as such.

**Rule 6. Age Limit Definition.**

**Section 1. Youth.** The term **Youth** as applied to these bylaws shall mean an amateur player who has not attained his/her 19th birthday before the first day of August of the seasonal year in which he/she applies for registration.

**Section 2. Attaining Age Limit.** Players attaining the limiting age for any age group on or after August 1st, will be eligible to play for the remainder of the seasonal year.

**Section 3. Reinstated Player.** A reinstated player shall mean a player who has been reinstated to an amateur youth status.

**Section 4. Age Groups.**

- (1) Eligibility for age groups shall be determined by a player's age on August 1st of the seasonal year.
- (2) There will be single year age group (U-13 through U-19) in both the Boys and Girls divisions when enough teams are registered to comprise a division.
- (3) If there are not at least four (4) teams registered in an age division, there will be no division for that particular age group.
- (4) No team shall be allowed to play in an age group unless a minimum of 51% of the rostered players on that team were born within the year(s) specified for that specific age group (e.g. a team which rosters fifteen (15) players and wishes to play as a U-13 team must roster at least eight players who have attained the age of twelve (12) prior to August 1st of that seasonal year). No team shall be allowed to roster players who are too old for the age group they are playing in.
- (5) No player may play up more than two (2) age divisions except as defined in Rule 22.

**Rule 7. Proof of Age.**

**Section 1. Authority to Contest.** Any player can be called upon to prove his/her legal age by the MSPSP Board of Directors or the Registrar.

**Section 2. Legal Proof of Age.** A birth certificate, drivers' license, passport, board of health records, certificate of naturalization, or alien registration card shall be sufficient for proof of age.

**Rule 8. Player Registration, League Entry and Team Affiliation Requirements.**

**Section 1. Player Registration**

- (1) Players are registered to and mutually bound with a team when the Premier Program Registration form is signed by the player, his/her parent or guardian (for players under age 18), and the team coach. A copy of the signed and dated registration form must be given to the player at this time and no registration form shall be signed until or on or after June 15. Completion of this form by all parties binds the player to that team and its' affiliating league and binds the team and its' affiliating league to that player for the entire seasonal year which runs from September 1st to August 31st unless a release is granted under Rule 10.

- (2) Each affiliating league which wishes to sponsor a team or teams in the Premier Program shall be required to submit to the appropriate Premier Program officer various forms as may be required for the operation of the Premier Program and pay all fines, dues or fees, that may be levied by the Premier Program.
- (3) The final registration date for each playing season shall be determined by the Premier Program Board of Directors.
- (4) Proof of age must accompany all registration forms when submitted to the Premier Program.

**Section 2. Player Possession of Pass Card.**

- (1) All coaches, managers, and players shall present to the referee their pass cards, which shall be signed by the named individual and shall have a current photograph of the named individual permanently affixed, before the start of each game.
- (2) All pass cards are to be returned to the Coach.
- (3) If a player, coach, manager, or other team official is ejected for misconduct, then the Referee official must sign the Referee Game Report at the conclusion of the game. **It is incumbent upon the Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, or other team official to institute the proper suspension for committing such misconduct and indicate the reason for sitting out on subsequent Game Reports.**
- (4) Should any players' pass card not be available, they shall be permitted to play in the game after having fulfilled the requirements of rule 9. However, they shall be open to "Challenge" by the opposing team under rule 9.
- (5) A fee set by the MSPSP Board of Directors shall be assessed for the replacement of a lost pass card.

**Section 3. Application Fees and Performance Bond.**

- (1) Application fees shall be set prior to registration for each season.
- (2) Performance Bonds in an amount to be determined by the Premier Program Board of Directors may be required.

**Section 4. Multiple Registration.**

- (1) A player cannot play for more than one team in the Premier Program.
- (2) In the case of a player being registered to more than one team, the Premier Program team must be his/her primary team.
- (3) No pass card shall be issued by the Premier Program for tournament play only.

**Section 5. Club Passcards:**

- (1) MSPSP registered teams may utilize players from within both the same club and affiliated league to participate in the team's MSPSP league games.
- (2) Players utilized in this manner are considered "Club Passcard Players".
- (3) Players wishing to Club Passcard to an MSPSP team must be currently registered with MSYSA.
- (4) Players can Club Passcard up a maximum of two age groups from their eligible age group.
- (5) MSPSP teams are limited to three (3) club passcarded players per game.
- (6) Teams utilizing an MSPSP club passcard player must meet all other roster requirements.
- (7) Game day rosters may not exceed 18 total players including club passcarded players.
- (8) Players can Club Passcard a maximum of twice a week with the week starting on Sunday.
- (9) Players may Club Passcard within their own age group only from a lower division team to a higher division team.
- (10) Players cannot club passcard down in competition. MRL and National League players may not participate in MSPSP.
- (11) At the U13 age group in the fall season, players may Club Passcard across the statewide divisions. Players registered on a statewide team may not Club Passcard into the regional division. Regional division players may Club Passcard onto statewide teams.

**Rule 9. Challenge of a Player not in Possession of a Player Pass Card.**

**Section 1. Procedure.**

- (1) If a player does not present a player pass card to the Referee prior to the game, he/she shall give his/her name, signature, and birth date to the Referee, who shall note this information on his Referee Game Report, and shall at the conclusion of the game, advise the coach of the opposing team of this information and make it available to him/her.
- (2) The opposing team coach has a right to challenge such a player by contacting the Vice-Chairperson for verification that the challenged player(s) is/are properly registered and eligible to play. If the Premier Program records show the player(s) is/are properly registered and eligible to play, the matter is finished.

**Section 2. Penalties.** If a challenged player(s) is/are not properly registered or eligible to play, the offending team shall automatically forfeit that game and the coach may face further disciplinary action by the Premier Program, and receive up to a seven (7) year suspension under Rule 2 Section 6.

**Rule 10. Player Release, Transfer, and Roster Limit.**

**Section 1. Release.** A registered player, a player that has signed the proper MSPSP Registration Form, shall be committed to one Premier Program team for the entire seasonal year. Once registered, a player should remain with his/her team until June 30th of that seasonal year.

However, any player wishing a release shall be granted one. Any player wishing a release must complete the MSYSA release form and must submit same and the appropriate fee to the MSYSA Registrar who shall process the release.

**Section 2. Inter-Premier Program Player Transfer.** A player who has secured a release from his/her original team may be granted a transfer to a new Premier Program team upon the completion of the MSYSA transfer form and submission of same with the appropriate fee to the MSYSA Registrar who shall complete the transfer if approved by the Premier Program MSPSP Board of Directors. All denials shall be forwarded to the MSYSA Board of Directors for their review and concurrence.

The MSPSP discourages and will not approve a transfer from one MSPSP team to another MSPSP team except for the following:

- (A) A player has moved his/her residence more than 60 miles.
- (B) The player's current team has disbanded.
- (C) Intra-League Transfers.

**Section 3. Poaching.** The period of time on or after June 15th until the day of registration of the Premier Program shall be the designated open recruiting period. During this period of time any player, coach, manager, trainer, player parent or guardian, team official, or any other person associated with the team, may freely discuss new affiliation with players, **who have not registered with any other Premier Program team** for the following seasonal year, or if previously registered with another team have previously received a release from that team and had the same signed by the MSYSA Registrar. Any attempt to induce a registered player to change teams during the present seasonal year or for following seasonal year shall be deemed poaching."

Any player, coach, team official, player parent or guardian, or any other agent associated with the team who attempts to induce a registered player to change MSPSP teams from July 1 to June 14 of the seasonal year, shall be deemed poaching. Any of the above that are charged with poaching shall be brought before the MSPSP Disciplinary Committee.

**Section 4. Transfer Cut-off Dates.** The MSPSP Board of Directors may set cut-off dates for player transfers for each season or seasonal year.

**Section 5. Team Tryouts.** Team tryouts cannot be held prior to June 15. All tryouts for teams playing in the Premier Program shall be advertised or published. No fees may be charged to any player for attending a team tryout. No player shall sign a registration form as a requirement for the tryout. Any form so executed shall be declared null and void by the Premier Program.

**Section 6. Roster Limit.** No team shall be admitted to the Premier Program with less than fifteen (15) players. Teams U15 and below shall have no more than eighteen (18) players registered at any given time. Teams U16 through U19 may have no more than twenty-two (22) players registered at any given time. Game day rosters may only contain 18 of the 22 players registered to the team.

**Section 7. Roster Additions.**

- (1) Anytime a named goalkeeper is injured and out of play, another named goalkeeper may be added for the remainder of the season, through the normal registration process. A second named goalkeeper may be added at any time.
- (2) Anytime a team's active roster drops to fourteen (14) players, due to injury or resignation of players, that team shall be allowed to add players to their roster through the normal registration process until they have reached an active roster of fifteen (15) players.

**Section 8. Penalties.**

- (1) Any player found to be guilty of violating any of the above sections of this Rule 10 shall appear before the Disciplinary Committee and may receive up to a five game suspension
- (2) Any coach, manager, trainer, or team, club or league official found guilty of violating any of the above sections of Rule 10 may appear before the Disciplinary Committee and may receive up to a two (2) year suspension.

**Rule 11. Game Reports.**

**Section 1. Team Responsibilities.** Both teams shall be responsible for entering all appropriate information, on a legible report prior to the start of the game.

**Section 2. Referee Responsibilities.**

- (1) The referee shall verify the identity of the players, coaches, managers, and team officials with their pass cards.
- (2) Prior to the start of the game the Referee shall make sure that each player's equipment is in proper order.
- (3) Prior to the start of the game the referee shall make sure that all goal nets and corner flags are properly installed and in proper repair, that the field has the proper makings, and that the ground is fit for play.
- (4) The referee shall not allow any player who does not possess a pass card to participate in the game (see Rule 8 for exceptions) nor shall he/she allow any individual without a pass card to accompany the team in their bench area.
- (5) The referee shall keep a complete record of the game on the official Referee Game Report. Upon completion of the game the Referee shall check this report before signing his/her name.

- (6) The Referee shall mail his/her report to the Statistician, and the referee shall include in this mailing any supplemental disciplinary report he/she may wish to make.

**Section 3. Referee Qualifications.**

- (1) All referees will be registered on USSF referee registration forms through the State Referee Association. No person shall officiate as a referee or neutral lines person in any match under the sanction or jurisdiction (direct or indirect) of the USSF who is not registered with this Federation unless both coaches agree and sign the game report stating such agreement. All referee assignors must be USSF certified assignors.
- (2) If, due to unforeseen circumstances, a registered referee is unable to officiate, club or team officials may agree upon some other person to act in the emergency. Such emergencies shall be explained in writing by team officials and/or referee assignors and submitted with the Referee Game Report.
- (3) Referees may not officiate a game in which a team participant is a member of his/her family unless both coaches agree and sign the game report stating such agreement.
- (4) In the event both coaches do not agree on an alternate referee (per Section 3 Paragraph 2) the game will be replayed at the Visiting team's home field. The team responsible for the referees of the cancelled game will pay the entire referee fees for the rescheduled game. For U15 and older age groups that have the center referee assigned by the Premier Program Referee Assignor, the game will be played at the home team's home field and the referee fees will be paid equally by both teams.

**Section 4. Referee Game Reports** The Premier Program Referee Advisor will be apprised of improperly completed Referee Game Reports

**Rule 12. Requirements of Players.**

**Section 1. Shin Guards.** All players are required to wear shin guards at all times while on the field of play. Shin Guards must be completely covered by socks at all times.

**Section 2. Player Possession of Pass Card.** All players wishing to participate in a Premier Program game must be in possession of an official Premier Program Pass Card, which must be signed by the player, and have a current photograph of the player permanently affixed (see Rule 8 for Exceptions to this rule).

**Section 3. Uniforms.**

- (1) In the event that the uniforms of both teams in the game are similar color and the referee determines that one team must change uniforms, the home team shall change uniforms unless both coaches agree that the visiting team may change.
- (2) All players must be in full Premier Program identified numbered uniforms. Each player's jersey shall have on the left chest or on the left sleeve the Premier Program Patch or a same size representation. All players on the field of play representing one team must have unique numbers on their uniforms. Players are not allowed to switch numbers after the team has been checked in by the referees without notifying the referee of the change.
- (3) The Premier Program shall provide, if requested, two sponsor patches for players requiring such patch. The patch must be permanently affixed (sewn on only) to the left chest or left sleeve of the jersey.

**A Team May Be Assessed A Per Game Fine Set Forth By The MSPSP Board of Directors Per Game Penalty For Each Violation Of This Rule 12 Section 3 Paragraph 2**

**Section 4. Minimum Playing Time.**

Minimum playing time per player shall be established and monitored by each league and/or club.

**Rule 13. Coaches.**

**Section 1. Licenses.** All head coaches in the Premier Program shall be required to have a minimum "D" State-coaching license or a NSCAA Advanced National Diploma.

**Section 2. Coach Possession of Pass Card.** All Premier Program coaches, assistant coaches, managers, or other team officials must be identified by an official Premier Program Pass Card, which must be signed by the named individual and have a current photograph of the named individual permanently affixed.

**Section 3. Coaches Responsibilities.**

- (1) Each coach is responsible for the conduct of his/her players, other team officials and spectators before, during and after the game and shall instruct all of the above to behave in a proper and respectful manner.
- (2) Each coach is responsible for correctly submitting a legible Referee Game Report, with the proper information to the Referee prior to the start of the game.

- (3) Each coach is responsible for submitting proper pass cards and Referee Fees prior to the start of the game.
- (4) Each coach must comply with the Coaches Procedures on game day.
- (5) In the event that a coach wishes to protest a game he/she must inform the Referee prior to the start of the match if possible, and will inform the referee in all cases at the end of the match so the Referee may note the reasons for the protest on the Referee Game Report.

**Rule 14. Uniforms.**

**Section 1. Supply.** Each team shall be responsible for acquiring its own uniforms.

**Section 2. Sponsor Patch.** A sponsor patch, no larger than the Premier Program patch, may be on the jersey. All sponsor patches and their location on the uniform must be approved by the Premier Program MSPSP Board of Directors.

**Section 3. Jersey Numbers.** All jerseys must be clearly numbered on the back. A number no larger than 4" may be displayed on the right front or center of the chest. No two players on the same team may share the same number except that the goalkeeper may wear any number he/she so desires.

**Section 4. Premier Program Patch.** Each player's jersey shall be identified by a crest on the left chest or a patch on the left sleeve that may either be silk-screened or the Premier Program patch.

**Section 5. Other Jersey Markings.** Leagues may display their team name or league name on the front of the jersey only.

**Rule 15. Game Schedule.**

**Section 1. Official Schedule.** The official schedule of the Premier Program shall be compiled by the Premier Program Scheduler.

**Section 2. Scheduled Dates.** Teams must play games according to the official MSPSP schedule.

**Section 3. Dual Use of Game Results.** There will be no dual use of game results. No Premier Program game can be used to fulfill the requirements of another competition i.e. State Cup.

**Section 4. Rescheduling of Games.** Games are not to be rescheduled unless by the MSPSP Scheduler. Games must be played at scheduled date and time. Rescheduling games without proper approval will result in forfeiture by both teams.

**Section 5. Rescheduling due to an Emergency.** Games may be rescheduled only if:

Games may be rescheduled for State Cup, dangerous or unplayable field conditions as deemed by the Referee at the field or in the event the assigned Center Official does not show for the game. No other game changes will be accepted.

**Rule 16. Determination of Divisional Champions.**

**Section 1. Game Points.** During seasonal play, game points shall be awarded as follows:

- Each victory shall be worth three (3) points.
- Each tie shall be worth one (1) point.
- No points shall be awarded for a loss.

**Section 2. Forfeits.** Any team, which forfeits a game, shall not be eligible for a divisional championship. The score of any forfeit game shall stand 4-0 against the forfeiting team.

**Section 3. Divisional Champions.**

- (1) Divisional Champions shall be determined on the following basis:  
The team with the most game points (subject to adjustment per Section 4 below) shall be declared the Divisional Champions.
- (2) In the event that two teams have tied for the most game points the following tiebreaker shall apply:
  - (a) The winner of head to head competition.
  - (b) The winner of most games.
  - (c) Goal Differential (Maximum of four goals per win).
  - (d) Fewest goals allowed.
  - (e) Team with least number of red/yellow cards issued.
  - (f) Fair play points.

- (3) In the event that more than two teams have tied for the most game points, the following tiebreaker shall apply:
- (a) Points earned in head to head competition among the teams
  - (b) The winner of most games.
  - (c) Goal Differential (Maximum of four goals per win)
  - (d) Fewest goals allowed
  - (e) Team with least number of red/yellow cards issued.
  - (f) Fair play points.

**Section 4. Unequal Number of Games Played.** In the event that teams within a division have played an unequal number of games a calculation will be made to adjust for the different number of games played. For example, if one team played eight games and the other team played ten games the figures arrived at in Section 3 above would be multiplied by 80% (.80) for the team that played ten games.

**Rule 17. Ignorance of the Rules.**

It is the responsibility of each player, coach, manager, trainer, team official, and league official to know and understand the Bylaws and Rules of the Premier Program. Ignorance of these Bylaws and Rules will not be considered an excuse for failure to follow them and will not be considered as a defense in any Disciplinary Hearing of the Premier Program.

**Rule 18. Interpretations of the Bylaws and Rules.**

Any interpretation of the Bylaws and Rules of the Premier Program, MSYSA, or USSF shall not be considered as an official interpretation until the interpretation is rendered in writing and signed and dated by an authorized Premier Program Director or Official.

**Rule 19. Rulings of the MSPSP Board of Directors.**

Any ruling of the MSPSP Board of Directors shall be incorporated as a part of these rules through reference. Rulings shall be documented by the MSPSP Board of Directors and shall be published.

**Rule 20. Team Definition.**

**Section 1. Existing Team.**

- (1) An existing team shall be any team that has at least 51% of its players returning from the same sponsoring league from the team's roster of its previous Premier Program season.
- (2) A Team (winning or runners-up in the State Cup), which elects to play the National Regional League, may do so with out losing their Team position in the Premier Program. When they return, they will take the place of the Team, which displaced them in the National Regional League. They may also return on their own accord and will displace the lowest placed team of the division that they were in when the Team elected to join the National Regional League.

**Section 2. New Team.** A new team is any team, which does not meet the requirements of section 1 above; regardless of whether or not that team physically played in the Premier Program in any previous playing season.

**Rule 21. Elite Division Admission.**

**Section 1. Name.** The Elite Division may use a name mutually agreed upon between the Premier Program and its major sponsor for all purposes of advertising and public and community relations.

**Section 2. Purpose.** The Elite Division is established to provide superior competition in a high quality venue for Premier Program players and teams, U16 and above, to develop and participate in highly skilled youth soccer, sportsmanship, and quality coaching and officiating within the State of Michigan.

**Section 3. Method of Entry.** Application for Admission to the Elite Division shall be open to all teams U16 and above admitted to the Premier Program. Affiliating leagues must complete an application for entry to the Elite Division for each team they wish to sponsor in this Division. The Premier Program must receive all Elite Division applications no later than the Elite Division application deadline, which may be set by the MSPSP Board of Directors from time to time. Acceptance into the Elite Division is at the sole discretion of the Premier Program MSPSP Board of Directors and shall be based upon the information provided by the submitted Application forms, and team and player history.

**Rule 22. Under 19 Open Division.**

The MSPSP Board of Directors at its sole discretion may elect to form a U-19 Open Division. This division is open to all U-16 and above players according the most current MSYSA Age Group Eligibility Chart. Teams applying for entry in this division are allowed to roster

players attending high school full time up to and including the U19 age group. No other entry qualifications shall apply to this division except those referring to affiliation.