

THE CHALLENGE SOCCER HANDBOOK

Seasonal Year



A Manual for NC Youth Soccer Association Challenge Teams
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CHALLENGE SOCCER - AN OVERVIEW

Introduction

The NCYSA Challenge Program and the NCYSA Challenge Council were created at the June 1995 Annual General Meeting by a vote of the general membership of the NCYSA. The challenge program is under the direction of the Challenge Council, chaired by the Vice President of Challenge, which is also a voting position on the NCYSA Executive Board.

The Challenge Council is made up of representatives from each challenge association that is a current member of the NCYSA. The NCYSA Challenge Council addresses issues and rules that relate to Challenge Soccer and the Singer Cup only. Any rule or issue that would affect the NCYSA full membership (challenge, classic, & recreation) will be addressed and voted on by the Board of Directors. Challenge Council Representatives are *your* representatives. If anyone has an issue, rule, or policy they want addressed, they should contact their association's representative with their input or concern.

By USYS and USSF standards, the NCYSA Challenge program is a *competitive level of play*, because tryouts are conducted to form teams. Challenge teams travel throughout the state of North Carolina; however, travel is usually limited to a smaller radius than the Classic level. The NCYSA Challenge program allows for players developing beyond the Recreation level to play at a more competitive level with modified travel time to and from games. The Challenge program is available for 10U to 19U age groups. All Challenge Teams must be a member of a currently registered association that is in good standing with the NCYSA.

Philosophy of Training/Competition

While the NCYSA does not dictate how an association should "run their program", a concise guideline of what is expected of your association's players, parents, coaches, spectators, etc. is strongly encouraged. It is also suggested that you establish training and development guidelines.

It is well known that children's learning abilities are different at different ages, so age-appropriate training is an important step in both the developments of your players, as well as your teams. Young children who "sit the bench" because this is Challenge soccer are not only NOT going to develop, we may lose those children from the sport altogether. Because children develop at different rates, the "bench player" at 11 years old may be the starter at 14, if he/she is given the chance.

All coaches are encouraged to access the coaching education pathway that is offered by the NCYSA. Call the state office for more information on coaching education or visit the Coaching Education Digital Information section of website.

Dissemination of Information

Your association must have a President and should have a Challenge Representative/Liaison. The representative acts as a liaison between the State Office and your teams. This is especially helpful if your association has multiple levels of play (Classic and/or Rec.). The information that comes from the State Office needs to be viewed by everyone in your association. It is NCYSA's responsibility to get this information to your association, and your association's responsibility to get it to their member teams.

Voting at Challenge Council

The Challenge Council (as previously written) is made up of representatives of associations with Challenge teams. When the above-mentioned information is sent to your association, some of that information will be in the form of proposals to be voted on at Council meetings. The Council will set the policy YOU will play by; therefore, it is extremely important that you express your opinions on information/proposals sent out to your President or Challenge Representative/Liaison so that they may vote your association's wishes at the Council Meetings.

Challenge Council Meetings are conducted by the VP of Challenge with the following guidelines:

- Establishment of a quorum- attendance must be 10% of the total number of currently registered NCYSA Challenge Associations
- Voting will be based on the number of registered Challenge Players from each member association:

1-225 Challenge Players	1 Vote
226-450 Challenge Players	2 Votes
Over 451 Challenge Players	3 Votes
- A Challenge Council Representative may hold a maximum of four proxies from associations not in attendance (four includes their own association)

Updating Information

NCYSA Association Presidents and NCYSA Challenge Liaisons, if you have any changes in your email address or other information, please make sure to contact Rachel Jones, rachel@ncsoccer.org , as soon as possible.

Challenge Handbook/Discipline and Appeals Manual

NCYSA strongly suggests team managers to download a copy of the Challenge Handbook and the Discipline and Appeals manual. Both of these can be found online at www.ncsoccer.org.

HOW TO BEGIN THE CHALLENGE EXPERIENCE

The Challenge Association

Before a team can form, they must belong to an association that offers Challenge level soccer. Teams are not allowed to participate without local affiliation. Try-outs, team formation, etc. must be under the policies and procedures of the member association. When the situation arises where a team is dissatisfied with their current local association, serious discussion and/or negotiation should take place between the team and the local association to resolve differences.

A ruling was passed at the Board of Directors Meeting on December 1998 – Any association seeking new membership affiliation with the NCYSA must comply with the 60/40 rule. This rule states that new associations must have or shall have a ratio of sixty percent (60%) of their registered player base as Recreation players. In order to add the Challenge or Classic levels of play, approval must be granted by NCYSA.

PLAYING THE SEASON

USYS/NCYSA Seasonal Year

The soccer seasonal year operates from September 1 to August 31 of each year. Your player passes, team roster, and medical release forms are valid between these dates.

League Play

All Challenge matches are scheduled by your local scheduling league. A scheduling league is any group of associations that have bound together for league play that does inter/intra scheduling of NCYSA challenge teams and are members of NCYSA. Scheduling Leagues have been approved and voted in by the membership. Currently North Carolina FC is the only sanctioned active Challenge scheduling league for 2018-2019. Any new applications for formation of any new scheduling leagues should follow guidelines for new membership of NCYSA.

Any group or body intending on becoming a Challenge Scheduling League must be sanctioned by NCYSA by at least receiving an Associate Membership status by September 1. Any new applications for the formation of any new scheduling leagues should follow the guidelines of new membership of NCYSA.

NCYSA Challenge Leagues will establish playing rules for those individual leagues. Rules must be consistent with USYSA, USSF and FIFA, unless otherwise notated in those rules. All rules not consistent with USYSA, USSF or FIFA must be proposed and passed by the NCYSA Challenge Council

Before forming a team, **it is very important** that you check with your local scheduling league or NCYSA as to the availability of accommodating your team in their scheduled league play. Once a team is selected on a try-out basis, they CANNOT become a Recreation team, therefore it is IMPERATIVE that a team is cleared to play in a Challenge Scheduling League. Further information regarding Challenge scheduling leagues may be viewed on the NCYSA website. For a team to participate in a NCYSA sanctioned Challenge scheduling league, said team must be registered with NCYSA as a challenge team. (*Challenge Council 6/3/06*)

ALL OUT OF STATE TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN THE NCYSA CHALLENGE LEAGUE MUST REGISTER IN NORTH CAROLINA AND HAVE NORTH CAROLINA ROSTERS AND PLAYING PASSES (*Challenge Council 11/3/03*)

Age Divisions (Seasonal Year)

NCYSA currently offers Challenge competition for both men and women in the 10U through 19U age groups. Effective Fall 2005, the minimum age for players to participate in Challenge soccer must be that of a **true 8U player**. (*Challenge Council 2/5/05*) Current Age Divisions can be found on the website under Registration Handbook.

18U Challenge Play Procedures

(Proposal adopted on 8/12/06 at the Challenge Council Meeting)

- **18U Challenge Division Team makeup:**

“A” Team: 18U teams - all players are 18U only age appropriate and are eligible to play 18U Challenge League Play and State Cup series.

“B” Team: 18U with 19U supplemental roster – Are registered 18U challenge teams with players who are either 18U age appropriate OR are 19U’s who are enrolled in High School of the current school year and are eligible to play in 18U Challenge League play only.

- **Eligibility for State Cup:**

“A” Team – Current 18U roster is valid for Challenge State Cup eligibility in their age bracket.

“B” Team – Use of the 18U Roster and the 19U Supplemental Roster will be ineligible for play in the 18U age bracket of Singer Cup unless the supplemental roster is not used. The 18U teams using the 19U supplemental roster can register for state cup in the 19U division if that division is available.

The intention of the Challenge Council was to follow the Classic Council in allowing 19U players still enrolled in High School of the current school year to play within the NCYSA Challenge Scheduling Leagues.

In order to accomplish this, NCYSA has developed a list of procedures and explanations to address to the **18U challenge teams**.

1. At the time of registration, a team will register as a 18U team. (This is required because of the current limitations of registration software.)
2. NCYSA 18U Challenge teams will contain any combination of teams “A” and “B” listed above under 18U Challenge Division Team makeup.
3. Any “A” team will register as a 18U team and they would not be allowed to use 19U players.
4. Any “B” team will register as a 18U team and they would be allowed to use 18U and 19U players, but 19U players for challenge league play only, not for state cup.
5. 19U players that are to play with a “B” team in challenge league play will be registered as 19U challenge players and placed on a supplemental roster.
6. Each supplemental roster will tie players to a specific team and those players will count against the maximum roster of 22.
7. Players on a supplemental roster will have the team name designated to which they belong and listed as 19U on their player pass.
8. If a “B” team plans to apply to a tournament (your team is registered as a 18U team in NC) the 19U players may have to go as guest players and the team play in the tournament 19U Division. You should contact the tournament before applying to see whether they will accept the supplemental roster or require any other registration documentation.
9. Coaches/Clubs are responsible for ensuring that players listed as 19U’s are enrolled in high school of the current school year.
10. Players who are registered and play but are not eligible, per the previous point, will be treated as any other illegal player and violations will be referred to the D&A committee.

19, 18, 17U	45 minutes*	15 min*	5
16, 15U	40 minutes*	15 min*	5
14, 13U	35 minutes*	15 min*	5
12, 11U	30 minutes*	15 min*	4
10U	25 minutes*	5 min*	4

*This is the maximum allowed by FIFA. Most half times will be approximately five (5) minutes in duration.

Substitutions

During Challenge games, players may be substituted only during certain stoppages of the game. The number of substitutions shall be unlimited unless the rules of a competition superseding the jurisdiction of this association specifically determine otherwise. Substitutions may be made, with the approval of the referee, at the following times:

A. Prior to a throw-in, by the team in possession.

B. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.

C. After an injury, by either team.

D. At half-time.

E. Before the taking of a kick-off.

F. After a yellow card has been awarded, a substitution may be made for the player receiving the yellow card. (Does not apply to Cup Competitions).

In any case, a substitute may not enter the middle of field of play until he/she has been given a signal to do so by the referee and the player being replaced has come off the field.

Items Needed for Game Day (*Items 1-8 are required by NCYSA*)

There are several items that the team, players and coach need at game time. Listed below are those items.

1. **PLAYER PASSES AND MATCH ROSTER/NO PASS=NO PLAY.** Referees must check ALL player passes before each game. **NO PASS=NO PLAY.** Per FIFA rules, the "wait time" is 15 minutes for delay of match. **Failure to have your player passes within this time frame will result in forfeiting your matches. Failure to have passes for an individual(s) or improper passes (no picture, not signed, etc.) will result in that/those individual(s) NOT PLAYING until the pass (es) is corrected.** The Council wants each association to educate their coaches, managers and players of this rule. No exceptions will be allowed. (*Clarification Challenge Council 6/9/2007*)
NCYSA Official Match Rosters list all the players' numbers and pass numbers for the referee's use. All teams must get a NEW NCYSA Official Match Roster from their Registrar and make copies, to avoid giving away their official red-stamped roster.
2. **OFFICIAL NCYSA TEAM ROSTER.** Team rosters that are **red** stamped, dated, and signed by a certified NCYSA registrar should not be given to anyone (rosters with addresses and phone numbers). Only the match rosters should be given out.
3. **MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS.** Even though these forms are not checked, it is important that you have them at the field. In case of injury, these forms are usually required by a hospital to expedite treatment of the injured player (especially if the player's parents are not available).
4. **TWO JERSEYS.** Teams MUST have an alternate colored jersey in case of conflicts. Generally accepted "light" color jersey options include: white, yellow/gold, orange, neon, and similar colors. IF the color of your "light" jersey option is something other than the above generally accepted "light" colors, such as red or light blue, then your team MUST have another back-up jersey or training shirt with numbers that would fall into the generally accepted "light" colors. In addition, if WHITE socks (or another generally accepted "light" color

sock) are not your usual “light” jersey socks, your team must have the back-up of white (or another generally accepted “light” color) socks in case of a conflict.

(For example: At issue becomes when a team’s “light” color jersey is RED because it could also be considered another team’s “dark” color. Thus, teams with RED as their “light” for instance, must have another back-up jersey or training shirt with numbers that would fall into the generally accepted “light” colors and WHITE socks (or another generally accepted “light” color sock) as a back-up.)

5. **GAME BALL.** It is the responsibility of the home team to provide a game ball. However, both teams should have an adequate “back up” in case of an errant kick that loses the game ball.
6. **FIELDS.** Fields should be properly lined, with spectator restraining lines. Goals must be anchored before play can begin. TEAMS SHOULD KEEP SOME TYPE OF ANCHORING DEVICE IN A CAR TRUNK in case of un-anchored goals. Fields should also have corner flags. Nets should be secure. TEAMS SHOULD ALSO CARRY SOME TYPE OF TAPE OR TIES TO ASSIST IN SECURING NETS should they become unfastened during play.
7. **SHIN GUARDS.** It is an NCYSA requirement that shin guards be worn by ALL players.
8. **MEDICAL KIT.** Band-Aids, ace bandage, ice pack or baggie for ice, scissors, bee sting relief, etc. should be included.

Other suggestions: extra shoe laces; a ball pump w/needle; a trash bag for cups, tape, etc.; extra shin guards; tape for numbering jerseys (if a jersey is forgotten or lost); players should have extra jerseys; and a city map of the area that you are traveling into.

Standings

NCYSA does not track Challenge standings. Standings (if kept by your scheduling league) will be posted on the scheduling league websites. Seeding for the Singer Cup is based on your season/league standings as provided to NCYSA by your scheduling league.

Referees and Referee Assignors

Associations are obligated to begin certifying referees and forming their own referee pools. Each Challenge Association **must** have a Certified Referee Assignor to book its Challenge matches.

If your association has NO referee program, then you are required to find a Certified Referee Assignor (from another area) that will book your home matches.

Only Referees who are Grade 8 or above are to be used for center and linemen for all Challenge matches.
(Clarification Challenge Council 6/9/2007)

In Challenge league play, either a 1 or 3-man referee system can be used (*Challenge Council 2/5/05*).

Officials **ARE NOT ALLOWED** to run a two-man system (two center officials with no linesman). If only two officials show up for your match, then they receive THEIR appropriate fees: one center fee and one linesman fee, and an unpaid club linesman are used. If only one official shows up for your match, then he/she is paid the center’s fee PLUS one linesman fee, and two unpaid club linesmen are used.

Referee Fees

No league or playing association may pay referee fees higher than the following rates established by the NCYSA Board of Directors. The following statewide mandatory referee fees are located on our website under competitive.

Scheduling Leagues, using one referee, as approved by NCYSA Challenge Council, will pay the referee \$28 per match. SL's choosing to continue to use the 3-man system at 19U will pay up to the maximum. (*Passed AGM – January 2008*)

Check with your local association for policy regarding referee payment..

High School 15U-18U Small-Sided Challenge Division

(Passed at the December 9, 2008 Challenge Council meeting)

Challenge Council passed a proposal for to adopt optional small sided play for male and female 15U through 18U. No age separation. These teams will be refereed to as the High School "HS" Division. Rules of Play, field size options and equipment, referee information and fees, and registration requirements are list below.

Recommendation for High School 15U-18U (Small Sided) Challenge Division Playing Rules Modified 8v8

TEAMS WILL BE FORMED BY COMBINING 15U-18U AGE GROUPS.

NCYSA recommended modifications to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

FIFA Laws of the Game can be found at www.fifa.com

Law I-The Field: Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 80 yards nor less than 70 yards and its width not more than 55 yards or less than 45 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. *NCYSA Recommendation: 8v8 Length: 80 yards Width: 50 yards*

Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle with an eight (8) yard radius. Four corner arcs each with a three (3) foot radius.

Goal area: six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty area: fourteen (14) yards from each goal post and fourteen (14) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. Penalty Spot: eight (8) yards out from center of goal line.

Goals: Six (6) feet high and eighteen feet wide up to Seven (7) feet high and twenty-one (21) feet wide.

Law II-The Ball: Size five (5)

Law III-Number of Players: Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is: 8v8: eight (8) including the goalkeeper.

Substitutions: Prior to throw-in, in your favor; Prior to a goal, kick, by either team; After a goal, by either team; After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops the play; At half-time. Maximum roster size would be 14 players and the minimum to begin a match would be 6 players.

Law IV-Players Equipment: Conform to FIFA.

Law V-The Referee: Currently certified referee.

Law VI-Assistant Referee: Use of "club" linesmen permitted.

Law VII-Duration of the Game: The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty-five (35) minutes each. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.

Law VIII-The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the following exception: Opponent must be eight (8) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

Law IX-Ball in and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

Law X-Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

Law XI-Off-Side: Conform to FIFA

Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA

Law XIII-Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

Law XIV-Penalty Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

Law XV-Throw-In: Conform to FIFA

Law XVI-Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA

Law XVII-Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.

Referee Requirements and Fees for S/S HS Games

A 3-man system is required for HS matches. (Use of a two-man system is illegal.)

Fees: Based on 15U-U16 Challenge fees (time vs. age).

Center Referee: \$38

AR: \$23

Registration for S/S HS Games

1. All teams would be registered in the 18U age group (age range of 15U-18U).
2. Prefix designation: HS
The teams would be named: (Ex: **HS** BSC Black; **HS** CASL White) as space permitted (25 characters).
3. The player's birth date will be printed on the card. This would allow any members of the HS team to guest play for any other regular team that is the age appropriate.
4. All HS player's cards would be NON-CUP cards.
5. Minimum number on Roster – 7 players (Same)
6. Maximum on Roster – 14
7. Player Movement – Same as current policy set in the Registrar's Manual.
8. Multi-rostering – Same rules as current policy dictated by the player's scheduling league of which they are assigned. A player cannot be rostered to two HS teams.
9. Registration Fees – Same as current Challenge Fees: \$22 (\$17 registration + \$5 insurance)
10. HS teams can play both seasons. No limitations.

RISK MANAGEMENT

All associations are required to complete the risk management application (**RMA**). This includes all team coaches, managers, and other officials on rosters. Team rosters and passes will not be released from NCYSA until the RMA is completed. For any questions regarding risk management, please contact your association's risk management liaison.

REGISTRATION

• CERTIFIED REGISTRAR

Challenge players and teams must register through a "Certified NCYSA Registrar". Each association is responsible for providing a certified registrar by sending one or more persons to a Registrar Certification Workshop.

The Certified Registrar is an agent of NCYSA and will be the person that submits all paperwork to NCYSA for your team's rosters and player passes.

Contact your local registrar for: Player registration

Transfers

Add/Drop a player or coach

Multi-roster of players

Team Rosters

Guest Players/Interstate Permission for Guest Players (or any additional forms needed to register a player to a team)

NOTIFICATION TO TRAVEL *(Only the NCYSA State Office can approve a permission to travel)*

Any team wishing to play in a USYS sanctioned event outside of North Carolina must fill out the Notification to Travel form and submit it to the NCYSA State Office for approval. Out of state play shall include tournaments, scrimmages, "friendlies", or league play in another state. For a team to receive notification to travel out of state they must submit their request **thirty (30) days prior to leaving the state.**

Please contact **Debbie Morton (debbie@ncsoccer.org)** for Notification to Travel instructions, guidelines and appropriate forms.

International Travel – (Playing outside of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia)

Please contact Lyn Halstead for instructions, guidelines and appropriate forms at (debbie@ncsoccer.org)

NCYSA DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS

NCYSA publishes a "Discipline and Appeals Manual" yearly. This manual addresses the NCYSA Code of Conduct, NCYSA appeals procedures, recruitment, and suggested discipline actions. The Discipline and Appeals Manual can be downloaded from the website. (www.ncsoccer.org)

TOURNAMENTS

NCYSA publishes a "Tournament Manual" which addresses Hosting and attending a tournament. The Tournament Manual can be downloaded from the website. (www.ncsoccer.org)

NCYSA STATE CUP SERIES

PLEASE SEE THE [STATE CUP PAGE](#) ON OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL CURRENT STATE CUP INFORMATION OR CONTACT THE STATE CUP ADMINISTRATOR.

NCYSA currently sponsors three state cup series that Challenge teams may consider for entry: the Singer Cup, the Kepner/Director's Cup, and the USYS State Cup. YOU MAY APPLY TO ONE OF THE ABOVE CUPS. All three cups

are hosted by local associations that “bid” for the right to bring that leg of the series to their local associations. Please contact the state office for more information on hosting a state cup series.

NCYSA IMPOSED FINES

Associations are required to pay all NCYSA imposed fines within 30 days of the certified mail receipt date of the official written notification of the fines. Associations which fail to do so are in bad standing. Teams affiliated with the association which is in bad standing may not participate in NCYSA, USSF or USYSA sponsored events (i.e., NCYSA Classic League, NCYSA Challenge League, NCYSA Recreation Leagues, NCYSA Recreation Cup, NCYSA Singer Cup and NCYSA State Cup Series) and will not be approved for out-of-state travel. If an association wishes to appeal a fine, they must do so within 10 days of the receipt of the official written notification of the fine.

POLICY ON CHALLENGE SCHEDULING LEAGUES

ADOPTED: 3/28/04 NCYSA Challenge Council

The Challenge Council has adopted the following Policy for Challenge scheduling leagues. It is applicable to applications for admission as an NCYSA associate (scheduling league) member and to the continuing recognition of

those associate members currently approved as Challenge scheduling leagues. This Policy is effective as of March 28, 2004.

1. Except as provided in item 2, all scheduling leagues must be associate members of NCYSA. No scheduling league may register players or sponsor its own teams.
2. Each existing affiliate member which schedules Challenge matches only for teams composed wholly of players registered with such affiliate member (and identified as its registered players for all purposes) shall continue to be recognized as a Challenge scheduling league (i.e. grandfathered) for so long as it satisfies the conditions in this sentence. Items 1, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11 shall not be applicable to such grandfathered scheduling leagues.
3. All teams participating in Challenge scheduling leagues must be teams of affiliate (or provisional affiliate) members of NCYSA in good standing.
4. For a team to participate in a NCYSA sanctioned Challenge Scheduling League, said team must be registered with NCYSA as a challenge team. *(This policy was adopted by Challenge Council on 6/3/06).*
5. All players who are members of teams participating in Challenge scheduling leagues must be registered with an NCYSA affiliate member and NCYSA.
6. All scheduling leagues must comply with NCYSA rules governing non-profit status.
7. All scheduling leagues shall be awarded a defined geographic area subject to their jurisdiction. Any NCYSA affiliate member who has been authorized to offer the Challenge level of play may participate as a member of a Challenge scheduling league only of the league having jurisdiction over the area in which it is located. In the event such an affiliate member has field locations in more than one such geographic area, it will be deemed to be in the area wherein the majority of its registered Challenge players resided during the most recently completed season (or, if it did not have a Challenge program during such season, a majority of its registered Recreation players). A scheduling league may impose minimal additional requirements that are applied to all prospective members. Such requirements must be fair and equitable and must have a specified purpose which is directly applicable to the fulfillment of the league's purpose and/or preservation of its financial stability. A provision for the posting of a reasonable member or team performance bond, that a member has a minimum of three participating teams, or that all head coaches of a member achieve a coaching license status reasonably related to the Challenge level of play are examples of reasonable additional requirements.
8. Each member association of a scheduling league shall have one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of the members, and each member shall be entitled to elect one member of the Board of Directors. Each member of the Board of Directors shall have one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of the Board. No person who is not a director elected by a member shall serve as a director.
9. All officers of a scheduling league shall be persons who are then serving as directors of the league.
10. Each scheduling league shall properly account for revenues received and expenses incurred by it and shall make its financial records available to its members. Within 90 days following the end of each of its fiscal years, each scheduling league shall provide annual financial statements to each club that was a member of the league during such fiscal year.
11. Each scheduling league shall have fair and equitable procedures for resolution of disputes and grievances between it and any of its members and between or among its members, in each case relating to scheduling league matters. Each scheduling league shall be subject to NCYSA's discipline and appeal rules and procedures.
12. Each scheduling league shall adopt and continue to maintain by-laws implementing each of the foregoing items.
13. In addition to the above requirements, the Challenge Council recommends that each scheduling league provide for annual rotation of its President and Vice Presidents (with the intent that representatives of all members have opportunities to serve in such roles) and, if it has an Executive Committee, for annual rotation of the membership of such Committee.

The Challenge Council, acting in conjunction with the Membership Committee of NCYSA, shall establish the geographic area awarded to each scheduling league as its area of jurisdiction. The Challenge Council acknowledges that the Recreation Council may establish Recreation Regions that may be congruent with the geographic areas of jurisdiction of Challenge scheduling leagues. In such event, the two Councils shall confer and evaluate the usefulness of making Recreation Regions and such areas of jurisdiction congruent and of Challenge scheduling leagues also providing scheduling services for inter-association Recreation play. Any such initiatives shall be subject to review and approval by NCYSA.

**POLICY ON CHALLENGE SCHEDULING LEAGUES
ADDENDUM #1
8/14/06
SCHEDULING LEAGUES**

Mission:

- An NCYSA Sanctioned Scheduling League will be an extension of the North Carolina Youth Soccer Association.
- Centralized scheduling for the group of associations
- Member associations have a forum in place for dealing with problems, concerns, and dissemination of information - VOTE
- Combine member association resources to promote, educate, develop players – COACHING CLINICS, PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CLINICS, LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS, and FUNDRAISING, (Funds to be used for the standard day today operation of the league. Disbursement of funds to be approved by the League’s Board of Directors.)

Membership of Scheduling Leagues would insure:

- That all participants (teams/players) being scheduled are registered and in good standing – THE SCHEDULING LEAGUE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SCHEDULE TEAMS TO PLAY THAT ARE NOT REGISTERED MEMBERS (This has happened without the knowledge of the member association)
- That a format would be in place for dealing with issues that impact more than one association. (IF A TEAM FROM EACH ASSOCIATION HAS A PROBLEM IN A MATCH IT WOULD GUARANTEE EQUITABLE TREATMENT FOR BOTH TEAMS – RULES SET BY THE MEMBER SCHEDULING LEAGUE)
- Member associations would know that the “affiliated” league would be held accountable to function under USSF, USYSA, NCYSA bylaws, rules and guidelines
- That only certified referees would be used for matches (MEMBERS WOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE)
- D & A issues would be reported to the proper member association for action
- Would allow the member league to set standards for sanctioning players/teams/officials – if not a member, the individual associations may choose not to adhere giving the member scheduling league the right to address the issue with NCYSA.
- A set of bylaws and rules for governing would be submitted to NCYSA therefore giving the league required procedures for operation... THIS WOULD REQUIRE THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS TO SIT DOWN AND COME TO AGREEMENT ON THE LEAGUE’S OPERATION, GIVING THE MEMBER ASSOCIATION RECOURSE IF PROCEDURES ARE NOT BEING FOLLOWED.
- Receive all NCYSA correspondence helping the league to adhere to regulations and to disseminate information more efficiently. THE MEMBER LEAGUE WOULD BE “IN THE KNOW” ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING AND WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETINGS (Would not have a vote)
- Ability to Host NCYSA Sanctioned Tournaments as a League.

Associate Membership:

1. Associate Membership may be extended to any group, association, club, or person

Requesting such membership and who is active in promoting and fostering the purpose of the NCYSA. Associate members may attend regular or special meetings of the NCYSA Board of Directors but may not introduce nor vote on any business before the NCYSA.

1. A scheduling league would fall under the Associate Membership category. A league is made up of NCYSA member Associations.
2. A \$250 fee is required for Associate Membership.

**POLICY ON CHALLENGE SCHEDULING LEAGUES
ADDENDUM #2
8/14/06 CHALLENGE SCHEDULING LEAGUES
Guidelines for Team Placement**

North Carolina is divided into 7 geographical areas representing the 7 NCYSA sanctioned Challenge Scheduling Leagues (“LEAGUE”). The Members for each LEAGUE come from the NCYSA Member Associations located within said geographical boundary, which are sanctioned for Challenge level of play.

Each Member Association and its teams must play in the LEAGUE established for the geographical boundary in which the member association is domiciled. New members and existing Level 1, Recreation members adding Level 2, Challenge are not allowed to choose the LEAGUE they wish to participate in. Exceptions to this requirement are rare.

A team requesting to play in a LEAGUE other than their own must complete the following steps before consideration:

1. Advise the local association to which they are registered/held try-outs, of their request. The local association must support the team’s request. If the local association does not support the request, it will not be granted.
2. Their association representative must contact their designated LEAGUE and explain the reason for the request and must garner the support of the LEAGUE for their request and provide in writing to the Vice President of Challenge. If the LEAGUE does not support the request it will not be granted.
3. Their association representative must garner the support of the LEAGUE said team wishes to participate in and provide approval in writing to the Vice President of Challenge. If this LEAGUE does not support the request, it will not be granted.

Reasonable Request: Teams formed in a specific age group but are not supported by their LEAGUE with a division in said age group may petition the NCYSA Vice President of Challenge to allow said team to participate in a LEAGUE that does support the age group. These requests are typically granted. Reasons such as length of travel and quality of POLICY ON CHALLENGE SCHEDULING LEAGUES competition are generally not considered as viable reasons to grant exceptions to the guideline.

Decisions of the Vice President of Challenge can be appealed to the Challenge Council at the next scheduled meeting.

If permission is granted:

A team playing in a LEAGUE other than their own must play under the banner of a host association which is a member of the LEAGUE which said team wishes to participate in. The host will be responsible for, but not limited to, scheduling of league games, providing officials, any applicable fees, and D&A issues. Said team must play their home games on the fields of their host. Said team must adhere to all rules, policies, and guidelines of the LEAGUE in which they are participating.

It is the opinion of Challenge Council that all teams should participate in their designated LEAGUE if possible. All steps should be taken by all parties involved to make this happen. A request for an exception to the guideline should be a last resort.