

Soccer Club Commitment

When players are signed up for teams, the understanding is that those players will be committed for the entire seasonal year which runs from Aug 1st until Jul 31st of the following year. This is done for various reasons, including but not limited to

- Team Stability
- Soccer is a year round sport, there is a fall and a spring session and sometimes winter too, and therefore it is unlike other sports that just play in the fall or the spring.
- Prevents the recruiting of players by other clubs/teams mid-season
- Players leaving teams during the year will undermine the rest of the players on that team that they leave behind
- Clubs budgets are often based on the number of players that are registered and any player leaving will undermine that budget process
- It teaches the players about commitment and follow through

The commitment is written within the rules of IYSA as well as that of the National governing body US Youth Soccer.

Rule 201 Section 3 of the US Youth Soccer Player and Playing Rules states that

A youth player is registered for a seasonal year from the moment the player or the player's representative executes the registration form and pays the appropriate fees.

Rule 6 of the IYSA Participation Rules state

Any player committing to an organization is considered registered with that organization for the entire seasonal year unless granted a transfer.

Any transfer request would have to be granted by the releasing club before IYSA will move any players..

Illegal Recruiting

IYSA strongly believes and supports the clubs enforcing the yearlong commitments that the players/parents make. The practice of recruiting or enticing players away from the clubs that they initially committed to is discouraged. Furthermore any person found to be recruiting players will be held accountable to the IYSA board of Directors. In recent history the penalty for illegal recruiting has ranged anywhere from 6 months with further restrictions to around a year and even longer in some cases.

IYSA Participation rules surrounding the recruitment topic can be found on the next page and ignorance of these rules is not an excuse for breaking them.

From The IYSA Participation Rules -

12. Illegal Recruiting

- a. Recruiting of players for teams and clubs is subject to the rules of and restricted by IYSA to certain dates and activities. Contact with players or parents or guardians of players is also subject to the rules of and restricted by IYSA.
- b. The seasonal year as defined for IYSA is from August 1st until July 31st. c.

A player is registered with an IYSA team for the full seasonal year when:

- i. The affiliate registration or commitment form is signed and dated by the parents or guardians of players under 18 years of age, or by players that are 18 years of age or older, and
 - ii. The team roster has been submitted to and accepted by IYSA.
- d. Anyone who benefits from recruiting can be in violation of the recruiting restrictions, i.e., affiliates, clubs, teams, coaches, administrators, parents or players.
 - e. The parents or guardians of a player under 18 years of age must be contacted prior to any communication with a player.
 - f. Recruiting or attempting to recruit any player or player's parents or guardians with offers of material goods, gifts, free trips, scholarships or any other similar benefits is illegal recruiting. Nothing herein shall prohibit teams or clubs from helping players with fees and equipment when documented financial need exists.
 - g. Recruiting or attempting to recruit any player, or player's parents or guardians to leave a USYSA team with which the player is registered for the seasonal year in order to play with another USYSA team during the current or the next seasonal year is illegal recruiting unless the recruiting occurs during the team tryout period described below.
 - h. Recruiting or attempting to recruit any team to leave a USYSA club with which the team is affiliated during the seasonal year in order to play with another USYSA club during the current or the next seasonal year is illegal recruiting unless the recruiting occurs during the team tryout period described below.
 - i. Any player practicing or playing for an affiliate, with which they are not registered, is considered illegal recruiting unless permission is given from the registered affiliate and is documented.
 - j. Prior to the team tryout period discussed below, contact with players parents/guardians and players who are not rostered with an affiliate or club is restricted to:
 - i. General correspondence by mail or Internet.
 - ii. Jamborees or activities generally available to the public.

Information made available to players or player's parents or guardians shall be limited to general information regarding the affiliate, club, etc. At no time prior to the team tryout period shall any affiliate, club, team, coach or administrator make any offer to provide a roster position, playing opportunity or any other commitment.

- k. Affiliates, clubs or teams are allowed to hold team tryouts for the next seasonal year commencing at the following dates and under the following conditions:
 - i. U10 boy's and girl's teams and older - commencing on the Monday following the completion of the IYSA State Cup or Presidents Cup tournament, whichever is later.
 - ii. Affiliates, clubs or teams are allowed to make offers for roster positions, playing opportunities or other commitments during this tryout period.
 - iii. The affiliate registration form cannot be completed until the commencement of the signing period discussed below.
 - iv. Affiliates, clubs or teams shall not restrict a player from tryouts with other affiliates, clubs or teams, unless the signing period described below has commenced and the player has signed an affiliate registration or commitment form. All parents and players shall be notified that they do not have an obligation to commit to a team in order to participate in a tryout.

- l. Affiliates, clubs or teams are allowed to have players or the parents or guardians of players, as applicable, sign the appropriate affiliate registration or commitment form commencing on the Monday after the initial date of the applicable team tryout period. Affiliates, clubs or teams shall provide players and the parents or guardians of players with information regarding the restrictions on changing affiliates, clubs or teams registration during the seasonal year. . This information shall be clearly indicated on the registration or commitment form or an attached document

- m. Allegations of inappropriate or illegal recruiting shall be subject to a hearing by an impartial hearing panel comprised of not less than three people appointed by the President of IYSA and conducted according to the IYSA Hearings Policy. In the event the hearing panel determines that inappropriate or illegal recruiting has occurred, the hearing panel shall determine the appropriate disciplinary action according to guidelines approved by the IYSA Board. The type and extent of the disciplinary action shall be at the discretion of the hearing panel, subject to IYSA guidelines.

- n. If the hearing panel determines that inappropriate or illegal recruiting has occurred and a disciplinary action is taken, the party subject to the action shall have the right to appeal the decision in accordance with the IYSA Appeals Policy.