

**VIENNA YOUTH SOCCER
POLICIES
Revised March, 2014**

Coaches/Assistant Coaches

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

Policy: The respective Division Commissioner appoints House coaches.

Policy: Head Coaches must be twenty-one (21) years of age or older. Anyone under the age of twenty-one (21) who is coaching a team must be accompanied by two (2) adults at all practices and games.

* * * * *

Referees

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

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

Policy: The minimum age for a referee is 12 years and in 7th grade. Center referees should be at least 2 years older than the age group they are refereeing. All assistant referees may referee U12-14 house games. AR's for U15 & older house games must be at least 14 years of age and have one season of experience. A/R's will be assigned to travel games at the discretion of the Referee Assignor and must have at least one season of experience.

Policy: The VYS Administrator and Referee Assignor will oversee referee payment for all VYS House matches.

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

* * * * *

Rules of Play

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

Policy: For House teams, if any team is up by three goals, the losing team should add a player to the field. Should the margin be closed, teams may be returned to equal strength. This rule can be suspended for end-of-season tournament play.

* * * * *

Tournaments

Policy: House Tournaments – Age Divisions in the VYS House program may hold one-day tournaments at the close of each season. It is not required of each division, but dependent upon the number of teams registered and the willingness of the division Commissioner and his/her coaches to have a tournament. In no instance are House tournaments to extend beyond the date established in the calendar for the end of the field permit date. Those Commissioners wishing to hold a tournament must submit a written proposal to the VP for House, Referee Assignor and VYS Field Assignor no later than two weeks after the start of the season. Details for the proposed tournament must include the date, time, format, rules, how many certified referees will be required, and whether there will be standings or awards. The VP for House must approve the proposed tournament. The tournament should be completed during the divisions' regularly scheduled field assignments. If the tournament cannot be completed during the division's regularly scheduled field assignment, field availability will be determined by the VYS Fields Assignor and the VP for House. All teams within the requesting division must be offered an opportunity to participate in the tournament.

Policy: Recreational Tournaments - Any VYS team wishing to participate in a recreational tournament hosted by affiliate clubs, which are open to House League teams, must first apply for and receive permission from the VP of House at least one week prior to the close of registration for the tournament. All-Star teams may not participate in tournaments that are specifically designated as Recreational Tournaments for House teams. The requesting team should expect to pay all costs and fees related to participation in Recreational Tournaments. Any required registration papers or other necessary documents, which must be submitted, are the responsibility of the requesting team. Players' passes are to be issued by the VYS Administrator. Tournament rules are to be determined by the club hosting the tournament.

Policy: The All-Star season is in addition to, and not part of, the regular House season. VYS supports and encourages player participation in All-Star tournaments each season. Such tournaments are highly competitive and therefore require a selection process for both players and coaches. VYS may sponsor at least one team from each age group to participate in an All-Stars Tournament at the end of the season. Anyone seeking to coach an All-Star team must submit an

application to the VYS Administrator (via e-mail or mail), who shall notify division Commissioners of all candidates. If a commissioner is seeking to coach an All-Star team, the VYS Administrator shall notify the VP for House. The process for selecting All-Star players must be approved by the VP for House in advance of the All-Star season. Each participating team shall bear costs or fees, reimbursable to VYS, which generally includes registration and uniforms. All-Star team practices shall not interfere with, nor take priority over, regular House league practices and games. Players' passes are to be issued by the VYS Administrator. Tournament rules are to be determined by the club hosting the All-Star tournament.

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

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

* * * * *

Conduct

Policy: Grievance Committee – Allegations of problems or grievances by players, coaches or parents which may arise during the course of the season will be investigated by a Grievance Committee. As needed, the Grievance Committee will be appointed by the President, will include up to 5 members and will be chaired by the Vice President for House or Travel, (depending on the nature of the grievance). The Committee will report back to the Board with its findings and recommendations.

Policy: Rules and Discipline Committee – Allegations of misconduct by or against game officials which may arise during the course of the season will be investigated by a Disciplinary Committee. As needed, the Disciplinary Committee will be appointed by the President, will include up to 5 members and will be chaired by the Vice President for Referees. The Committee will report back to the Board with its findings and recommendations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Policy: Commissioners are not allowed to coach a team in the age group for which they are a commissioner unless requested to do so by the Vice President for House.

* * * * *

Fields

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

Policy: The Vice President for House and Vice President for Travel will assign game fields with input from the Fields Assignor.

Policy: Only the Commissioner or his/her designee may cancel scheduled House games for reasons other than inclement weather and must notify the VP for House, Fields Assignor and the Referee Assignor (if applicable) 48 hours in advance. The Division Commissioner may schedule make-up games through the Field Assignor.

Field Conditions

Policy: VYS may, if necessary, cancel field use on VYS fields because of adverse field conditions. No teams may play on closed fields.

Policy: In cases of inclement weather or other issues, a club-wide decision will be made by the VP of Fields and VP of House, and/or VP of Travel as to whether fields will be closed for weekend play, and will be announced as soon as feasible. If a decision is made to close the fields

club-wide during the weekend, then no VYS activities may be conducted on any VYS fields. A decision will be made separately for Saturday's activities and Sunday's activities.

* * * * *

Fee Structure

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

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

* * * * *

Player Information

Policy: A season of House play shall consist of no less than 8 and not more than 12 scheduled matches, exclusive of league playoffs and tournaments. The Board of Directors must approve exceptions prior to the publication of the match schedule. Once season play has opened, no match shall be rescheduled without the approval of the Division Commissioner, the Field Assignor and the Referee Assignor (if applicable). House match play on Sundays shall not commence before 12:00 Noon, whenever possible.

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

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

Policy: A player may not be dropped from the VYS program without the prior approval of the Board of Directors.

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

* * * * *

Grade Level Exception Policy

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

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

Policy: There will be no play up into the U5 division.

Policy: No division including U5 through U12 should have an age differential greater than 14 months with the grade level exception.

VYS Age Divisions

Policy: For House play, age divisions above U12 which may have been combined in previous seasons may be divided into separate divisions, as long as each resulting division has sufficient players for six teams.