

# **CHARIHO Youth Soccer Association**

## **Competitive Soccer Program**

### **Updated 20 January 2010**

#### ***I. INTRODUCTION***

The following articles reiterate and augment the Constitution and the Bylaws of the CHARIHO Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) pertain to the Competitive Soccer Program and do not apply to the articles that pertain to the Fall Recreation Program.

#### ***II. PURPOSE***

The purpose of the CHARIHO Youth Soccer Association Competitive Soccer Program shall be to bring together the most skilled players of the CYSA to participate in the competitive soccer programs offered through other organizations. Such participation will benefit the entire league by raising the participants' skill levels, the level of play within the entire league, and increase interest in the game of soccer.

The CYSA Competitive Soccer Program shall endeavor to assemble and train the strongest team's possible for each particular division to best represent the CHARIHO Youth Soccer Association.

#### ***III. FINANCES***

Each competitive team will be self-supporting. Finances and funding will be administered through the Competitive Account through the Competitive Director.

All fees incurred by CHARIHO Youth Soccer Association competitive teams in local, state, regional and national competitive soccer programs, will go through the Competitive Account and will be paid to any local, state, regional and national competitive soccer program by the President or the Competitive Director. Coaches are not authorized to pay any fees or deposits directly. All checks are to be made out to "CYSA".

All fines, fees and balances imposed to a team or coach, are the responsibility of that coach and must be paid through the league by that coach. Failure to do so will be a violation of the CYSA Bylaws and grounds for disciplinary action.

#### ***IV. TEAM COLORS***

The representative colors for all CYSA competitive teams shall be dark (forest) green and white. Only league approved uniforms shall be worn. The Board will assign one individual to contact and order competitive uniforms for CHARIHO Youth Soccer.

#### ***V. NUMBER OF PLAYERS***

The number of players on each team will be established by the head coach of the team, within the limits allowed by the sponsoring organization, from the available pool of players. No team is required to carry the full roster limit.

#### ***VI. PLAYING UP***

Players who have demonstrated exceptional skills and abilities may be allowed to move up into a higher age division with Board of Directors approval only. Any parent requesting to have their child move up to an older age division must notify the Board of Directors in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled tryout date for the respective team the child will be trying out for. If child was a previous competitive player, a written recommendation from a prior competitive coach is required. If not, a written recommendation from a recreational coach is required. This written recommendation must support the request by describing the player's skills and abilities as well as any other relevant information. The Board of Directors shall consider each request on an individual basis and notify the parents of the Board's decision within 7 days.

#### ***VII. PLAYER MISCONDUCT***

Depending upon the severity required, the coaching staff is empowered to sit a player out for one game at his/her discretion (i.e., repeatedly missing practice and/or games without notice, fighting, general distraction, etc.). Sitting a player out for two consecutive games requires prior approval from the Board of Directors. Disciplinary action for repeated violations may range from multiple game suspensions to removal from the team as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors

#### ***VIII. PARENT / SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT***

The conduct at soccer games and practices, in which CYSA teams participate, reflects on the CYSA organization; therefore, proper behavior must be observed. Each coach or team administrators shall be held responsible for the conduct of the spectators for or from their respective teams.

At no time shall drinking of alcoholic beverages be permitted at any game or practice sanctioned by or regularly scheduled by Soccer Rhode Island (SRI) or any affiliated team.

**IX. HEAD COACHES AND ASSISTANTS**

The coaches of the CHARIHO Youth Soccer Association Competitive Soccer Program shall endeavor to assemble the most competitive team possible for each particular division to best represent CHARIHO Youth Soccer, and to improve upon the skill level of all participants.

All Competitive coaches are required and assistant coaches recommended to obtain age specific certification. All coaches and assistant coaches are volunteers and receive no compensation for their services.

**A. COACHING REQUESTS**

All potential head coaches for a competitive team must, for every season, submit a Coaching Request Form to the Competitive Director for Board of Director approval within the following time frames:

- 1. 1. Fall Competitive Season - Prior to the Board of Directors Meeting in May.
- 2. 2. Columbus Day (Pepperell) Tournament - Prior to the Board of Directors Meeting in August.
- 3. 3. Winter (indoor) Competitive Season - Prior to the Board of Directors Meeting in August.
- 4. 4. Spring Competitive Season - Prior to the Board of Directors Meeting in October.
- 5. 5. Tournaments- As required.

Only in a case in which there is no coaching request for a particular age group, or if additional coaches for an age group are required, will the Competitive Director accept Coaching Request Forms and Criminal Records Check – Consent and Disclaimer Form (if applicable) after the above dates. These Coaching Request Forms will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval.

**B. CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK-CONSENT AND DISCLAIMER FORM**

All potential head and assistant coaches must complete and submit an on-line Criminal Records Check prior to being assigned any team. These background disclosures must be renewed every two- (2) years. Soccer Rhode Island maintains a complete list of approved coaches. Coaching applicants may be pre-approved contingent on the satisfactory return of the CRC.

In the event that a coaches background check fails, CYSA will notify the coach in writing that his/her coaching privileges are suspended immediately. Suspension means that the coach is not allowed to have contact with the team, running practices, games etc. It is recommended that the length of suspension for any offenses be the entire length of the court-imposed sentence. However, the Board of Directors may increase the length of suspension of any employee/volunteer should the Board of Directors deem that further protection of the youth members under its cognizance is warranted.

The coach has the option to appeal the suspension by providing a detailed official disposition as to why the background check failed. The appeal will be held in accordance with the CYSA appeals process. Any coach denied coaching privileges within the CYSA could further appeal this denial before Soccer Rhode Island (SRI). The CYSA follows SRI recommendations and as such appeals can only be directed to SRI.

**C. LICENSES**

The CHARIHO Youth Soccer Association requires that all Competitive coaches and recommends assistants obtain a license sponsored by either from a United States Soccer Federation (USSF) or National Soccer Coaching Association of America (NSCAA).

- U8 USSF Youth Level 1 / NSCAA Youth Diploma
- U10 USSF Youth Level 2 / NSCAA Adv. Youth Diploma
- U12 USSF “E” / NSCAA Regional Diploma
- U14 & Up USSF “D” / NSCAA Adv Regional Diploma

**D. SELECTION**

If two or more coaches apply to coach the **SAME TEAM**, the Board of Directors will determine which applicant will coach the team based on the following qualifications:

- 1. 1. License / Certification Level
- 2. 2. Number of years licensed / certified
- 3. 3. Number of years coaching
- 4. 4. Criminal Records Check-Consent and Disclaimer Form
- 5. 5. Prior coaching conduct and proper representation of CYSA and its rules and regulations.

If two or more coaches apply to coach the **SAME AGE DIVISION**, the Board of Directors will determine which applicant will be allowed to run the tryout(s). The chosen “Head Coach” applicant will be responsible to run the

tryout(s) and rank each player, see more under Competitive Tryouts Section X. The top ranked players will be grouped to form the first team roster. At that time if there are enough children to form multiple teams, the Head Coach can choose which team to coach. After the Head Coach has chosen the team to coach all other coach applicants and assistants can reapply to either assist the Head Coach or coach / assist coach the remaining teams. The CYSA Board will vote on the Head Coach based on the following criteria

1. 1. License / Certification Level
2. 2. Number of years licensed / certified
3. 3. Number of years coaching
4. 4. Criminal Records Check-Consent and Disclaimer Form
5. 5. Prior coaching conduct and proper representation of CYSA and its rules and regulations.

The Board of Directors will vote on each Coaching Request and the Competitive Director will notify applicants of its decision within 48 hours. Applicants may be approved contingent on the satisfactory return of the Criminal Records Check and/or the enrollment in the appropriate age specific licensing course.

If at any time a coach withdraws from taking a team, coach applicants can reapply for that position.

## **X. COMPETITIVE TRYOUTS**

Potential CYSA competitive players are not required to participate in the Fall Recreational season, but must be registered with CYSA. Players who desire to participate and are selected to any competitive team are expected to maintain an appropriate level of effort and commitment. Outside activities that prevent players from attending regular practices and games disrupts the intent of the program and is unfair to the coaching staff, other competitive players of the team, and the player themselves.

Every CYSA player must be given a chance to be selected for a position on a CYSA competitive team. The selection process generally involves, but is not limited to, a player evaluation based on a seasonal tryout as well as other information about a player that the team coach may have (e.g. from prior observation of the player during games.) Players are selected for specific divisions based on their athletic ability; soccer ability, potential, desire and discipline appropriate for their age group. Coaches of competitive teams have the final decision on player selection

### **A. TRYOUT ABSENCES**

In a case where a player cannot attend **ONE (1)** tryout, a written request to be considered as a competitive player for the upcoming season must be mailed to CYSA. This request will be delivered by e-mail to the Competitive Director or by the US Postal Service at any time prior to the published tryout date, but post marked no later than 3 delivery days after the published tryout date. This player would then be considered as if he/she attended the tryout, and assessment would be based on prior knowledge of player performance. No other method for any such request will be honored by CYSA.

In the event that a previously excused player cannot attend any **SECOND (2)** competitive tryout within the current soccer year, a written request to be considered as a competitive player for the upcoming season must be mailed to CYSA. This request will be delivered by e-mail to the Competitive Director or by the US Postal Service at any time prior to the published tryout date, but post marked no later than 3 delivery days after the published tryout date. This request will be considered by the CYSA Board of Directors before that player can be allowed for the competitive season. If the monthly CYSA Board of Directors Meeting conflicts with the tryout date, the Competitive Director will contact the Board Members for a consensus.

No excused absences will be granted for any player from more than 2 competitive tryouts within the soccer year.

This 3-delivery day rule can only be waived if:

1. 1. A player has recently moved into the CHARIHO area and registers with CYSA, or
2. 2. There is no waiting list in the requested age group, or
3. 3. There are an insufficient number of players to field a team, within limits established by the coach.

A written request or e-mail from this player, to be considered, as a competitive player for the upcoming season (Section X.A), must still be mailed to CYSA. If appropriate, their name will be forwarded to the "Head" coach in that age division and follow all established guidelines to that effect. This written request will not automatically establish a roster spot for this player on any team.

No other method for any such request will be honored by CYSA.

### **B. HEAD COACH RESPONSIBILITIES**

All "Head Coaches" are required to have every player attending the tryout sign in on a tryout attendance list and to provide a copy of this list to the Competitive Director at the conclusion of the tryout.

It is the responsibility of the "Head Coach" in each age division to inform the players/parents of the time frame for notification as part of the tryout process.

Parents of all participants attending the tryout, that have been selected to a team, must be notified by the Head Coach no later than 7 days after the published tryout date. If the 7-day notification time frame cannot be met, the coach must notify the Competitive Director, before the week passes, as to the reason(s) why the notification process cannot be accomplished, such as the need for a/an additional tryout(s). The Competitive Director will notify all "Head" coaches of any legitimate written requests for consideration, received by CYSA, post marked within 3 delivery days after the published tryout date. Please allow time for coaches with subsequent picks to contact their players within the same time frame.

It is the responsibility of the "Head Coach" in each age division to contact the parents of all participants attending the tryout, that have not been selected to a team, that they have been placed onto a waiting list, maintained by the Competitive Director.

Failure to comply with these tryout rules will result in the suspension of coaching approval and all processing of applicable paperwork by CYSA, as well as possible disciplinary action, which may range from a verbal reprimand to the removal of coaching approval.

## **XI. TEAM SELECTION**

Players are not allowed to choose their own team or coach. The coaches, based on the pre-approved ranking process, make all player selections.

Players are generally selected for specific teams based on their overall athletic ability; soccer ability, potential, desire, and discipline appropriate for their age group. Player selection is based upon, but not limited to, a player evaluation based on a seasonal tryout as well as other information about a player that the team coach may have (e.g. from prior observation of the player during games).

### **A. A. WAITING LIST**

The CYSA Competitive Director will maintain a confidential waiting list consisting of players in all age divisions that attended the tryout (or submitted a letter within the 3-day grace period per Section X.A), but were not currently selected to a team.

The waiting list option provides a method for coaches to fill positions, as they become available. Additional players needed for any team for a particular season may only be selected from the waiting list of that season's tryout. This rule can be waived by the Competitive Director only if:

1. 1. There are no players on the tryout waiting list for that age division, or
2. 2. All players on the tryout waiting list for that age division decline to play.

The waiting list also provides a means for an approved coach to step forward and take these additional players as a team. The Competitive Director will make every effort to assist in the formation of a team if the number of available players warrants it.

Any player interested in participating for a season in order to complete team (i.e. no waiting list) or is beyond the 3-day grace period (Section X - A), must still mail a written request to be considered as a competitive player for that season to the CYSA P.O. box. Their name will be forwarded to the "First Pick" coach if both the above stipulations are met and follow all established guidelines to that effect. No other method for any such request will be honored by CYSA.

### **B. B. PRIMARY / SECONDARY TEAMS**

The CHARIHO team, a player is initially selected to becomes his/her PRIMARY team. Any player can participate during the same season and within the same age division for another SECONDARY CYSA or neighboring town team, providing that:

1. 1. A player fulfills all obligations to the primary CHARIHO team (i.e. fees, practices, and games) first and completely.
2. 2. The secondary team does not participate in the same facility, or is entered into the same tournament as, the primary CHARIHO team.
3. 3. The appropriate Release forms (if required) are approved.

Any player will be placed in bad standing with CYSA in violation of the above rules.

### C. C. PLAYER PARTICIPATION

A player must play for the primary team he/she was selected to. However, if a player has a sound legitimate reason for not wanting to participate with the team that they are selected to, that player must inform the coach and the Competitive Director that they request to be released from that team. The coach has the right to grant or refuse this request. If granted, the player is then eligible to participate with another CYSA team within that age group. If refused, that player will not be allowed to participate on any other CYSA team.

### D. OUT OF TOWN PLAYERS

Any player from a neighboring town can play for CYSA for a specific season, providing that a Temporary Release Form is submitted to CYSA by his/her primary association. Any player from a neighboring town can play for CYSA for a complete soccer year, providing that a Permanent Release Form is submitted to CYSA by his/her primary association.

Any CYSA player can play for a neighboring town for a specific season, providing that a Temporary Release Form is requested from CYSA and submitted to the secondary association. Any CYSA player can play for a neighboring town for a complete soccer year, providing that a Permanent Release Form is requested from CYSA and submitted to the secondary association.

### E. PREMIER PLAYERS

Premier Club players can play for a CYSA team up to a maximum of 1/3 of the teams players (maximum roster = 18). The Premier Club player's primary team is their Premier team. Permission to play must be obtained from their Premier Club in order for the player to play for CYSA.

If a U-12 player plays on a Premier team in the U-13 or U-14 age group, that player has to play on a U-14 CYSA team.

If a CYSA player is asked to play for a Premier Club team, for a specific game or games, an approved Temporary Release Form from CYSA is required prior to player participation.

### F. RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

The following paragraph is from the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Rules and Regulations Book, Section 7 – Paragraph D, Subparagraph 3:

“During the academic year, a student athlete may participate in non-school sponsored competition in a sport provided:

1. 1. It is not an all-star team contest
2. 2. No coaching is received from a student's high school coach(s) in that sport.
3. 3. This does not include 8th grade students and does not apply to Indoor/Winter soccer.

A Competitive team shall be allowed to join the playing schedule of another session, season or tournament only when it has completed all obligations to this Association, i.e. all financial liabilities.

Coaches of competitive teams have final decision on player selection.

### ***XII. PRACTICE / GAME ATTENDANCE***

Playing on a competitive team requires a higher level of commitment than that of the Fall Recreational Program. Since the main goal of the CYSA Competitive Soccer Program is to foster and improve upon the skill level of all participants, players who desire to participate and are selected to any competitive team are expected to maintain an appropriate level of effort and commitment. Outside activities that prevent players from attending regular practices and games disrupts the intent of the program and is unfair to the coaching staff, other competitive players of the team, and the player themselves.

In fairness to all the CYSA competitive teams, players and coaches, and to ensure the integrity of our program, the following attendance requirements apply:

- Players must attend and participate in all practices and games in accordance with the head coaches team rules.
- As a common courtesy, players must inform the coach of any practice or game that he/she will be late or miss.
- Players are asked to be on time to all practices and games and to participate in the entire practice and game.
- Coaches cannot require players to attend more than two practices per week.

The U8 and U10 divisions are considered developmental and no game standings are kept. Each and every player in “good standing” must be allowed to play at least 50% of each game. The CYSA Competitive Soccer Program supports and enforces all USYSL mandates in this area pertaining to minimum playing time. The coaching staff is empowered to sit a player out for one game at his/her discretion for disciplinary action. Sitting a player out for two consecutive games requires prior approval from the Board of Directors.

Coaches may be allowed to play any U8 & U10 player less than fifty percent (50%) of a game for disciplinary (as defined by Article II, Section C., of the Bylaws) or medical reasons only.

The U12 and above divisions are full competitive divisions which are not governed by the developmental standards, therefore there is no minimum playing time guidelines. The coaching staff is empowered to sit a player out for one game at his/her discretion for disciplinary action. Sitting a player out for two consecutive games requires prior approval from the Board of Directors. (\* Reference "PLAYER MISCONDUCT" section).

### ***XIII. INDOOR / TOURNAMENTS***

Indoor/Winter soccer is considered a tournament. If the facility has two or more sessions per season, each session is considered a separate tournament and the below must be followed for each.

Coaches interested in taking a team to a tournament must submit a Coaching Request Form and a Criminal Records Check-Consent and Disclaimer Form (if applicable) to the Competitive Director. Board of Director approval must be obtained PRIOR to registering a team in any tournament.

Approved coaches must submit to the Competitive Director, not less than forty-five (45) days in advance of the tournament, the following:

- A copy of the team roster including names, addresses, birthdates, and phone numbers.
- A Request to Travel Form, 4-part for out of state travel, 1-part for in-state travel.
- A new Player Pass (or copy of existing) signed by the player, including a picture with a fee for each.
- Coaching Pass (or copy of existing) for head and assistants including a fee for each.
- Age verification in the form of a **non-hospital** Birth Certificate, Passport, or previous year's pass.
- No Birth Certificates directly from a Hospital or Baptismal Certificates will be accepted.
- Two addressed stamped envelopes; one addressed to the Coach, and one addressed to the Tournament Director.
- A copy of the "Application to Host" form from the hosting association.
- All applicable registration fees, tournament fees, patch fees.

All fees are to go through the Competitive Director and are paid from the Competitive Account. Coaches are not authorized to pay any fee directly. All checks are to be made out to "CYSA".

All fines, fees and balances imposed to a team or coach, are the responsibility of that coach and must be paid through the league by that coach. Failure to do so will be a violation of the CYSA Bylaws and grounds for disciplinary action. All checks are to be made out to "CYSA".

### ***XIV. COACHES CONDUCT***

The coaches of the CHARIHO Youth Soccer Association Competitive Soccer Program shall endeavor to assemble the most competitive team possible for each particular division to best represent CHARIHO Youth Soccer, and to improve upon the skill level of all participants to the best of their ability. CYSA coaches should foster and promote the philosophy that soccer is a game and is intended to be FUN.

In accordance with the ideals and goals of the CYSA, all coaches must demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. They should encourage their players to be gracious in losing as well as winning. Coaches should discourage the concept that winning is the only worthwhile result and encourage players to do their best for the entire game, regardless of the outcome.

Coaches are representing the CYSA at all practices and games and must set a good example to all soccer players. Therefore, there will be no use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products on the practice or playing fields. Coaches may not attend practices while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

There will be no tolerance of any abuse, either physical or verbal, to anyone associated with the organization, SRI, SuperLiga and hosting facilities, such as but not limited to, any players, referees, parents, facility representatives, or league officials by any coach.

All coaches are required to uphold the CYSA Bylaws and all Competitive coaches are required to attend any competitive meetings as scheduled in the Calendar of Activities handbook or by the Competitive Director.

### ***XV. DISCIPLINE OF COACHES***

A request for reprimand or disciplinary action for any coach must be submitted in writing to the President or Vice-President of the Association, who will call a meeting of the Board of Directors. Any action disputed by the coach may be appealed by said coach to the Board of Directors who will decide what course of action to take. Some examples for which action may be taken are, but not limited to: team neglect, abuse of a child (either verbally or physical), foul language, aggressive behavior, disobeying CYSA by-law's and procedures, or anything that reflects negatively on the Association.

If a coach receives a game ejection (Red Card), the coach must leave the playing area and no longer encourage, talk or coach his/her players for the duration of the game, nor shall said coach be permitted to coach the next scheduled regular season or playoff game. Any coach accumulating two- (2) ejection's (Red Card) or three (3) cautions (Yellow Card) in one season will not be allowed to coach next season. The Director of Referees will record all incidents that occur during the season.

Any coach continually behaving in a rude or disruptive manner towards "an official", may be suspended from the team, or

removed from the team by the Board of Directors. An official, for the sole purpose of this specific regulation shall be defined as a referee, assistant referee, player, other coach, or team administrator.