

St. Mary's Youth Soccer

St. Mary's United By-Laws

Updated 6/28/10

1. **Definitions.** The Travel League of the St. Mary's Youth Soccer (SMYS) shall be named St. Mary's United (SMU).
2. **Purpose.** As described in the SMYS Constitution.
3. **St. Mary's United (SMU) Membership.** Membership shall consist of the current Head Coaches that are in good standing, their assistant coaches, manager, and parents/guardians of those players rostered to a SMU team, and the SMU President.
 - a) Voting privileges of the SMU members are for the purpose of:
 - 1) Operating teams in the various leagues and/or tournaments, along with SMU business.
 - 2) Providing a forum to enhance coaches, players and spectator soccer awareness, education and understanding.
 - 3) Providing a vehicle to ensure SMU teams are coached by the most competent coaches available.
 - 4) Providing nominations for the SMU President position when required.
 - b) Voting members and duties.
 - 1) Coaches:
 - a) Educate players, parents and team(s).
 - b) Ensure teams are represented at all SMU meetings. The Head Coach of each SMU team is required to be present at 50% of all SMU meetings to stay in good standing within SMU.
 - c) Vote on club business. Note: Assistant Coaches or Managers may only vote in the absence of the Head Coach. One vote per team.
 - d) Ensure managers have properly registered players and adults.
 - e) Must abide by the Coaches Code of Conduct, rules of good sportsmanship and act accordingly.
 - f) Ensure game scores are reported to the appropriate league.
 - g) Notify SMU President of:
 - 1) Training/practice locations.
 - 2) Complaints/Protest required.
 - 3) Red or yellow card received during a match. Notify SMU President within 24 hours of the conclusion of the carded match.
 - h) Seek to help elevate the level of knowledge relating to the game.
 - i) Elect SMU President.
 - 2) SMU President:
 - a) Calls and chairs all SMU meetings.
 - b) Serves on the SMYS Executive Board as Vice President of Travel (SMU) when approved after the SMYS General Election.

- c) Acts as a single-point liaison with travel league(s) and county representatives.
 - 1) Voices appropriate feedback to the travel league Club Representative.
 - 2) Approves and submits any formal game protests requested by a SMU Head Coach.
 - 3) Works to secure and coordinate training/practice locations in conjunction with the SMYS Administrator.
 - d) Votes on SMU issues. In the case of a tie, majority goes with the SMU Presidents vote.
 - 3) Identifies and/or appoints a SMU Secretary. The Secretary's responsibilities will be:
 - a) Ensure all SMU meeting minutes are recorded, distributed and modified, as required.
 - b) Distribute SMU meeting agendas in a timely manner to allow for voting members review.
4. **St. Mary's United (SMU) Meetings.**
- a) SMU meetings will be held on the first Monday of every month or as required. SMYS Executive Board will hold its monthly meeting directly after the SMU meeting to limit the total number of monthly meetings.
 - b) Quorum:
 - 1) Quorum shall consist of the SMU President or designee, and
 - 2) 50% of the SMU teams represented by the Head Coach, Assistant Coach or Manager.
5. **Number of St. Mary's United (SMU) Teams.**
- a) SMU will attempt to field one team per age group, regardless of league affiliation, unless;
 - 1) No competent Head Coach can be identified for an age group.
 - 2) The formation of multiple teams within an age group shall be based on, in the order they are listed below:
 - a) The availability of selecting a competent coach.
 - b) Availability of appropriately skilled players shall not drive the addition of multiple teams within an age group. The combination of competent coaching and appropriately skilled players shall be the principal criteria.
 - c) The skill level of players will be evaluated by an evaluation panel of experienced coaches, in good standing, prior to formation of additional teams within an age group.
 - b) In the event an established SMU team folds or plays through all applicable age groups, at the conclusion of the last season's activities any remaining proceeds from that team shall revert back to the club. The team should strive to expense all funds towards team activities prior to the final folding of the team.
6. **Laws of the Game and General Policies.**
- a) Laws of the Game, Law interpretations, and registration policies shall conform to MSYSA, the appropriate travel league(s) policies, and the SMU policies and within otherwise undefined areas, SMYS policies.
7. **St. Mary's United (SMU) Recruiting Policies.**
- a) No promises of favors or guarantees shall be given to ANY player prior to, during, or after the team selections.
 - b) SMU Coaches are prohibited from recruiting players currently rostered and playing for another SMU team without first contacting the respective Head Coach and the SMU President.

- c) SMU coaches are encouraged to recruit from the SMYS recreational league teams, including the Rec Plus program, prior to the commencement of a season.
 - d) Adhere to the recruiting policies and restrictions of the appropriate league(s) as well as MSYSA.
8. **St. Mary's United (SMU) Tryouts.** SMU coaches shall:
- a) Adhere to all SMU policies of the try-out process at the end of the spring season. SMU will host, as practicable, try-outs for all age groups at a designated time and location. SMU will host a minimum of two try-outs for the upcoming seasonal year. SMU President and Head Coach hold the discretion for an addition try-out if deemed necessary. Any addition requirements must be coordinated and addressed through the SMU President prior to being conducted. The SMU President will post to the SMU portion of the SMYS website the time and location of all try-outs. (A historical guideline has been two weeks' notice prior to local advertising). SMYS will pay for the advertising associated with the coordinated try-outs; individual Head Coaches are responsible for additional independent requirements.
 - b) SMU coaches shall have all players try-out for teams within their respective age group except under the following conditions:
 - 1) When a players skill level from an applicable age group, after being evaluated by an evaluation panel of coaches (in good standing), is determined to be capable of competing one age group higher than the applicable age group.
 - 2) Maximum allowable deviances:
 - a) Per player – Dependent upon players skill level.
 - b) Per team – 25%
 - c) All SMU Head Coaches in good standing at the monthly SMU meetings prior to rostering the team will entertain waivers for players playing out of their age group. Waivers will be granted on a case by case basis by the SMU President and will be reviewed before the next calendar year of play.
9. **St. Mary's United (SMU) President and SMU Coaches Selection Process.**
- a) The SMU President shall be known as the Vice President of Travel (SMU) on the SMYS Executive Board under the following conditions:
 - 1) SMU shall be the nominating and approving committee for the SMU President.
 - 2) The SMU President will be placed on the SMYS ballot as the only nominee for the position of Vice President of Travel (SMU).
 - 3) The general membership of SMYS will vote to accept the SMU nominee for the position of SMYS Vice President of Travel (SMU).
 - b) SMU coaches shall be selected as follows:
 - 1) The Head Coach must hold a USSF "D" License or equivalent within one year of becoming a SMU Head Coach.
 - 2) Assistant Coaches must hold a USSF "E" License or equivalent within one year of becoming a SMU Assistant Coach
 - 3) All Coaches must meet two of the following minimum certification requirements below. Any listed combination appropriate to the age group:
 - a) Four seasons of recreational coaching experience.
 - b) Two seasons of competitive coaching experience.

- c) Competitive level playing experience.
- d) Competent knowledge of the game for the age group in question as evaluated at a SMU meeting.
- e) Other combinations of the above if approved by majority vote.
- 4) Be nominated and approved by a majority vote of SMU Head Coaches in good standing.
 - a) Coaches in good standing are defined as those who are either actively coaching a SMU team in the current seasonal year, coached a SMU team in the previous season and awaiting the spring season (i.e., high school age team), or those who have not had a SMU team for more than one calendar year and have attended at least 50% of the SMU meetings since last coaching.
 - b) Coaches are encouraged to participate at another age group once their team has graduated out of SMU.
 - c) Experienced coaching is necessary to sustain the higher level of play desired by SMU. SMU coaches should recognize the necessity for SMU to utilize the most competent and/or experienced coaches available.
- 5) The list of approved SMU coaches and managers will be submitted to the SMYS Executive Board for acceptance, in compliance with the SMYS Constitution.

10. Conduct.

- a) All SMU members will conduct their actions in accordance with these St. Mary's United (SMU) by-laws, the SMYS constitution, the appropriate travel league policies, as well as MSYSA and USYSA guidelines. Inappropriate conduct, including unsportsmanlike behavior, shall be reported to the SMU President and the R & D committee for disciplinary action.

11. Discipline Authority and Policies

- a) Upon notification of a violation of the SMU by-laws, the SMU President has the authority to commence an investigation. An investigation will be initiated for, but not limited to, the following action(s):
 - 1) Working against the principles, purpose, and policies of SMU.
 - 2) Profession dishonesty, cheating, etc.
 - 3) Injuring the professional standing of a SMU member.
- b) The R&D Committee made up of no less than three SMU members and including the SMU President shall be convened to review incidents or review the findings and recommendations of the other investigative individuals or committees initiated by the SMU President as stated above. The R&D Committee, with a majority vote, can recommend to the SMU President that one of the following happens:
 - 1) No further action is warranted.
 - 2) Probations, suspensions, sanctions, or other action(s) as deemed appropriate should be issued.
 - 3) The R&D Committee's recommendation is forwarded to the SMYS Board for disposition.
- c) Convene the Executive Board at a special meeting to review, investigate, or impose such penalties, sanctions, and/or training requirements necessary to make a Parent, Player or Coach aware of the fundamental responsibilities they must adhere to as a member of SMYS. The SMU

President will preside over the Executive Board and his/her vote would be counted as a member of the board. This may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Requiring the individual(s) to review the constitution and the by-laws of St. Mary's United (SMU), Maryland State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA), United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), and/or other affiliated leagues.

12. Appeals Process.

- a) If the SMU President approves the R&D committee's recommendation, the SMU President will provide written and verbal notice to the individual(s) concerned within 45 days of the incident. Additionally, the individual(s) will be provided a copy of the USYSA and SMU by-laws which outlines the appeals process that the individual(s) can initiate.
- b) No SMU member, official, SMYS, league, Coach, Referee or Player, or their representative, may invoke the aid of the Courts of any State or of the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within appropriate soccer organizations. This includes the MSYSA and as set forth in section 5(c), of Rule 4020, "Appeals", of the USYSA. For violations of this rule, the offending party shall be subject to the sanctions of suspension and fines as applicable. The individual(s) shall be liable to SMYS and other appropriate soccer organizations for the expenses incurred by the SMYS and its officers, state and national associations and their officers, as appropriate, in defending each court action, including but not limited to the following:
 - 1) Court costs.
 - 2) Attorneys fees
 - 3) Reasonable compensation for time spent by SMU, SMYS, MSYSA, and USYSA officers and employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances.
 - 4) Travel expenses.
 - 5) Expenses imposed by the State Association and USYSA.
 - a) Refer to the current USYSA official Administrative Rule Book for rules governing the Appeals process and associated costs. A coach may rebut the action(s) taken; however, the rebuttal must be submitted in writing to the SMU President within two weeks of the action taken.

13. Fees and Dues.

- a) SMU shall review and assess fees on a seasonal basis. This shall be concluded and posted prior to the start of the new playing season on or about August 1st and February 1st of the applicable seasonal year.
- b) SMU itself will assess each team annual dues based on the number of eligible roster spots for the appropriate age group. This means if teams can roster 18 players that teams dues will be a per player fee multiplied by 18. These fees/dues can include, but are not limited to:
 - 1) Professional Education.
 - 2) Club/team equipment to loan to teams.
 - 3) Uniforms.
 - 4) Tournament fees.
 - 5) Defray costs associated with the field maintenance and upkeep.