

**Tidewater Advanced
Soccer League (TASL)
Policies and
Guidelines**

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TASL reserves the right to insert Addendums as they are approved by TASL. Any addendum becomes effective at the time it is approved and shall be communicated by Club Reps to their home organization and participating members at the conclusion of the meeting in which the addendum was approved. All addendums are to be posted by quickest means available to this document.

About TASL - Tidewater Advanced Soccer League (TASL), www.tasli.org is a corporation as defined in both United States and Commonwealth of Virginia statutory law whose principal purpose is to promote youth soccer. Although membership is from clubs predominantly from the Tidewater Area, membership may be offered to any club in the Southeast Region of the Commonwealth of Virginia or Northeast Region of North Carolina.

Section 1 – TASL League Policies, Guidelines and General Information

Section 1.1 - Philosophy

TASL offers competition at all levels of recreational youth soccer for boys, girls, and co-ed. Participation in TASL is extended to all clubs affiliated with the US Soccer Federation (US Soccer). TASL provides an umbrella organization that is designed to bridge the gap between pure recreational players and competitive/travel players.

Section 1.2 – Mission

The mission of TASL is to foster a safe youth/young adult soccer experience for every youth player registered, while instilling sportsmanship, teamwork, respect and loyalty, which creates a positive climate for member clubs, players and coaches to develop and flourish both in soccer and as contributing citizens.

Section 1.3 – Participation/Membership

Organizations desiring participation and/or membership should submit a TASL Club Application for consideration and approval by the Voting Member Organizations. Application can be found within Appendix A of this document. Organizations desiring participation in TASL who have not been approved or who miss the deadline for submitting application may inquire about being sponsored to play by a Voting Member Organization (Club). Base requirements are that the team being sponsored must play under the Organization name which is sponsoring them, i.e. BFC [Team Name] (Sponsored Club name). Sponsored organization must use sponsor organizations fields for all home games. Sponsored organization must pay all applicable fees for TASL to the sponsor who will pay TASL on your behalf. Sponsored organization must provide TASL with a copy of their organizational structure and contact information (meaning BOD, etc.). Sponsored organization must also provide TASL with a copy of their player insurance policy, and sponsored organization must meet all requirements placed on it by said sponsor (as may be applicable outside of what TASL requires).

New clubs desiring entry into TASL must be approved by a positive vote of two-thirds of the TASL voting Board Members and submit a one-time entry fee which will be provided once notice of intent for application is provided to the board of directors. Additional requirements may be modified from season to season as approved by the TASL BOD and Voting Members so each organization wishing to be sponsored must clarify with their sponsor any additional requirements that TASL or the sponsoring Club may place on them. It is expected that all Officers and Club Representatives attend TASL meetings. Clubs without representation at two consecutive TASL meetings (as scheduled) or three TASL meetings in a calendar year will be assessed a \$100 fine unless excused and same having been noted in TASL minutes. In addition, the meeting minutes will reflect clubs without representation.

Section 1.4– Member in Good Standing

Both participating and voting member clubs within TASL must be in good standing and recognized by VYSA, AYSO, or other affiliates of the US Soccer Federation at all times they are part of TASL. Additionally, they must keep up to date with TASL fees/fines owed, representation at TASL BOD meetings and understand/uphold the TASL Policies and Guidelines and TASL Rules defined in TASL’s guiding documents. To maintain good standing in TASL, Appendix B must be submitted each season when TASL Team Declarations are due.

Section 1.5 - Composition of the TASL Board of Directors

Refer to Bylaws

Section 1.6 - TASL Officers

Please refer to the TASL website: www.tasli.org for a list of the current Officers (Board of Directors-referred to as BOD), Committee Members (if applicable) and Organizational Representatives, or Executive Body/Persons.

Section 1.7 - Duties and Responsibilities of TASL Board Members

Refer to Bylaws

Section 1.8 - Applicability

These policies, procedures and guidelines apply to all member and participating organizations (including those being sponsored) and their players, coaches, team and club officials as well as parents, spectators and others associated with the member. Lack of knowledge of these Rules and Procedures will not relieve any coach, team official, parent or player of a team participating in TASL, or seeking entry into TASL, from the responsibilities and possible penalties contained herein. ALL CLUBS, TEAM OFFICIALS, PARENTS AND PLAYERS, BY PARTICIPATING IN TASL PLAY, AGREE THAT THEY ARE BOUND BY THESE RULES. All Sanctioning Documents and specific rules and regulations included therein also apply to all members participating at all times.

Section 1.9 – Nomination of Officers

Refer to Bylaws

Section 2 - League Registration Policies

Section 2.1 - Club Registration

Each member club within TASL shall publish and be responsible for the administration of the registration process within respective clubs. Issues arising from registration within a club shall be handled within that club in accordance with the rules established by that club for adjudication of such matters. TASL, generally, will not involve itself in the adjudication of registration issues that concern only one-member club. An exception to this rule is made at the request of a member club to forward the issue to TASL for adjudication. In this event, the referring club shall agree, in advance, to abide by the decision of the TASL Board, which shall render a binding decision. TASL will involve itself in registration issues if more than one-member club is involved in a dispute. In this case, the TASL Board shall issue a ruling, which will be binding on all parties. TASL matches should be sanctioned through the auspices of the US Soccer Federation as applicable, dependent upon the affiliation of TASL and/or its participating Clubs. Sanctioned matches require

participants to be registered with a parent organization for injury insurance purposes. Players registered through VYSA and other state soccer associations are automatically enrolled in a group medical insurance plan, which may be accessed for secondary payment for all injuries sustained in a sanctioned event, which includes practices as well as matches. AYSO has a similar program for players registered through that organization. Other Federation members have similar arrangements. Teams registered through and representing other Federation members are considered properly registered and sanctioned in accordance with US Soccer rules.

All clubs participating in TASL, in accordance with the mandate of VYSA and other state soccer associations, are required to adopt a concussion management policy and program to manage concussion injuries among player participants in their programs and activities. Please defer to the individual clubs' concussion policy and program for their player participants.

Section 2.2 - Team Registration

Teams are formed in accordance with the rules established by the parent club, with deadlines also being established by the individual clubs. TASL expects clubs to form teams in accordance with the age groups by Birth Year. See Appendix C. TASL recognizes these age groups as established and expects teams to be formed in “true age group fashion”. This means that if a team is to be registered as an U9 team then the age of the players is expected to be U9 aged players and so forth. No over-age player may be rostered to an under-age team; therefore, for example, no U10 aged player may be rostered to an U9 team. Additionally, TASL recognizes play “up”, meaning playing outside your true age group. TASL encourages clubs to form teams age appropriately and encourages clubs to refrain from allowing teams to be formed with underage players. Playing “up” 3 or more age groups is strongly discouraged.

The Administrator of TASL shall establish a deadline for the completion of online team declarations via the TASL website for inclusion in the upcoming season League schedule. All League Fees, as established by the TASL Board will be due not later than 10 days prior to Opening Day, unless an exception is granted by the TASL Board of Directors in writing. Fees are made payable to TASL and are remitted directly to the TASL Treasurer/Bookkeeper by the deadline stated by TASL BOD prior to each season and posted on the TASL website and/or conveyed to TASL Participating Organization Representatives. Organizations failing to pay fees in full will have teams suspended from the schedule until the fees are paid. Organizations not paying fees by the deadline will forfeit matches the 1st weekend of the upcoming League season schedule play. Organizations failing to pay Full Season Fees by the 3rd weekend of the upcoming League season schedule match play will not have teams re-admitted for match play that season. Organizations wishing to resolve fiscal responsibility and have matches rescheduled must make full financial restitution prior to the 3rd weekend of match play and understand team matches will only be re-admitted to the schedule 5 days after the payment has been received. All matches missed due to failure to resolve financial matters will be the responsibility of the team's club or sponsoring club and said club will be assessed applicable forfeiture fines as determined by TASL.

Generally, there are two basic types of teams that participate in TASL. These types are determined by the parent club on the basis of team formation. If a team is formed through a tryout process (i.e. competition for places on the team roster), it is considered to be an advanced team. Teams which are formed on a pay-for-play basis (i.e. assignment to teams based upon

payment of a registration fee) are considered recreational teams. The TASL Board may make exceptions to this general rule on a case-by-case basis. The Competition Committee will determine divisional placement of teams.

ANY club with a team that folds and/or is withdrawn after having been declared will be assessed a fine as follows: Teams folding after TASL Schedules are prepared will be assessed a fine of \$100. Teams may not be declared for the following season by a club until club fees and all fines have been paid.

Section 2.3 - Player Registration

TASL conforms to the policies established by US Soccer Federation through which feeder organizations are sanctioned and through which matches may be sanctioned. US Soccer Federation members are covered by group liability insurance policies, which cover injuries sustained during practice and /or match play. As such, all players must be properly rostered and registered through their parent nationally affiliated organizations. Individual players are to be placed on an approved Roster Form (see example Appendix D) that includes: Jersey No., Player Name, Address, Phone No., and Date of Birth (DOB). Completed rosters shall be signed by a club officer designated by the club president and shall be kept on file with the club registrar. League/Team rosters are due to the TASL Administrator on or before the 1st weekend of the upcoming League season. Rosters are frozen not later than 1 APR for the spring season and 1 OCT for the fall season, after which time no additions or deletions to any team roster may be made without the approval of the TASL Board of Directors in writing. The size of the authorized roster will be dependent upon the age group of the players. US Soccer recognizes the soccer-playing calendar established by the Federacion Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) which runs from 1 August of one year to 31 July of the following year. The birth year of the oldest child on a team roster will determine the age group in which the team competes. Nominally, player registration is effective for the entire soccer year, unless the player's parent club has more stringent requirements in which case the parent club's rules take precedence. Refer to Appendix C- US Youth Soccer Birth Year Matrix. Note: TASL teams compete at birth years U9-U19 only.

Players appearing on the authorized team roster are considered registered players. Coaches or team manager are required to carry player passes (which shall include the players picture) signed by either the parent club president or registrar and a copy of their authorized roster. Player passes MUST have a current photograph of the player permanently affixed. Questions concerning whether a player on the field is properly rostered shall be addressed with the opposing coach either directly prior or directly subsequent to the match in the presence of the individual venue Site Representative who shall communicate with the TASL Representative for said team in question. Furthermore, the opposing team coach and/or Site Representative and/or TASL Official have the right to request that the referee conduct a full review of that team's roster and player cards on site at the time the request is made. Roster issues that remain unresolved or incidents with teams that are missing their roster or player cards will be reported immediately to a TASL official (President, Vice President, or Administrator) for final determination by fastest available record means (e.g. telephonic, e-mail, text messaging, or other verification).

Section 2.4 – Additional Player Registration Requirements

During regular season games, every effort will be made to resolve issues and games should commence as scheduled with a final report being submitted to TASL representatives for submission to the TASL President and Administrator. Rosters and players are expected to be at every match for only those players registered with said club and rostered to said team. At no point in time are guest players allowed to participate in a TASL match, regular season or tournament. Additionally, players are only permitted to be rostered on ONE TASL roster during a season. No dual rostering is permitted; players cannot participate on two TASL rosters.

TASL is opposed to the cross recruiting of players between member clubs during the seasonal year as note in Section 2.3. Cross recruiting of players within the member clubs are an issue for the member club themselves. However, players will be allowed to change teams between playing seasons (i.e. fall and spring) in accordance with the gaining and losing club registration policies. Transfers that occur outside this process shall be adjudicated by TASL as provided for under the Adjudication and Grievance Procedures elsewhere in this manual.

Section 2.5 - Participation Policy

The Advanced Program is established to act as a “bridge” between strictly/solely Recreational play and Travel play. TASL Participating Organizations may have agreements whereby purely Recreational teams may be placed in purely Recreational brackets for play against other participating purely Recreational teams. The following basic guidelines are established:

Each team shall participate in all scheduled matches which may include the regular season and TASL Finals Event (referred to as tournament) IF planned and scheduled; and including all scheduled “rain dates” or “rain outs” or make up dates.

1. Each team shall be represented on the field of play by a coach or assistant coach, or other team official as designated by the club ahead of time.
2. Each coach shall be encouraged to play each player at least one-half of every match. Recreational teams are authorized to play in the Advanced Program as their placement is identified by their Club via their Club Representative and seeded by TASL.
3. Participating Organizations understand that teams declared are Advanced/Recreational teams. As such all players must be carded as Advanced/Recreational players.
4. TASL does not currently allow organizations to submit Travel (Select level of play) carded TEAMS for play in the Advanced/Recreational structure TASL has established. Select/Travel carded players are authorized to play simultaneously in any Advanced Program in TASL based on Participating Organization guidelines and so long as the TASL player rule regarding Travel carded players on Advanced teams playing in TASL is followed according to: Teams at U9-U12 will have no more than 4 Travel carded players on their roster, and Teams at U13 and higher will have no more than 6 Travel carded players on their roster. Furthermore, TASL Competition Committee shall be informed at said Competition Committee meeting prior to the season in which said match play will commence. Such teams will be carefully evaluated by the TASL Competition Committee for placement in the appropriate competitive division for match play.
5. Each participating Organization is expected to abide by this guideline and monitor the status of all teams declared to TASL for match play in TASL, including any such teams being sponsored by said Voting Member Organization.

Section 3 - Coaches

Section 3.1 – Selection

The selection of coaches to participate within any program within TASL will be at the discretion of the member clubs. TASL will not normally involve itself in the selection of coaches unless specifically requested to do so by a member club.

Section 3.2 - Guidelines

The following guidelines are provided for the selection and retention of coaches participating in TASL programs:

1. Head Coaches should be of sufficient maturity and moral character to accept the responsibility that coaching youth requires. While it is not the policy of TASL to provide guidance for the minimum age of coaches or assistants, member clubs should take into consideration the age of its coaches versus the age of the players they are assigned to coach. For example, it would be considered inappropriate for an 18-yr old person to coach a U19 team. Additionally, the use of convicted felons, sex offenders, and/or pedophiles as coaches is prohibited. All clubs participating in TASL, in accordance with the mandate of VYSA and other state soccer associations, are required to submit an approved risk management application and/or background check in order to preserve the safety and welfare of the youth involved in the TASL league.
2. Head Coaches shall possess sufficient knowledge to carry out the responsibility of coaching the game of soccer. To that end, it shall be the recommended practice (and strongly encouraged expectation) of TASL that each coach participating in a TASL program possess a USSF, United Soccer Coaches' or equivalent coaching license certificate.
 - a. Licenses ensure that age-specific coaching is conducted.
 - b. Licensure course are scheduled through the various entities which fall under the US Soccer Federation and are held several times annually.
 - c. Assistant Coaches remaining in the program more than one year are encouraged to obtain the appropriate licenses as well.
3. TASL often offers coaching education incentives and reimbursement programs to its coaches. Coaches should contact their TASL rep for details.
4. It is expected that TASL coaches conduct themselves in an appropriate manner while on the field, either during practices or matches. Coaches unable to control their emotions, verbally (or physically) abuse players, other coaches, parents, League Officials, or referees shall be disciplined in accordance with procedures found elsewhere in this document.

Section 4 - Scheduling Policies

Section 4.1 - Pre-Season Registration Deadlines

Member clubs conduct registration in accordance with their own internal procedures and those listed elsewhere in this manual. Due to the substantial number of teams nominally entered for League play, the paucity of fields and referees, and to inform all players and their families of a season schedule, it is the desire of TASL to provide completed schedules to all concerned NOT LATER THAN 7 days prior to Opening Day. Accordingly, member clubs shall provide information required to schedule matches to the TASL Administrator NOT LATER THAN the date established by the TASL Board of Directors. As season dates vary from year to year, the Board will establish the appropriate dates prior to the respective season and publish those dates via the TASL website.

Section 4.2 - League Schedule

The league's goal is to provide and schedule as many matches as possible with an optimum of 6 matches. Due to scheduling conflicts and/or special accommodations, some teams may have more games and/or more double headers than other teams. The Seasonal League Schedule for Fall and Spring is developed prior to each season by majority vote of member Club Reps and may or may not consist of two parts (Regular matches and Finals matches). The decision to include a Finals Event as part of the season design is up to the Club Representatives by majority vote and may change from season to season. Match schedules, based on field availability may or may not consist of Saturday and Sunday play dates. All teams must appear for all matches unless applicable extenuating circumstances have been approved by TASL, or applicable fines and or sanctions will be assessed to the club.

The League schedule will be prepared by the TASL Administrator for dissemination to all TASL Clubs and member teams and posted on the TASL website. Member clubs desiring to place teams in the league schedule must declare them NOT LATER THAN team declaration deadline as established each season by the TASL BOD and Voting Member Clubs prior to the announced commencement of the League season.

Clubs shall use the electronic team declaration form provided on the TASL web site. Teams designated as advanced teams shall be placed in divisions with teams of like ability based on recommendation of the competition committee as approved by the TASL Board. All other teams will be assessed as well based on the declaration submitted by each Club Representative and as discussed and decided by majority vote of TASL. The league schedule will be produced based upon the number of teams entered per division and the number of fields available. Once promulgated, any changes to the league schedule must be submitted to and approved by the TASL Administrator. Request for changes through the TASL rep to divisional assignments must be reviewed and approved by the competition committee

Section 4.3 – Seasonal Matches

Any match scheduled (which may only be scheduled by the TASL Administrator) includes those dates listed as “rain outs” or “rain dates”. All teams are expected to be available for match play on any scheduled game date, including listed “rain dates” except in cases as described in this manual.

Section 4.4 - Match Scheduling Policy

Teams declared to TASL for scheduling shall be placed in divisions based on recommendation of the TASL Competition Committee and approval of the board. The league's goal is to provide and schedule as many matches as possible with an optimum of 6 matches according to the event sanctioning documents as applicable by design of majority vote of TASL Executive body, BOD and Club Representatives each season. Dependent upon the size of the division, availability of fields, and the play dates available, teams may be scheduled to play double headers. The TASL Administrator is responsible for the promulgation and maintenance of the League schedule. Changes thereto can only be authorized by the TASL Administrator with the advice of the TASL President and the TASL Board of Directors. Teams are required to field a team for ALL scheduled matches and ALL listed or scheduled rain dates. Two types of conditions may warrant rescheduling of a league match - emergency conditions and/or legitimate outside activities as specified below. In these circumstances, requests to reschedule league matches or rain out matches shall be made in writing by the TASL Club Rep of the team in question and verified via email to the TASL Administrator as soon as possible in the case of an emergency, prior to the scheduled match. Inability to field the minimum number of players (as defined by age group in the TASL Rules document) can be due to emergency conditions which are listed as follows:

1. Illness such as chicken pox, measles, food poisoning or other similar conditions affecting several team members. Note: Injuries, vacations, recreational activities or other team activities are not just cause for rescheduling matches.
2. Death of a team member or team official
3. Other emergency conditions at the discretion of the TASL Board of Directors.

Inability to field the minimum number of players, as defined in the TASL Rules document, by can be due to legitimate activities however, ALL Participating Organizations MUST provide TASL Administrator and President notice, in writing (email will suffice so long as it is confirmed received) prior to the scheduled match. The optimum goal should be to inform TASL prior to the schedule being published of any prior known conflicts. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture fine being assessed the offending team. Outside activities which are listed as follows:

1. School activities such as organized trips or standardized testing such as PSAT or SAT testing which become known on short notice. Otherwise all known trips must be reported to your TASL Rep who must immediately report to TASL Executive body and Administrator.
2. Religious Ceremonies, such as confirmation, or bar/bat mitzvah that includes several team members.
3. Other legitimate activities at the discretion of the TASL Board of Directors.
4. Referee no-show.

Save for the above circumstances, failure to provide a team for a scheduled league match will result in a forfeiture of that match. The offending team will be required to pay a minimum fine of \$75.00 or cost of the referees for the match whichever is greater per occurrence (payable to the TASL Treasurer). Since it is a premise of TASL to PLAY matches, forfeitures do a great deal of harm in that both teams are denied a match. Re-scheduling of forfeiture matches are normally not done unless the team that was prepared to play requests a re-schedule in writing to the TASL Board. The offending team's member Club Board TASL Representative must agree to the rescheduling and ensure that his/her team fields a proper team for that match. Failure to pay

the forfeiture fine by the end of the regular season will result in the offending team being ineligible for post-season events, season inclusive Tournaments and/or Finals Events planned for match play. In addition, a team that causes more than one forfeiture in a season will be subject to review for further League play by the TASL Board of Directors.

Section 4.5 – Match Cancellation Policy

1. Rainouts. Prior to each season the TASL BOD and all Participating Member Organization Representatives discuss and agree upon a rain out policy, which MUST be conveyed by each Organizations Representative to their respective teams. IF possible, the TASL Administrator may monitor the predicted weather conditions as game day approaches. Should adverse weather threaten the cancellation of matches 24-48 hours prior to game day, the TASL Administrator shall consider cancellation of all league matches upon consultation with the TASL President and Board of Directors. For inclement weather on game day, the following procedures shall apply:
2. In the event of inclement weather or at any time there is a doubt as to the playability of the fields, by 7 AM on a game day, the member club having jurisdiction of the venue to be used shall:
 - a. Verify the conditions of the fields.
 - b. Immediately notify the TASL Administrator when field(s) is unplayable.
 - c. Place the information on the agreed upon communication channels.
 - d. If, after matches begin, field conditions deteriorate which requires the cancellation of later matches, Club Representatives shall notify the TASL Administrator.
 - e. If fields are under the control of another activity (e.g., schools, park authorities) and these organizations determine playability of fields, member Club representatives must coordinate closely and in a timely manner to ensure early decisions and proper notifications are made.
3. Referee Decision of Unplayable Conditions:
 - a. A referee may suspend or terminate a match due to weather conditions; i.e., lightning, rain, fog, fields becoming unplayable in the opinion of the referee, etc. before or during a match. Under these conditions, the referee's decision is final. If at least one half of the match has been played, the match shall be deemed complete and the score shall stand.
 - b. After a referee cancellation, the host member Club shall determine if remaining matches scheduled for the field should be cancelled. In such cases, immediate notification of the TASL Administrator and Club referee assignor is required.

Section 4.6- League Standings

Standings, as maintained internally by TASL, and each organization's TASL Representative, have bearing on the seeding of the TASL brackets and are therefore relevant for the regular season and the maintenance of same shall be made by TASL. Such standings are used for internal TASL purposes regarding seeding as conducted by the Competition Committee as determined by TASL and upon approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 4.7 - Other Tournaments

There are several tournaments locally and statewide during the soccer year. While TASL will not prohibit any team from participating in any non-TASL tournament, it does reserve the right to require that teams desiring to enter a tournament which precludes the team from participating in a scheduled TASL match submit a notification via the online declaration NOT LATER THAN 30 days prior to the match date so schedules may be re-adjusted. Failure to submit the request in a timely manner may result in the team paying a forfeiture fine as provided for elsewhere in this document. Participation in a tournament on a scheduled TASL match game day is not guaranteed to be made up.

Section 5 – Referees

Section 5.1 - Referees and Assistants

All Referee Assignors and/or Referees working TASL matches, whether directly for TASL or through a participating organization, agree to adhere to and abide by TASL guidelines as set forth in the TASL by-laws, TASL Policies and Guidelines and TASL Rules. Assignment of Referees and Referee Assistants is currently being conducted through TASL participating clubs (including those organizations being sponsored to participate in TASL); however, TASL reserves the right to centralize this process directly under TASL supervision. Clubs engaging any Certified Referee Assignor to assign certified referees and/or referee assistants for any TASL match will instruct the Referee Assignor that all rules and guidelines will be adhered to including the responsibility of the Referee Assignor to inform referees and referee assistants of the TASL rules and guidelines, website address and schedule location and other applicable rules as indicated in this document including guidelines as set forth in Section 4.2 of this document.

Furthermore, Referee Assignors, Referees and Referee Assistants should be aware of section 2.3 of this document regarding player registration. Clubs must enlist certified referee assignors that employ only referee(s) and referee assistant(s) that are certified through US Soccer. Under no circumstance will an uncertified referee be used as center referee for any TASL match (required by FIFA and US Soccer), venue coordinators or the home coach shall enlist one or more spectators, referred to as a “Club Linesman,” to “run the line”. The club linesman should have at least a basic understanding of the laws of the games and can perform such function for the duration of the match or until relieved by a certified referee. Game referees/officials are defined as:

1. All currently registered and certified USSF referees, assistant referees, 4th officials or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match by being assigned by a currently Certified Referee Assignor.
2. Any non-certified, non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a “club linesman” referee.

Referees are as much a part of any soccer match as the coaches and players. The triumvirate of coach, player, and referee shall always strive to perform at their best level. By the same token, this same triumvirate will also commit errors. Only the “speaking captain(s)” shall be authorized to address the referees concerning aspects of the match in progress. Judgments made by the referee and assistants during the match are considered final and are not subject to debate.

Referees are well within their rights to send coaches, players, and/or spectators off (i.e. issue a RED card) before, during, or after a match for dissent.

Section 5.2 - Referees and Assistants Format for Games

Referees and assignors shall use a one-man system for matches up to U-10. A three-man system shall be used for all other matches U-11 and up. All Assignors are required to abide by this guideline if Assigning referees for TASL matches.

Section 5.3 - Referee Game Reports

Referees are required to file a complete game report with TASL, directly or via their referee assignor, for all games in which yellow or red cards were issued, regardless to whom or for what the card was issued in accordance with Section 6.2 – subparagraph 7 (issuance of cards), and for all games in which the referee deemed it necessary to suspend or terminate a match in accordance with Section 6.2 – subparagraph 11 (physical violence, foul and abusive language and/or harassment of players or referees).

Section 5.4 – Referee Validation of Registered Players

Referees are required to ensure that only registered players participate in their assigned TASL match. As such, before each match begins, referees must review the team rosters for completeness and that it has a club officer’s signature (other than the coach) and that listed players have a proper recreational player card in accordance with Section 2.3 of this manual.

Officials are required, prior to the beginning of each match, to physically match each card to every player during regular season matches, but MUST do so at the request of any match team official, TASL Officer/Club Representative, or site representative, and prior to every game during tournaments.

During regular season games, if a team does not have their roster or player cards, referees will report such shortcoming to the site representative and are required to follow up with an email to their Referee Assignor. Opposing team coaches and/or site representatives have two options: (1) not challenge the absence of the missing roster and players cards resulting in the game being played and counted or (2) assume the use of ineligible players and challenge the team without the roster and player cards in accordance with Section 2.3 of this document . Invoking Section 2.3 (second option) requires the field representative and coach without the team roster and player cards to accomplish certain procedural and reporting tasks, however, every effort should still be made or the game to be played. In the event a team is found to have violated the rules they may have their game(s) ruled a forfeit. During tournament games, the same process applies with certain exceptions outlined in Section 2.3 (potential that a game will not be played).

Section 6 - Adjudication and Grievance Policies and Procedures

Section 6.1 – Hearing and Appeal Rights

The Tidewater Advanced Soccer League adopts US Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) By-Law 701 as its own concerning a party’s right to appeal any decision rendered under these Rules and Procedures by the TASL Board.

Section 6.2 - Standards of Conduct

The Tidewater Advanced Soccer League (TASL) exists to provide the youth of Southeastern Virginia and, as applicable, North Eastern North Carolina, the opportunity to acquire and develop soccer skills through a higher level of competition. These skills, as well as the individual growth of the players cannot be nurtured in an environment, which permits confrontation, poor sportsmanship, and verbal/physical abuse amongst referees, coaches, players, and spectators. While it is not the policy of TASL to dictate internal policies to its member clubs, it will provide a framework governing undesirable behavior that the member clubs must adhere to in the administration of their teams. Players, coaches, and parents are expected to act and perform in a manner consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship. Coaches are expected to reinforce those same principles with their youth players and act in a manner that is above reproach and does not embarrass either the League or the member club he/she represents. To that end, the following policies are provided for guidance:

1. Under no circumstances shall a player, coach, parent, or spectator enter the field of play during the match, unless invited by the referee.
2. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, FOUL AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE, and/or HARRASSMENT OF PLAYERS OR REFEREES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
3. Parents and Spectators should be aware that the coach is responsible for their actions on the sidelines and he/she can and will be sent off the field and even banned from attending future matches for his/her misconduct. In the case of a parent/spectator being sent off by the referee, failure of the parent to depart the field and remain out of sight and hearing of the match in accordance with FIFA rules in a timely manner may result in an abandonment of the match at the sole discretion of the referee. In this case, the venue coordinator shall notify the TASL Administrator of the fact at their earliest convenience. Abandonment of the match under these circumstances will be considered a forfeit by the offending team and the appropriate team fine will be applied.
4. A player receiving an ejection (i.e. RED CARD) from the referee must sit out the remainder of that match plus his/her team's next TASL match. No substitution may be made for the ejected player during the match in which the red card was issued. The player must immediately leave the field and remove him/herself out of sight and hearing of the match in a timely manner. Players receiving two Red Cards during a season will be suspended from further League play pending review by the TASL Board of Directors. That review must be requested by the player before consideration to lift the suspension is made.
5. It is the duty of the coach and TASL Club representative to withhold ejected players from the next TASL match. Any violation of this requirement will be considered a separate offense and will be forwarded to the TASL Adjudication Committee for additional action.
6. Any team allowing a player, coach or team official to participate in a league match while under suspension shall forfeit the match in which the suspended individual participates.
7. The referee has the discretionary power to suspend or terminate a match whenever, by reason of the elements, interference by spectators, or other causes, he deems such stoppage necessary. When the referee terminates a match based on the conduct or actions of one team or its player(s), coach(es), team officials and/or spectators, the match will be scored as a forfeit by the offending team and the appropriate team fine will be applied.
8. A coach or team official receiving a sendoff instruction (i.e. RED CARD) from the referee

must leave the field and remain out of sight and hearing of the match for the remainder of the match. In addition, the coach is prohibited from participating in the next match and is not allowed to be present at the field or in the area surrounding the field. Coaches ejected from matches may be subject to review and additional sanctions by the TASL Adjudication Committee.

9. It is the coach's duty to self-impose the appropriate suspension. If a suspended coach participates, enters the field of play or the area surrounding the field while under suspension, the team shall forfeit the match and it will be scored as a forfeit by the offending team and the appropriate team fine will be applied.
10. Two Caution (i.e. YELLOW CARDS) given to the same player or coach in the same match will result in immediate ejection from the match and the rules outlined above regarding ejection apply.
11. Physical violence, foul and abusive language and/or harassment of players or referees will not be tolerated. Because of the seriousness of such instances, Red Cards issued during or after the end of a match, because of physical violence, foul and abusive language and/or harassment are subject to review by the TASL Adjudication Committee. The TASL Board of Directors may impose additional penalties, which are subject to appeal within TASL in accordance with Section 6.8. Normally, the TASL Adjudication Committee will conduct a disciplinary hearing when physical violence occurs before, during or after a match, to determine if additional penalties are warranted. The results of the hearing will be forwarded to the TASL Board of Directors for disposition.
12. Member clubs shall insure that these standards of conduct are distributed and understood throughout their club. Repetition of occurrences of misconduct which shows a "disregard for these guidelines" could lead to long term penalties, up to and including prohibition from further participation in TASL League play of the offending players and/or coaches.

Section 6.3 – Assault and Abuse General Guidance

Assault and abuse of any person connected with TASL matches has no place in League play and shall not be tolerated. Any incident concerning abuse shall be expeditiously reported to the TASL Administrator for referral to the TASL Board.

TASL will not involve itself in criminal prosecutions. This is a matter for the legal system. Misdemeanor assaults are nominally handled through the local police department or city/county magistrate's office. However, the filing of criminal charges in any matter involving assault (or abuse) that occurred in a League match will not preclude the League from applying further sanctions against the offender.

Section 6.4 - Player

Players are expected to perform at their best level during matches. It is understood that during any match, the potential exists for close physical contact and over exuberance. However, these instances shall not be confused with or be used as an excuse for any form of abuse or assault against anyone. Players committing this type of misconduct will be dealt with at the discretion of the referee. Misconduct of this nature reported to the TASL Administrator shall be reviewed for further action.

Section 6.5 – Coach, Assistant Coaches, Team Manager(s), Team Officials and Spectators

Coaches and other persons attending a match on behalf of a team are expected to perform at their best level during matches. It is understood that during any match, the potential exists for over exuberance. However, these instances shall not be confused with or be used as an excuse for any form of abuse or assault against anyone. Coach, Assistant Coaches, Team Manager(s), Team Officials and Spectators committing this type of misconduct will be dealt with at the discretion of the referee. Misconduct of this nature reported to the TASL Administrator shall be reviewed for further action.

Section 6.6 - Member Clubs

ALL incidents during any TASL sanctioned event shall be reported to TASL President and TASL Administrator, the TASL site Rep at the location where any reported incident occurred and the club in question Club Representative. This includes but is not limited to Accidents, Injuries, Red cards, Yellow Cards, Verbal altercations, etc. TASL shall establish a separate committee to deal with issues that develop during League operations. Issues that are not otherwise covered in this manual may be referred to the Adjudication Committee at the request of a member club. Requests for referrals shall be forwarded to the TASL Administrator who will forward the request to the TASL President and Board of Directors. If deemed warranted, the issue will be forwarded to the Adjudication Committee. The TASL Administrator will maintain coordination responsibilities for the issue. If the issue is one concerning an internal club matter, it will be considered by the League only if the member club agrees to abide by the resolution of the League. If the issue pertains to a matter between member clubs, then referral to the Adjudication Committee is required and the members must abide by the decision and any possible sanction deemed warranted by the Committee and the TASL Board of Directors.

Section 6.7 - Officers, Member Club Reps and Participating Clubs

TASL establishes meetings as agreed upon with the Board of Directors and Voting Member Club Representative to TASL. Meetings are conducted by the Board of Directors and attended by the Participating and Voting Club Representatives as designated by the Club's Board of Directors.

Individual Clubs are responsible for communication between their home organization and its members. Only a TASL Representative or home organization Officer (as designated by the home organization's club President) may address TASL on behalf of its members. It is expected that all Officers and Club Representatives be in attendance at TASL meetings. Clubs without a Representation at two consecutive TASL meetings (as scheduled) or three TASL meetings in a calendar year will be assessed a \$100 fine unless excused and same having been noted in TASL minutes. In addition, the meeting minutes will reflect clubs without representation.

Section 6.8 - League Adjudication Committee

The Adjudication Committee shall be an ad hoc committee that will be constituted when circumstances warrant. It shall consist of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 9 members, the total being of an odd number to ensure that any vote is not a tie vote. The committee shall consider any matter properly referred to it. Referrals will nominally be made within seven (7) calendar days following an incident and the report of the Committee will be due NOT LATER THAN TWENTY-ONE (21) calendar days from the referral. The TASL President shall designate an individual to chair the committee. The chair will work with the TASL President to coordinate the

details of the investigation. Once the committee completes its work, a report of findings and recommendations will be prepared and voted upon. This report will then be forwarded to the President for presentation to the TASL Board of Directors for consideration and final action. Any actions taken by the TASL Board shall be reported, by the parties involved, to VYSA or other such parent organization for consideration when processing applications to host tournaments or when choosing representatives to any "Parent" organization programs including but not limited to VYSA, NCYSA, USYSA, AYSO, SAY, and US Club Soccer.

Section 7 - Grievance Procedures

Section 7.1 - Member Clubs

Member clubs are encouraged to establish appropriate grievance procedures within their own clubs. Member clubs unable to satisfactorily adjudicate a grievance may refer said grievance to TASL for disposition, provided the club agrees prior to the referral to abide by any decision the TASL Board of Directors renders.

Section 7.2 - League

There are generally two types of grievances. The first deals with a function of the administration of the League itself. A member club normally brings this type of grievance forward to the TASL Board of Directors for review and action. The second is a protest which occurs during League play. Specifics concerning protests are contained below:

1. General - A protest is a dispute over a point of fact dealing with the MISAPPLICATION OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME by a match official. Protests on the grounds of judgmental actions on the part of a match official (including red and yellow cards) shall not be considered.
2. A protest shall be submitted, in writing to the TASL Administrator, within two (2) days of the conclusion of the match, as verified by the postmark (snail mail or email). Any protest not submitted within two (2) days of the match will be returned unheard.
3. A \$50.00 Protest Fee, made payable to TASL, shall accompany the protest. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee shall be returned. If the protest is denied, the protest fee shall be retained by TASL.
4. The TASL Adjudication Committee shall handle protests as listed above.
5. Any decision by the Committee or the TASL Board may be appealed. The procedures for such an appeal are as listed below:
 - a. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the TASL Administrator within 48 hours of the decision or imposition of penalty or fine.
 - b. A \$50.00 appeal fee shall accompany the appeal. If the appeal is upheld, the appeal fee will be returned. If the appeal is denied, the fee shall be retained by TASL. No other matters are grievable or to be dealt with on any appeal including:
 - i. Coaching Guidelines found in this manual or otherwise promulgated by the TASL Board.
 - ii. Non-selection as a coach, assistant coach, player, or other team official.
 - iii. Age groups determined by the TASL Board in accordance with USYSA guidelines.
 - iv. Field usage as directed by various member club's cities.
 - v. Players, coaches, or other team personnel barred from participation in TASL.

Any or all items stated as duties or responsibilities of directors, etc. found in this document.
Modifications to FIFA Laws of the Game as approved by the TASL Board.

APPENDIX A– TASL Organization Participation/Membership Application

Applicants must have a minimum of 2 teams to declare and must provide at least 1 field for every 5 teams being declared (6 teams would require 2 fields, etc..).

Furthermore, applicants understand that:

TASL Board of Directors and Voting Member clubs reserve the right to Deny any application, require organizations to participate by being sponsored through a Voting Member club, Approve Associate Member Participation, Extend the length of time an applicant may remain an Associate Member, and/or Approve applications for Voting Member Status.

If the request for participation is accepted, organizations will participate as an Associate Member (non-voting) for at least the 1st full year (2 consecutive seasons) of participation. At the conclusion of the 2nd season of participation the applicant organization, upon request, will be reviewed, by the TASL Board of Directors (BOD) and Voting Member Clubs, for full Voting Member status.

Applicants may withdraw their request for Voting Member status at any time up until 48 hours prior to the vote and may request to maintain their status as an Associate Member. All applicants will be notified of their Voting Member status after the TASL BOD and Voting Members meet to discuss all such applications.

Applicant Organizations understand that teams declared are Advanced/Recreational teams. As such all players must be carded as Advanced/Recreational players. TASL does not currently allow organizations to submit Travel (Select level of play) carded teams for play in the Advanced/Recreational structure TASL has established.

TASL is governed by two guiding documents- 1) these policies, procedures and guidelines herein outlined and 2) TASL Rules. These documents apply to all member and participating organizations (including those being sponsored) and their players, coaches, team and club officials as well as parents, spectators and others associated with the member. Lack of knowledge of these Rules and Procedures will not relieve any coach, team official, parent or player of a team participating in TASL, or seeking entry into TASL, from the responsibilities and possible penalties contained herein. ALL CLUBS, TEAM OFFICIALS, PARENTS AND PLAYERS, BY PARTICIPATING IN TASL PLAY, AGREE THAT THEY ARE BOUND BY THESE RULES. ALL Sanctioning Documents and specific rules and regulations included therein also apply to all members participating always.

Checklist- to be include with application:

- ✓ Copy Certificate of Liability Insurance (pending status acceptable)
- ✓ Current proof of member in good standing form
- ✓ Club Logo for TASL Website

APPENDIX A– TASL Organization Participation/Membership Application – Page 2

Name of Organization:

Date:

Mailing Address of Organization:

Web site address of Organization:

President:

Vice President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Director of Coaching:

Other Officer(s) (List Name & Title)

Estimated club enrollment:

Estimated number of teams to declare:

Name of Designated club representative to attend TASL meetings:

Email of Designated club representative to attend TASL meetings:

Phone of Designated club representative to attend TASL meetings:

Name of Designated Club Referee Assignor:

Email of Designated Club Referee Assignor:

Name of primary location of play:

Number and approximate size of acceptable fields:

Physical Address of primary location:

Name Alternate Location of Play:

Number and approximate size of acceptable fields:

Physical Address of alternate location:

Fees: There is a fee of \$50.00 per team not to exceed \$300.00. This fee is non-refundable upon acceptance.

Club declaration deadline: 1 July prior to the season in which organization intends to participate.

_____requests consideration for participation in TASL. We have read the TASL by-laws, TASL Policies and Guidelines and TASL Rules that are posted at www.TASLI.org and agree to abide by these documents.

Club President/Head Officer

Date

APPENDIX B– TASL Organization Participation/Membership Statement of Good Standing

MUST be submitted EACH season when TASL Team Declarations are submitted

ALL Clubs participating in TASL must be in good standing and recognized by VYSA, AYSO, or other affiliates of the US Soccer Federation at all times they are part of the organization. All rules and regulations contained in the By-Laws and Document, and any subsequent addendums, must be adhered to at all times.

TASL is governed by two guiding documents- 1) these policies, procedures and guidelines herein outlined and 2) TASL Rules. These documents apply to all member and participating organizations (including those being sponsored) and their players, coaches, team and club officials as well as parents, spectators and others associated with the member. Lack of knowledge of these Rules and Procedures will not relieve any coach, team official, parent or player of a team participating in TASL, or seeking entry into TASL, from the responsibilities and possible penalties contained herein. ALL CLUBS, TEAM OFFICIALS, PARENTS AND PLAYERS, BY PARTICIPATING IN TASL PLAY, AGREE THAT THEY ARE BOUND BY THESE RULES. ALL Sanctioning Documents and specific rules and regulations included therein also apply to all members participating always.

Name of Organization: _____

To maintain “good standing” the following criteria must be met:

- ✓ Current Certificate of Liability Insurance
- ✓ Up to date on TASL Fees owed
 - Teams Fees
 - Auxiliary fees and fines
- ✓ Club representation at TASL Meetings
 - It is expected that all Officers and Club Representatives be in attendance at TASL meetings.

We have read the TASL by-laws, TASL Policies and Guidelines and TASL Rules that are posted at www.TASLI.org and agree to abide by these documents.

We also verify that we are in good standing with all local, municipal, state and federal organizations. We will provide any changes in leadership (Club BOD, Officers, Staff, etc) to TASL BOD, as it occurs, along with any by-laws or addendums under which the Club/organization operates.

Club President/Head Officer (printed name)

Club President/Head Officer (Signature)

Date

APPENDIX C – US Soccer Birth Year Matrix



Birth Year and Season Matrix

When determining the age group for a season, the year the season ends should be used for determining the birth year. Also note that the format "U followed by age" really means that age and younger. For example, U8 should be read as 8 and younger. For more age-group information please reference [U.S. Soccer's Player Development Initiatives](#).

Season	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Birth Year									
2020									
2019									U6
2018								U6	U7
2017							U6	U7	U8
2016						U6	U7	U8	U9
2015					U6	U7	U8	U9	U10
2014				U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11
2013			U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
2012		U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
2011	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
2010	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
2009	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
2008	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
2007	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
2006	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
2005	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
2004	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19		
2003	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19			
2002	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19				
2001	U16	U17	U18	U19					
2000	U17	U18	U19						
1999	U18	U19							

Note: TASL teams compete at birth years U9-U19 only.

APPENDIX D – Sample Roster Form

TIDEWATER ADVANCED SOCCER LEAGUE
Official Roster Form (TYPE or PRINT NEATLY)

Club Team Age/Gender

Coach(s)/Mngr. License Address Ph(H) Ph(Cell) Email

No Jersey Name

(Last, First)

Address Zip Phone

DOB(M/DD/Y

Y)

Parents

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

All roster and team declarations must be signed by an appropriate Club Board Officer (not the Coach or Manager) and will include the statement:

“To the best of my knowledge the information stated herein is true and accurate”.

Club Officer Printed name AND Signature AND Date

Season Year

Zip _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

