

**FRONTIER COUNTRY SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**COMPETITIVE BYLAWS**  
Amended December 13, 2004

**SECTION 1**  
**PURPOSE**

- A. The FCSA Competitive Commission (FCC) shall be responsible for administering FCSA competitive teams, players, coaches and trainers as well as the FCSA Competitive League in accordance with the FCSA Constitution, Bylaws, these Competitive Bylaws and any other FCSA or FCC Standing Resolutions or Rules. The FCC shall be the governing authority on all issues relating to FCSA competitive teams, players, coaches and trainers.

**SECTION 2**  
**GOVERNING BODY**

- A. The FCC shall consist of officeholders of the following described offices, each of whom shall be a voting officer of the FCC and shall hold office from the date they are approved/elected (by the FCSA Board of Directors or their home club as applicable) for approximately one year (until their successor takes office or they are re-approved/re-elected).

Competitive Commissioner  
Competitive Secretary  
Competitive Scheduler  
Competitive Vice-Commissioner  
Competitive Officer-at-Large  
Competitive Club Representative

- (1) **The Competitive Commissioner**, as elected by the FCSA member clubs at the Annual Meeting, shall preside at all meetings of the FCC and shall execute the decisions and directives of the FCC. At such meetings, the Competitive Commissioner shall vote only in the event of a tie vote on the matter being voted upon. The Competitive Commissioner shall appoint the other members of the FCC, with the exception of the Competitive Club Representatives, with approval of the FCSA Board of Directors; provided, however, that no more than two members appointed by the Competitive Commissioner shall have children playing at the same club at the time of their appointment ("Appointed Members"). All complaints or allegations of wrongdoing of any kind within the FCSA Competitive League or related to any FCSA teams, coaches, trainers or players shall be brought to the attention of the Competitive Commissioner.

- (2) **The Competitive Vice-Commissioner** shall act in the absence of the Competitive Commissioner with the same power and authority, and shall perform other such duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Competitive Commissioner.
  - (3) **The Competitive Scheduler** shall coordinate all FCSA Competitive League schedules and awards, and shall work closely with all competitive coaches, the Competitive Commissioner and the FCSA 2nd VP on all issues directly related to league game schedules. The scheduler shall head the investigation into any game not played as originally scheduled where there is a disputed forfeit with the final outcome to be determined by the FCC.
  - (4) **The Competitive Secretary** shall keep the records and minutes of all meetings of the FCC, shall coordinate with the FCSA office administrator to give notice of meetings and to maintain the records of the FCSA Competitive League and the FCC which will be maintained at the FCSA office. The Competitive Secretary shall also work closely with the FCSA office administrator and FCSA Registrars to assure that all teams and coaches are properly registered with FCSA and OSA.
  - (5) **The Competitive Officer-at-Large** will be any officer of a previous FCC to act as an advisor on any and all matters handled by the FCC and shall perform other duties as assigned to him/her by the Competitive Commissioner.
  - (6) **The Competitive Club Representatives** will consist of one representative from each club that has at least one competitive team registered through FCSA or has at least one competitive team participating in the FCSA Competitive League. These representatives can be elected or appointed based on the bylaws of the club that they are representing.
- B. Meetings of the FCC will be held at least once monthly, with fifty percent (50%) of the above named officers (excluding any Competitive Club Representative from any non-FCSA club) being necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Competitive Club Representatives may give a proxy provided that notification is sent to the FCSA Office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting and such proxy is approved and signed by the President or Competitive Club Representative of the club involved. No Appointed Member of the FCC may give a proxy. Votes will be cast on a one vote per one officer basis on all business coming before the FCC.

### **SECTION 3 REGISTRATION OF COMPETITIVE TEAMS**

- A. Pursuant to the conditions and restrictions of these Competitive Bylaws, each FCSA club or combination of FCSA clubs may register competitive teams of each gender with FCSA in the U-11 through U-19 age groups and, to the extent appropriate divisions can be formed by the FCC, play those teams in the FCSA Competitive League. Team formation is subject to review by members of the FCC. The FCC must approve and may limit and/or otherwise condition participation in each season of

the FCSA Competitive League by any non-FCSA teams requesting to participate in the FCSA Competitive League.

B. The responsibilities and duties of each FCSA club sponsoring an FCSA competitive team include:

- (1) Insure that these FCSA Competitive Bylaws and the Rules of FCSA Competitive League Competition are complied with by all their teams, coaches, trainers, players and spectators.
- (2) Maintain order and respect for referees, player and others involved with the games scheduled on their fields.
- (3) Provide an appropriate number of fields for FCSA competitive competition as well as suitably marked fields which in the opinion of the referee, complies with the requirements stated in the FIFA and FCSA rules.
- (4) Insure that all their competitive players, teams, coaches and trainers are properly registered and rostered prior to participation in any scheduled game.
- (5) Insure that their competitive players receive appropriate and safe training.
- (6) Insure that their competitive coaches and trainers are appropriately trained and licensed.
- (7) Provide appropriately certified and licensed referees for each game scheduled for their fields.

## **SECTION 4 RULES OF FCSA COMPETITIVE LEAGUE COMPETITION**

### **A. PURPOSE**

- (1) The FCSA Competitive League is to provide opportunity for those FCSA players who possess the desire and demonstrated advanced capabilities to achieve "their utmost in soccer skills and experience." The FCSA Competitive League shall provide a highly competitive style of soccer within adequate restrictions to assure the continued growth and enjoyment of participation in the sport of soccer by all the youth in the FCSA.

### **B. PLAY.**

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in these Competitive Bylaws, the FIFA "Laws of the Game", as modified by US Youth Soccer Policy on Players and Playing Rules, shall apply to all FCSA Competitive League competition.

- (2) Coaches are required to play each player on their competitive team one-half (1/2) of each FCSA Competitive League game, except for health or appropriate disciplinary reasons. Playing time at competitive tournaments shall be governed by the rules of the tournament.
- (3) Commencing with the Fall 2004 season, all U11 FCSA Competitive League games shall be played 8v8 in accordance with the US Youth Soccer Official Under 12 Playing Rules for 8v8 play, except as otherwise provided in these Competitive Bylaws. Commencing with the Fall 2005 season, all U12 FCSA Competitive League games shall be played 8v8 in accordance with the US Youth Soccer Official Under 12 Playing Rules for 8v8 play, except as otherwise provided in these Competitive Bylaws. Except as provide above in this subsection with respect to U11 and U12 games, all FCSA Competitive League games shall be played 11v11.
- (4) Player's equipment shall include:
  - a. Two contrasting jerseys and shin guards. Home teams should wear white/light colored jerseys and away teams should wear dark colored jerseys; however, in the event of a conflict the home team shall be responsible for changing jerseys.
  - b. Each player's jersey shall carry a unique number which corresponds with the players name and number on the team's properly stamped and approved League Roster/Game Form.

### **C. SUBSTITUTIONS.**

- (1) The number of substitutions in the FCSA Competitive League competitions shall be unlimited.
- (2) In all FCSA competitive age divisions playing 11v11, substitutions can be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:
  - a) Prior to a throw-in your favor
  - b) Prior to a goal kick
  - c) After a goal, by either team
  - d) After an injury, by either team when the referee stops play
  - e) Half-time
  - f) Player receiving a caution and the same number of players from the opposing team may be substituted on a like basis
- (3) In all FCSA competitive age divisions playing 8v8, substitution can be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.
- (4) No substitute is allowed for a player ejected from the field of play by the referee. No player shall leave the field of play without the consent of the referee.

#### **D. FORFEITURE.**

- (1) If a team which is to play 11v11 fails to appear or field a team of at least seven players at the scheduled game time, the game shall be forfeited to the team present and ready to play. If a team which is to play 8v8 fails to appear or field a team of at least five players at the scheduled game time, the game shall be forfeited to the team present and ready to play.
- (2) Any team that fails to present proper credentials to the official prior to the scheduled kickoff in any FCSA Competitive League play will forfeit the game, but the game shall nevertheless be played. A properly stamped and approved League Roster and Game Form and properly stamped and approved member passes constitute proper credentials for competitive teams participating in FCSA Competitive League play. The referee shall write on the League Roster and Game Form that the opposing team failed to present a proper roster and/or member passes. If both teams appear without the proper credentials, the referee shall record the game information on a sheet of paper with the notation that neither coach presented proper credentials.
- (3) Failure of the home team and club to provide a suitably marked and playable field, as determined by the referee according to FIFA Law and these Competitive Bylaws, excluding conditions caused by weather, shall result in forfeiture of the game to the visiting team.
- (4) Any team proven guilty of violating any of the rules of the FCSA Competitive League or these Competitive Bylaws shall be subject to forfeit of all games in which such violation is applicable.
- (5) Any team playing an ineligible player shall forfeit all games in which that player participated.
- (6) The score of a forfeited game shall be recorded as a 3-0 loss for the forfeiting team. The score of a double forfeited game shall be recorded as a 0-0 loss, with no goals or points for either team.

#### **E. PLAYER REGISTRATION AND MEMBER PASSES.**

- (1) All FCSA competitive team players and coaches must be properly registered and rostered with FCSA and the FCSA Registrar on the approved FCSA forms. All non-FCSA competitive team players and coaches requesting to participate in the FCSA Competitive League must be properly registered with their proper USYS affiliated governing association (i.e. Oklahoma non-FCSA teams must be register by their respective Country or, if none, OSA) and must submit to FCSA a copy of their properly stamped rosters and coaches' Employment/Volunteer Disclosure Statements by the deadline set by the FCC. All team participating in the FCSA Competitive League must timely submit to FCSA such other completed forms as may be required by the FCC.

- (2) Copies of birth certificates or suitable proof of age will be required as part of an FCSA player's registration with FCSA.
- (3) Players must be on the team's properly stamped and approved roster on file at FCSA at least 72 hours prior to taking part in any competition in the FCSA Competitive League.
- (4) All FCSA Competitive League players and coaches will be required to have a USYS Member Pass (player pass) with a CURRENT photograph (not over one year old) of the player/coach permanently affixed and signed by the player/coach. Player passes for all FCSA competitive team must be signed and stamped by the FCSA Registrar or their designated representative. Player passes for all non-FCSA teams participating in the FCSA Competitive League must be signed and stamped by their proper USYS affiliated governing association (i.e. Oklahoma non-FCSA teams must be register by their respective Country or, if none, OSA). The player must produce the valid player pass upon request of game officials, opposing teams and/or league or FCSA club tournament officials. Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and/or Trainers must have a validated Member Pass in the "Coaching Area" or "Coaches' Box" of all USYS sanctioned games and must produce the validated Member Pass upon request of game officials, opposing teams, and/or league or tournament officials. Only Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and/or Trainers are permitted in the "Coaching Area" or "Coaches' Box" during all FCSA Competitive League games and tournament games sponsored by clubs affiliated with FCSA.
  - a. In order to reduce paperwork and facilitate intra-club competitive transfers pursuant to Section 9.C.(5) of these Competitive Bylaws, each FCSA club may elect to use club designated player passes for all their competitive players in lieu of team designated payer passes by (1) designating the club's name in the space provided on the player pass for a team's name, (2) designating the words "Comp. Pass" in the space provided on the player pass for the team number and (3) inserting on the player pass in the blank space under the space provided for the team number whether the sex of the player is a "male" or a "female" competitive player; provided, however, all FCSA competitive teams must be formed and initially rostered as required under Section 6 of these Competitive Bylaws and a FCSA competitive player may only transfer from the roster of a FCSA competitive team to the roster of another FCSA competitive team as allowed under Section 9 of these Competitive Bylaws.

## **F. CAUTIONS, EJECTIONS, SUSPENSIONS AND PROBATIONS.**

- (1) All FCSA competitive teams and teams participating in the FCSA Competitive League, and their respective coaches, trainers, players and player's parents or legal guardians, shall be subject to suspension, probation, or other disciplinary

action by the FCC, a FCC subcommittee, the FCSA Hearings and Appeals Committee, their local club, or their parent association for misconduct or rule violation. At the discretion of the Competitive Commissioner, any FCSA competitive disciplinary matters may be referred either to the full FCC, a FCC subcommittee or directly to the FCSA Hearing and Appeal Committee for hearing and/or determination. Suspension, probation or other disciplinary action taken by the Competitive Commissioner, the FCC or any FCC subcommittee, and the terms thereof, may be appealed to the FCSA Hearing and Appeals Committee. Decisions of the Hearings and Appeals Committee may be appealed to the Executive Board of Directors of the FCSA. All appeals must be made within 72 hours in writing and must be accompanied by a \$100 Cashier's Check or Certified Check made payable to FCSA and a letter stating the basis for the appeal. This fee is refundable only if the appeal is upheld and the original decision is overruled. Furthermore, FCSA Executive Board decisions are subject to appeal to the OSA and then USYS.

- (2) Coaches, players and spectators at all FCSA Competitive League games shall be subject to caution or ejection by the playing referee of a game for misconduct or rule violation.
- (3) A coach, player or spectator who is ejected shall leave the immediate area of the playing field before recommencement of the game. Refusal by an ejected coach, player or spectator to leave within a reasonable time as specified by the referee shall result in immediate termination of the game and automatic suspension of the ejected person(s). The game shall be declared a forfeiture and shall not be replayed.
- (4) The USYS Member Pass of ejected coaches or players shall be checked to ensure accuracy of both name and uniform number (if applicable), but the pass need not be taken by the referee. A FCSA Sit-Out Verification Form must be presented to and completed by the referee prior to each game in which the coach or player is prohibited from participating. The completed FCSA Sit-Out Verification Form must be timely submitted to FCSA by the coach and failure to do so shall result in the forfeiture of that game and may result in additional disciplinary action against the player and coach. An ejected coach shall be disqualified from further participation at the game from which he/she is ejected and may not attend at least the next game of the team involved and, if he/she does appear at any game at which they are prohibited, the game shall be declared a forfeiture. A player who is ejected shall not participate in the remainder of the game from which he is ejected and is prohibited from participation in at least the next game in which his registered team plays and, if he/she does participate in any game at which they are prohibited, the game shall be declared a forfeiture. Any ejection for *violent conduct* involving physical contact shall carry an immediate three (3) game suspension; provided, however, for purposes of clarification an ejection based upon verbal insults and/or abuse shall not result in a three (3) game suspension. The FCSA Hearings and Appeal Committee, the FCC and/or the local club may

impose additional penalties or disciplinary actions for conduct resulting in an ejection.

- (5) An accumulative point system will be utilized to track and penalize excessive cautions (yellow cards) and/or ejections (red cards). This system will be uniform within FCSA and is described in FCSA Bylaws Section 2, C, 6, (f), & (g), which apply in their entirety to competitive coaches and players.
- (6) A player or coach who initiates an assault on a referee shall be dealt with according to FCSA and Oklahoma Soccer Association rules and Bylaws.

#### **G. CANCELLATION, POSTPONEMENT, AND RESCHEDULING.**

- (1) Once the schedule has been published, teams should be made aware that there will be no changes to the schedule and to make plans accordingly. The only rescheduling allowed will be for teams traveling to tournaments, club canceled games (e.g. due to inclement weather, etc.), or for ACT, SAT, or PSAT Testing. The FCSA Competitive Games Rescheduling Form must be **COMPLETE** and submitted by both coaches to the FCSA office by Wednesday, 2:00 p.m., at least 7 days prior to the scheduled game therein explaining the reason for the rescheduling of the game. The rescheduling forms shall be considered by the FCC in evaluating any contested forfeitures which may be requested and the failure of a team to submit such form can negatively impact the forfeiture determination for the team. The FCC has the right to postpone or suspend games of any team who is being brought before the FCC or any governing body of FCSA or OSA for disciplinary actions or rules violations.

#### **H. PROTESTS AND APPEALS.**

- (1) The FCC, a FCC subcommittee, or FCSA Hearing and Appeals Committee may determine any formal protests of any FCSA Competitive League competition and any disputed request for FCSA Competitive League forfeitures. All protests of any FCSA Competitive League competition must be detailed in writing to FCSA within 72 hours of the end of the protested game and accompanied by a \$100 Cashiers Check or Certified Check made payable to FCSA. At the discretion of the Competitive Commissioner, any such protests or disputes may be referred either to the full FCC, a FCC subcommittee or directly to the FCSA Hearing and Appeal Committee for hearing and/or determination. Any determination or such protests or disputes by the Competitive Commissioner, the FCC or any FCC subcommittee, and the terms thereof, may be appealed to the FCSA Hearing and Appeals Committee.
- (2) All appeals of decisions made by the FCC, any FCC subcommittee or the Competitive Commissioner shall be to the FCSA Hearing and Appeals Committee. Decisions of the Hearings and Appeals Committee may be appealed to the Executive Board of Directors of the FCSA. All appeals must be made within 72 hours in writing and must be accompanied by a \$100 Cashier's Check or Certified

Check made payable to FCSA and a letter stating the basis for the appeal. This fee is refundable only if the appeal is upheld and the original decision is overruled. Furthermore, FCSA Executive Board decisions are subject to appeal to OSA and then USYS.

## **I. DIVISION FORMATION**

- (1) The FCC shall form all Divisions of the FCSA Competitive League and place teams in each of those divisions prior to the fall and spring seasons. The FCC shall post the division placement on the FCSA web site. Any request to reconsider a team's placement in a particular division other than as posted on the FCSA web site must be submitted in writing (fax or e-mail are acceptable) by the team's registered coach and received by the FCC within 5 days of the date such divisions are posted on FCSA's web site. Failure to timely submit such a written request to the FCC constitutes a waiver of any complaint regarding that team's placement into the division as posted on the FCSA web site. A team may not request the FCC reconsider another team's placement in a particular division.
- (2) The team's placement in the immediately preceding FCSA Competitive League season shall be a primary factor in placing a team into a particular division; however, other factors may be considered by the FCC, including, without limitation, the team's placement in the second preceding FCSA Competitive League season, the team's placement in the OSA State Tournament, OSA Director's Cup Tournament, and/or the number of returning players, age mix of a team between younger and older players, and coach's requests. Factors that will not be considered include, without limitation, a team's performance in any tournament other than the OSA State Tournament or OSA Directors Cup Tournament, and a team's performance in any FCSA Competitive League division prior to the last two seasons. The FCC shall place any team that has been relegated from the immediately preceding OSA Oklahoma Premier League ("OPL") season into the highest division in which teams from that relegated team's age group are playing in the FCSA Competitive League.
- (3) The FCC shall designate, consistent with the OPL rules, the divisions from which the highest placing team for each particular age group shall be eligible to automatically promote to the OPL; provided, however, regardless of their placement in a division, no non-Oklahoma team can automatically promote from the FCSA Competitive League into the OPL.

## **J. SCHEDULING**

- (1) Scheduling of regular FCSA Competitive League games shall be the primary responsibility of the Competitive Scheduler. The Scheduler is responsible for insuring that all FCSA Competitive League teams are provided with a schedule consisting of at least eight (8) games per each Fall or Spring season; provided, however, if a year-long season is adopted by the FCC as to any particular division,

the team's participating shall be provided with a schedule consisting of at least ten (10) games per year-long season.

- (2) Schedules shall provide that each FCSA team shall play approximately one-half of its games on its own home field. All non-Oklahoma Teams allowed to participate in FCSA's Competitive League must make prior arrangements with a FCSA club, including arrangements for the payment of any field usage fees and referee fees, for such non-Oklahoma teams to use a FCSA club's field as their home field.
- (3) FCSA Competitive League schedules shall be completed no later than the date established by the Competitive Commissioner for each season, shall be posted on the FCSA web site, and shall be provided to each Competitive Club Representative. Each Competitive Club Representative is responsible for getting all scheduling information to their respective club's competitive teams and referee assignors.
- (4) The uniform scheduling form approved by the FCC shall be used by the Competitive Scheduler. One copy of each completed scheduling form for each team must be turned in to the FCSA office on or before the date set by the Competitive Commissioner. The FCC shall determine the beginning and ending of each season.
- (5) In no event shall a FCSA competitive team be permitted to play in any tournaments which are restricted to recreational teams only.

#### **K. GAME OFFICIAL**

- (1) It shall be the responsibility of the home team and club to assure that a qualified referee and assistant referees shall be provided for FCSA Competitive League competition.
- (2) All home team clubs are responsible for collecting all game forms for all FCSA Competitive League games played at their fields and submitting those game forms to FCSA within one week of the games being played, but in no event later than one week after the date set by the FCC as the date by which all FCSA Competitive League games are required to have been played.

#### **L. FCSA COMPETITIVE LEAGUE SCORING AND SCORE REPORTING**

- (1) Regardless of whether game forms are or have been submitted by the home club, it is the responsibility of the coach/manager of both teams to report all FCSA Competitive League scores in writing to the FCSA Office. Such reports should be submitted within one week of the date the game is played, but in all events on or before the date set by the FCC for the reporting of game results for that season. If only one team reports the score of a game by the score reporting deadline, the FCC shall assume that such reported score accurately reflects the score of that game. Teams may use the FCC approved Report of FCSA Game Result Form,

however, if not used, the report must include all information listed on the Report of FCSA Game Result Form. If a team wishes to claim a forfeit against a team, the requesting team must document their attempts to reschedule the game, if applicable, and explain the basis of why the game was not played and/or should be forfeited, and send the request for the forfeit to the FCSA office by the deadline for reporting scores. The Reschedule Form is a tool to help document the reschedule attempts, but it alone does not guarantee that you will be awarded a forfeit. You must timely request the forfeit. Failure to timely request a forfeiture of any unreported game and any games for which no scores are timely reported shall result in that game being recorded as a double forfeiture, with no goals or points for either team. Discrepancies in timely reported scores shall be resolved by the official game report, if timely received, or if not timely received, by the Competitive Commissioner in the case of undisputed results or the FCC, or a FCC subcommittee, in the case of disputed results.

- (2) League standings are based upon a 3-point system. Wins - 3 points, Ties - 1 point, Losses - 0 points. No points will be awarded for number of goals scored. All games count for determination of league standings. Ties in the standings for first place are broken using the following system.
  - (a) Head to head competition.
  - (b) Goal Differential, with a maximum of 3 goals per game.
  - (c) Fewest total goals allowed in all games.

If rankings are still tied after the above tie-breakers, the FCC will determine further tie-breakers.

## **SECTION 5 FCSA COMPETITIVE TEAM COACHES**

A. Head Coaches, Trainers, and Assistant Coaches of all FCSA competitive teams must provide an Employment/Volunteer Disclosure Statement to FCSA and possess at least a current OSA "D" license. A copy of the license must be provided to the FCSA office. If the coach, trainer, or assistant coach has a foreign license, he/she must provide certification from OSA that the license they hold is equivalent to at least the OSA "D" license. Head coaches or their club may appoint up to two assistant coaches.

- (1) Because of the limited number of "D" Licensing Courses offered by the Oklahoma Soccer Association, coaches, assistant coaches, or trainers without a "D" License may coach or train competitive teams until the end of the applicable seasonal year provided they can show proof of registration and payment into an OSA "D" Licensing Course that is to take place prior to the end of that seasonal year. This special exemption to the "D" licensing requirement may only be used one time by any individual and the license

level of that coach or trainer may only be listed in published tryout information as being a "pending D" license.

B. The coach and trainers of each FCSA competitive team shall be selected or approved by the sponsoring club and shall remain as a coach or trainer at the discretion of that club.

C. Responsibilities & duties of FCSA competitive team coaches include:

- (1) A coach shall have the final right of selection of players subject to the rules set forth for players tryouts and selection.
- (2) Each coach shall assure that all his players are properly registered prior to participation in any scheduled games.
- (3) A coach shall secure approval of their club to release (either voluntary or involuntary) any registered player from their team roster and shall complete and timely submit all required documentation for such release.
- (4) Each coach shall be responsible for insuring the Rules of FCSA Competitive League Competition and these FCSA Competitive Bylaws are complied with by all coaches, trainers, players and spectators, and for maintaining order and respect by players and spectators for referees, players and others involved with the game. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in forfeiture, suspension, or both.
- (5) Each coach shall assure that each player's jersey number is correctly recorded on the properly stamped and approved official League Roster/Game Form prior to each game and have a copy of his/her team's approved FCSA Competitive League Roster/Form at each game.
- (6) All coaches shall have individual player and coaches passes (with current picture affixed and player's signature) at each game.
- (7) Each coach and trainer shall be responsible for the appropriate and safe training and conditioning of their players.
- (8) All coaches shall have copies of the players' registration forms at all team activities.
- (9) It is the responsibility of the home coach and home club to provide a suitably marked field which, in the opinion of the referee, complies with the requirements stated in the FIFA and FCSA rules.
- (10) Each coach shall sign their Official Team Roster/Game Form and that of the opposing coach following each game.

- (11) Any failure of a coach or trainer to uphold FCSA Competitive Bylaws and the FCC's Standing Resolutions or Rules may result in disciplinary action.

## **SECTION 6 FCSA COMPETITIVE TEAM FORMATION**

### **A. TRYOUTS**

- (1) Formation of all FCSA competitive teams, except for U19 teams that are allowed to be formed under Section 6, B below, shall be accomplished through the registration of selected players by the player's parent or legal guardian at annual tryouts to be held pursuant to this Section 6, A. Registration of a player requires the submission to the club or team official of (a) a completed USYS Membership Form signed by any player 18 years old or older or by any younger player's parent or legal guardian, as well as (b) payment of the club's registration fee (or documentation of a club registration fee scholarship).
- (2) The recruitment date, annual tryout period, and registration deadline will be determined by the FCC for each age group and the dates shall be announced in January of the year the tryouts are to be held. These dates to be set by the FCC must occur between May 15 and July 31.
  - a. The recruitment date to be set by the FCC shall be a date (usually about a week preceding the annual tryout period) on and after which all players previously registered to a FCSA competitive team may be recruited for the upcoming annual tryouts.
  - b. The annual tryout period to be set by the FCC shall be a period of time (usually commencing about a week after the recruitment date and extending for about a two week period) during which the annual tryouts of each FCSA competitive team are to be held and players may be registered to a FCSA team. The contact information for every player which is registered to a team during the annual tryout period or which attends a team's tryout during the annual tryout period but is not registered to that team must be reflected on a FCC approved tryout sign-in sheet. The coach shall designate on the tryout sign-in sheet those players that have been properly registered to their team prior to the submission of such tryout sign-in sheets to FCSA.
  - c. The registration deadline to be set by the FCC shall be a date following the annual tryout period (usually being about a week after the end of the annual tryout period) by which all teams must be registered with FCSA. In order for teams formed through the annual tryouts to be registered with FCSA, the team's club must submit to

FCSA by the registration deadline set by the FCC: (1) an approved typewritten Team Roster and Game Form (complete with jersey numbers, club stamp, and dated club registrar signature) with a minimum of 14 registered players for any age group playing 11v11 or with a minimum of 10 registered players for any age group playing 8v8, (2) original USYS Membership Forms for each registered player, (3) Employment/Volunteer Disclosure Statements for all coaches and trainers and (4) all tryout sign-in sheets for all tryouts during the annual tryout period which has all registered players properly designated as a registered player. **Teams holding tryouts during the annual tryout period may register with FCSA as a competitive team only if all of the above requirements of this subsection have been met. Any players registering with teams that fail to meet the above requirements of this subsection shall be free of their commitment to that team and may register with another FCSA competitive team.**

- (3) All players attending a team's tryouts must be advised of their acceptance or rejection as a player for that team no later than seven days after the first tryout they attend for that team, but in no event any latter than the last day of the annual tryout period for that age group.
- (4) Each FCSA Club wishing to host a competitive team for the upcoming seasonal year and hold a tryout during the annual tryout may only do so by submitting to FCSA by May 1 of each year an approved "Tryout Information Form" for each team hosting a tryout and an approved "Coaches/Trainers Acknowledgment Form" signed by the club's approved coaches and trainers of each team. The Tryout Information Form must include the name of the coach and trainer approved by the Club for that team. No "to be announced" coaches or trainers will be accepted. It is generally understood, however, that occasionally there may be a change in the announced coach or trainer due to an unexpected circumstance. If this is the case, the Club must notify FCSA immediately regarding the change and the reasons therefore. If a club deems it necessary to have an additional coach or team for the same age group and gender in which tryouts were held by that club, a written request for an additional coach or team must be submitted to the FCC along with a Tryout Information Form before the registration deadline. No coach or trainer may be the coach and/or trainer in the same age group and gender for any other club.
  - a. A coach or trainer, upon their club's submission to FCSA as a coach or trainer of a particular team for a particular seasonal year and submission to FCSA of a signed "Coaches/Trainers Acknowledgment Form", shall be prohibited from serving during the remainder of that seasonal year with another club as a coach, assistant coach, trainer, manager or other team official of a competitive team of the same gender and birth year, unless the original sponsoring club consents in writing.

- (5) The Tryout Information Form, as approved by the FCC, must be submitted for each team and must include information as to the dates, time and places for each team's open tryouts and any and all fees and/or expenses expected to be paid by players or their parents must be included on the form. Normal team operating expenses for uniforms, tournament fees and supplies need not be listed on the form; however, extraordinary fees and expenses such as club fees, coaching fees, training fees, other monthly fee, etc. must be separately listed with exact dollar amounts noted. If a team submitting tryout dates decides that it needs to hold additional tryouts during the annual tryout period, they may do so upon approval of their club; however, no such additional tryouts shall be published by FCSA.
- (6) A FCSA Tryout Announcement shall be published by FCSA on FCSA's web site. The FCC will attempt to publish the Tryout Announcement at least two weeks prior to the start of the annual tryout period.
  - a. Any coach to be listed in the FCSA Competitive Tryout Announcement must possess a current OSA "D" license. A copy of the license must be provided to the FCSA office by May 1. If the coach has a foreign license, the club must provide certification from OSA that the license the coach holds is equivalent to at least the OSA "D" license. Because of the limited number of "D" Licensing Courses offered by the Oklahoma Soccer Association, coaches, assistant coaches, or trainers without a "D" License may coach or train FCSA competitive teams until the end of the applicable seasonal year provided they can show proof of registration and payment into an OSA "D" Licensing Course that is to take place prior to the end of that seasonal year. This special exemption to the "D" licensing requirement may only be used one time by any individual and the license level of that coach or trainer may only be listed in published tryout information as being a "pending D" license.
- (7) No team will be permitted to change club affiliation after that team is submitted to FCSA as a team to hold a tryout for the original sponsoring club (i.e. a team may not be approved by a club for a tryout and then register with another club, and a team may not form and then attempt to change club affiliation later in the season year), without the original sponsoring Club's written approval prior to registration.
- (8) All players are deemed free agents for the purpose of recruiting after the recruitment date for the applicable seasonal year through the date such player is registered to another FCSA competitive team for that seasonal year. After the recruitment date for the applicable seasonal year through the date such player is registered to another FCSA competitive team for that seasonal year,

team officials may make unsolicited contact with players or their parents, including phone calls, in-home visits, emails, etc.; however, all contact must cease once a player has registered with another team or the player or the player's parent or legal guardian requests that such contact ceases. It will be considered illegal recruiting for any team representative (including any registered players or their parents) to attempt to recruit a player during the annual tryout period who is known to have already registered to another FCSA competitive team.

- (9) Prior to the recruitment date no players shall be directly contacted by any coach, trainer, or club/team representative (including players and players' parents) regarding tryouts for team formation except as provided in Section 6, A. (10) below or illegally recruited (as defined in Section 8.B. below). Direct contact shall include contacts in person or by telephone, fax, e-mail or mail. This provision is not intended to prohibit a head coach from discussing tryouts for that team with players, or their parents or legal guardians, currently registered with that team.
- (10) Beginning May 1, public notices regarding tryouts may be posted by teams or clubs; however, such public notices cannot contain any information other than the information called for on the Tryout Information Form submitted for that team to FCSA and the accurate resume of the coaches and/or trainers for that team. Such notices must be in an open public forum such as a public bulletin board, newsletter, newspaper, web sites, etc. They may not take the form of personal, direct contact as described in Section 6, a (9) above.
- (11) No player may be selected or registered for a FCSA competitive team by the coach or club prior to the start of the annual tryout period.
- (12) Any player that does not qualify under USYS guidelines for a U11 or older age group, will not be allowed to register for any FCSA competitive team and no such person shall be allowed to play in the FCSA Competitive League.  
**FEWER THAN 10 AND YOUNGER PLAYERS ARE NOT ALLOWED.**
- (13) All FCSA competitive teams shall be formed with a minimum of 14 players and a maximum of 18; provided, however, that commencing with the 2004 annual tryouts, U11 teams shall be formed with a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 14 players, and that commencing with the 2005 annual tryouts, U12 teams shall be formed with a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 14 players.
- (14) After the registration deadline and proper registration of a FCSA competitive team, tryouts for replacements or additions to that team shall be approved by the club with which the team is registered and do not need to be approved by FCSA or advertised or posted by the team or club.

## **B. SPECIAL U19 TEAM FORMATION**

- (1) Recognizing the special needs and challenges of forming U19 teams (often primarily comprised of players attending college and not able to participate in the Fall Competitive League), FCSA clubs may form U19 FCSA competitive teams, without conducting tryouts, during the period commencing January 1 and ending January 31 of each seasonal year. Clubs may form U19 teams comprised of U19 (or younger) players not already registered on a FCSA competitive team as of the date of such player's registration with the U19 team. U19 teams formed during this special U19 team formation period must be registered with FCSA by January 31. In order for teams formed through the special U19 team formation period to be registered with FCSA, the team's club must submit to FCSA on or before January 31: (1) an approved typewritten Roster and Game Form (complete with jersey numbers, club stamp, and dated club registrar signature) with a minimum of 14 registered players, (2) original USYS Membership Forms for each registered player, and (3) Employment/Volunteer Disclosure Statements for all coaches and trainers. Teams will be registered with FCSA only if all of the above requirements for registration have been met.
- (2) U19 teams may be formed pursuant to the provisions of Section 6, A. above; however, the provisions of Section 6, A. above shall not apply to U19 FCSA competitive teams formed during this special U19 team formation period under this Section 6, B. Contact with an unregistered U19 player by a coach or a club prior or during this special U19 team formation period shall not be considered illegal recruitment. Any coach, trainer or any club representative of a U19 team may contact unaffiliated U19 and younger players for purposes of recruiting the player for a U19 team formed or to be formed during this special U19 team formation period. As used in the preceding sentence, a player is "unaffiliated" if that player has not been registered on a FCSA Competitive team for that playing year on or before the date of the contact with that player. No player may transfer to a U19 team formed during this special U19 team formation period, except in accordance with the terms of Section 9 below.
- (3) U19 FCSA competitive teams shall be formed with a minimum of 14 players and a maximum of 18 players.
- (4) After team registration deadline for U19 teams formed during this special U19 team formation period, tryouts for replacements or additions to a team shall be approved by the club with which the team is registered and do not need to be approved by FCSA or advertised or posted by the team or club, provided, however, no player may transfer to a U19 team formed during this special U19 team formation period, except in accordance with the terms of Section 9 below.

### **C. PLAYER/COACHES PASSES**

Each player, coach and trainer for a FCSA competitive team must have a USYS Member Passes with a current and identifiable picture of the players, coaches or trainers and a FCSA stamp. USYS Member Passes with non-current or unidentifiable pictures will not be approved or stamped. USYS Member Passes for coaches, assistant coaches, and trainers will only be approved and stamped if a copy of the coach's license has been provided to FCSA as required in Section 6, A(6)(a) above and if the Employment/Volunteer Disclosure Statement has been provided to FCSA. USYS Member Passes will only be approved for registered players, coaches, assistant coaches, and trainers.

### **D. COMMITMENT OF PLAYER/COACH**

- (1) Once a coach accepts a player's completed and signed USYS Membership Form and the player pays the required club registration fees, that player and coach are committed to each other for the seasonal year for both the team and club registered, and that player would then fall under the FCSA competitive team Transfer Rule found in Section 9 below. Once a name has been submitted on the roster of a registered FCSA competitive team, a completed and signed USYS Transfer/Release Form will be required in order to remove that player's name from the roster.

### **E. CONSOLIDATION AND DISSOLUTION OF FCSA TEAMS**

- (1) Consolidation of two or more FCSA competitive teams during a playing season because of a lack of player participation requires the approval of the Competitive Commissioner. Each surviving team of a consolidation will complete the schedule of one of the original teams as determined by the Competitive Commissioner. The consolidated teams will be reorganized as club teams at mid-seasonal year if possible. Note that teams consolidated during a seasonal year or reorganized at mid-seasonal year will be affected by player transfer rules and may not be eligible competitions outside of the FCSA Competitive League. The club providing the majority of players for a combined team has the right to select the coach for such a team.
- (2) The dissolution of a FCSA competitive team must be certified in writing as having been dissolved by the Competitive Club Representative of that team's club.

## **SECTION 7 TEAM SPONSORSHIP**

- A. Any FCSA competitive team may secure a sponsor or sponsors to aid it in expenses. Sponsor and uniform logos are subject to approval by the FCC upon written request of the team's club.
  
- B. Caution and common sense should be exercised in the selection of a team sponsor to maintain the character, spirit and intent of the Association and its ideals of sportsmanship, character building, participation and teamwork. All emblems, insignias, or logos worn on Competitive players' uniforms are subject to approval by the FCC. Sponsors will not be permitted any authority or control of player selection, game participation or coach selection. Any team or sponsor found guilty of impropriety in regards to team sponsorship may be suspended or otherwise dealt with by FCSA.

## **SECTION 8 RECRUITING**

- A. Recruitment, or recruiting, is defined as any action initiated by a team's coach, trainer, assistant coach, team manager, trainer, or any other person representing a team, including a player or a player's parent or legal guardian, (collectively, a "Team Official") who seeks to enlist the services of a player for that team.
  
- B. Illegal recruitment is defined as the employment of any of the following prohibited practices by a Team Official:
  - (1) Offering any inducement of material or monetary value of any kind to a player or player's family, other than a waiver of club or team fees and expenses upon proof of financial hardship.
  
  - (2) Initiating contact with any player currently registered or rostered with another FCSA competitive team, except as allowed after the recruitment date through the date such player is registered to another FCSA competitive team, as reflected in Section 6, A. (8) above.
  
  - (3) Interference with a competitive player once the player has signed a USYS registration form and paid the fee to register with a FCSA competitive team for the next seasonal year. As reflected in Section 6, A. (8) above, it is illegal recruiting for any Team Official to attempt to recruit a player during the annual tryout period who is known to have already registered to another FCSA competitive team.
  
  - (4) The making of any false or materially misleading negative statements to a player or their parents or legal guardians concerning a team or coach in the same age group and gender of the team for whom the player is being recruited, even if such contact is otherwise a legal contact with that player, parent or legal guardian.

C. Illegal recruitment does not include the following permitted practices:

- (1) Waiver of club or team fees and expenses upon proof of financial hardship.
- (2) Contact with a player who is not then registered or rostered to a FCSA competitive team.
- (3) Contact with a free agency player after the recruitment date through the date such player is registered to another FCSA competitive team as allowed by Section 6, A. (8) above.
- (4) Contact with a player for the limited purpose of participating as a guest player for any USYS sanctioned tournament, but only after prior notice to the player's club coach that such contact would be made to the player.
- (5) Contact initiated by a potential player, or their parents or legal guardians.
- (6) Advertising or public relations of a general, indirect nature (e.g. newspaper article on a team's success at a tournament).
- (7) Non-sanctioned soccer activities, including indoor soccer teams or formation and coaching of special tournament teams (e.g. 3v3 tournaments, etc.).
- (8) Club sponsored soccer training camps or clinics which are open to all players without geographic restriction.

D. Illegal recruitment may result in the FCC, a FCC subcommittee or the FCSA Hearing and Appeals Committee, suspending or prohibiting a Team Official from all FCSA competitive soccer activities for a determined period, removing an illegally recruited player from a team's roster, prohibiting a team from registering the illegally recruited player, or other or additional sanctions or disciplinary action. Any complainants desiring to assert a recruiting violation must file a written complaint detailing the illegal recruiting or prohibited practice with the FCC. At the discretion of the Competitive Commissioner, any disciplinary matters related to illegal recruitment may be referred to either the full FCC, a FCC subcommittee or directly to the FCSA Hearing and Appeal Committee for hearing. Disciplinary action taken by the Competitive Commissioner, the FCC or any FCC subcommittee, and the terms thereof, may be appealed to the FCSA Hearing and Appeals Committee. Decisions of the Hearings and Appeals Committee may be appealed to the Executive Board of Directors of the FCSA. All appeals must be made within 72 hours in writing and must be accompanied by a \$100 Cashier's Check or Certified Check made payable to FCSA and a letter stating the basis for the appeal. This fee is refundable only if the appeal is upheld and the original decision is overruled. Furthermore, FCSA Executive Board decisions are subject to appeal to the OSA and then USYS.

**SECTION 9**  
**TRANSFERS OF FCSA COMPETITIVE PLAYERS**

- A. A transfer shall be defined as adding a player to a team's roster during the same seasonal year (September 1 through August 31) in which that player was previously a USYS registered player, including a player who is released from a team's roster and later returns to the same or a different team's roster. A release shall be defined as the proper removal of a currently USYS registered player from a team's roster, including players who are either voluntarily or involuntarily removed from a team's roster.
- B. Any player registered with a FCSA competitive team is obligated to that team for the entire seasonal year unless released or transferred; provided, however, in the event a team fails to form during the annual tryouts as a result of a team's failure or inability to meet the requirements of the registration deadline, any players registered with such teams which failed to form shall be free of their commitment to that team and may register with another FCSA Competitive Team without FCC approval, without need for any release or transfer and without need to comply with this Section 9.
- C. Players seeking transfers under the following subsections shall automatically be allowed to do so upon submission of a completed USYS Release/Transfer Form and compliance with the requirements of that subsection, without the need to comply with the provisions of Section 9.D. below:
- (1) Any player released from a FCSA competitive team who, prior to being registered to any other FCSA competitive team, seeks to return to the same FCSA competitive team during the same seasonal year and at a time when such team's official roster has 17 or less players for any age group playing 11v11 or has 13 or less players for any age group playing 8v8.
  - (2) Any player seeking to be released or transferred from a FCSA competitive team for the purpose of returning to the FCSA Recreational League or for the purposes of not playing soccer for the remainder of the seasonal year; provided, however, any attempt by such a player to subsequently register on a FCSA competitive team during the same seasonal year shall only be allowed if approved by the FCC and only if a Competitive Transfer Request has been timely submitted under Section 9.D. below and all requirements therefore are met. Any player released or transferred for the purpose of returning to the FCSA Recreational League will immediately become subject to all FCSA recreational rules regarding registration and team formation.
  - (3) Any player who is rostered to a FCSA competitive team which has been certified by the applicable Competitive Club Representative as having been a dissolved team that has ceased to exist and who seeks to transfer from that dissolved team

to any FCSA competitive team with 17 or less players in any age group playing 11v11 or with 13 or less players in any age group playing 8v8.

- (4) Any player who has been previously registered during the seasonal year only to teams outside FCSA or only to FCSA recreational teams, and who is seeking a transfer to any FCSA competitive team with 17 or less players in any age group playing 11v11 or with 13 or less players in any age group playing 8v8.
- (5) Any player who seeks a transfer during any of the three intra-club transfer periods of October 1 to 15, December 1 to 15 or April 1 to 15 from a FCSA competitive team to another FCSA competitive team sponsored by the same club; provided that the coach of both teams consent to such transfer in writing and provided further that such transfer (after considering all other automatic intra-club transfers under this subsection involving the same teams that are submitted during the same intra-club transfer period) does not leave the team from which a player is transferring or the team to which a player is transferring with less than 14 or more than 18 rostered players in any age group playing 11v11 or with less than 10 or more than 14 rostered players in any age group playing 8v8. During any one intra-club transfer period, a player may only seek one intra-club transfer under this subsection; however, that same player is not prohibited from seeking another intra-club transfer under this subsection during any subsequent intra-club transfer period during that seasonal year.

D. Requests for player transfer to a FCSA competitive team, after previous registration to a FCSA competitive team during the same seasonal year, except those transfers specifically allowed under Section 9.C. above, are to be discouraged and will only be permitted in selected circumstances as provided in this Section 9.D. Any player desiring to be transferred to a FCSA competitive team after previous registration to a FCSA competitive team during the same seasonal year, except those transfers specifically allowed under Section 9.C. above, must complete a written request explaining the basis of the requested transfer and a USYS Release/Transfer Form (collectively, a "Competitive Transfer Request"). A Competitive Transfer Request shall be submitted to the FCC, along with payment of the required \$100 transfer fee, which shall be credited to the FCSA Scholarship Fund. (Although the circumstances are expected to be rare, the transfer fee may be waived or refunded upon the unanimous approval of the FCC, if they deem special circumstances warrant such action). A Competitive Transfer Request may be faxed to the FCSA Office to document the date and time of the request with the original to be mailed/delivered to the FCSA Office with the required fee.

- (1) Such Competitive Transfer Requests will only be considered if submitted during the official competitive transfer period which will extend from December 1 through December 15 of each seasonal year, with the following limited exceptions: (1) a Competitive Transfer Request for a player playing on a FCSA competitive team that is older than his/her true age group which seeks a transfer to a FCSA competitive team in that player's true age group may be submitted from October 1 to December 15 of each seasonal year, (2) a U17 or older player rostered to a U17

or older FCSA competitive team that has been confirmed as being a team that is not attending the Oklahoma State Cup Tournament may submit a Competitive Transfer Request after the competitive team transfer period but only if such Competitive Transfer Request seeks a transfer to a U17 or older FCSA competitive team that has submitted its formal application to attend the Oklahoma State Cup Tournament and the Competitive Transfer Request is submitted prior to the date rosters are frozen for the Oklahoma State Cup Tournament, and (3) a player found by the FCC to have been involuntarily released from a team in accordance with the requirements of these FCSA Competitive Bylaws after the official competitive transfer period, may seek special permission from the FCC, to be granted in the FCC's sole discretion, to transfer after the transfer period upon submission of all documentation supporting that involuntary release.

- (2) All Competitive Transfer Requests must be approved by the FCC, or a FCC subcommittee, and may not be denied on its merits except after a meeting in which the requesting player (and his/her parents or legal guardian) and the coaches of all affected teams are invited to present their position concerning the request; provided, however, the Competitive Commissioner may summarily deny any Competitive Transfer Request that does not comply with the requirements of this Section 9.D. and the FCC may approve a Competitive Transfer Request based on the written submissions, if the coach of the team from which the transfer is sought has been given three (3) days notice of their ability to provide a written submission if they wish to do so.
- (3) No Competitive Transfer Request may be considered if the approval of such transfer will have the effect of leaving the team from which a player is transferring or the team to which a player is transferring with less than 14 or more than 18 rostered players in any age group playing 11v11 or with less than 10 or more than 14 rostered players in any age group playing 8v8. If there is more than one transfer request from a given team, such that this rule may come into effect, the requests will be considered in the order they were received according to faxed/stamped documentation. No Competitive Transfer Request may be considered or allowed if the request seeks a transfer to a team who has illegally recruited that player.
- (4) Facts known, or which should have been reasonably known, to the player or the player's parents or legal guardian at the time the player became registered to a FCSA competitive team shall not, without more, support the FCC's approval of a Competitive Transfer Request.
- (5) No U16 or younger player will be allowed to transfer to another FCSA competitive team sponsored by a different FCSA club if he/she has participated as a guest player in a sanctioned tournament at any time during the current seasonal year prior to that player's timely submission of their Competitive Transfer Request. This provision is not intended to prevent any transfers to any team sponsored by the same club as the team from which the player seeks a transfer, even if the player

had previously participated as a guest player with the sister club team to which they seek to transfer.

- (6) Although disfavored, an open-ended Competitive Transfer Request may be timely submitted by a player who has been released from a FCSA competitive team but has not selected or has not been accepted to join another FCSA competitive team. If such an open-ended Competitive Transfer is approved under this Section 9.D., such player is under no time constraints to join another competitive team; provided, however, any player granted such an open-ended Competitive Transfer Request may only transfer to a FCSA competitive team whose official team roster has 17 or less players in any age group playing 11v11 or has 13 or less players in any age group playing 8v8, and any U16 or younger player granted an open-ended Competitive Transfer Request may not transfer to any FCSA competitive team for which he/she participated as a guest player in a sanctioned tournament at any time during the current seasonal year prior to that player's timely submission of their open-ended Competitive Transfer Request or to any team who has illegally recruited that player.
- E. Nothing in this Section 9 shall prohibit a player from participating in team tryouts during the annual tryout period established by the FCC each summer for the purpose of annual team formation. If a player has been accepted onto another team during such annual tryout period, he/she is automatically released to register with that new team.
- F. All players approved to transfer to a FCSA competitive team must be added to the official team roster/game form and stamp-approved by FCSA at least 72 hours prior to participating in any sanctioned play.
- G. Mid-season transfers onto any FCSA competitive team during a seasonal year are limited to a maximum of 5 transfers per team. The only exceptions are FCSA approved reorganized teams otherwise provided for in these By-Laws. Any team knowingly adding more than the maximum 5 mid-season transfers is considered illegal and subject to restrictions and penalties imposed by the FCC.

## **SECTION 10 RELEASE OF COMPETITIVE PLAYERS**

- A. A player may be involuntarily released from a FCSA competitive team only in one of the following events:
  - (1) The player has violated rules of USSF, USYS, OSA, or FCSA and is in bad standing as a result of that violation for the remainder of the playing year.
  - (2) The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance from the team's practice fields. In this case, reasonable shall be determined by the ability of the player to fulfill the coach's reasonable requirements for attending practices and

meeting scheduled game times.

(3) The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the playing year.

(4) A coach may request a player be involuntarily released from a team for disciplinary reasons only as follows:

(a) The player has violated rules of the team's club and is in bad standing as a result of that violation for the remainder of the playing year.

(b) A player demonstrates consistent and/or frequent failure to attend reasonable practice sessions and/or scheduled games.

(i) If a player frequently fails to attend reasonably scheduled practices or league games, the coach must notify the player, in writing, of the practice requirements and league game schedule and of his/her intention to release the player if the situation is not corrected.

(ii) The player must be given an opportunity to justify the missed practice sessions and/or games and given a reasonable opportunity to show a change in behavior by meeting the team's reasonable schedules.

(iii) Should a player continue to fail to meet these conditions, the coach may then, and only then, request the player be released from the team roster for a player's frequent failure to attend reasonably scheduled practices or league games.

(c) A player is found to be in violation of team, club, FCSA and/or OSA conduct rules involving:

(i) Public behavior of an illegal or violent nature.

(ii) Consistently unsupportive and disruptive behavior resulting in substantial impact on the stability and/or reputation of the team.

(iii) Allegations of the behavior described above must be documented with specific details and substantiated.

B. A coach must obtain the written approval of their sponsoring club's governing body in order to involuntarily release a player as follows:

(1) The coach must submit a written request for an involuntary release of a player to their club's governing body with a written justification of the requested involuntary release pursuant to Section 10, A. above. The club's governing body must afford any player against whom an involuntary release is sought (and their parents and

legal guardians) a reasonable opportunity to be heard concerning the justification given for the requested involuntary release.

- (2) Such request for an involuntary player release must be approved by the club's governing body in accordance with the club's rules and these Bylaws, and written certification by the club's Competitive Representative of such approval must accompany the completed USYS Release/Transfer form submitted to FCSA before FCSA will approve an amended roster without that involuntarily released player. Consideration of all requests for involuntary release must be made on a case-by-case basis and each request must be evaluated on its individual merit and circumstances.
- C. An involuntary release from a team roster granted by a club's governing body shall be subject to appeal to the FCSA Hearing and Appeals Committee. Notification by a player of his/her intent to appeal must be presented to the FCSA Hearing and Appeals Committee within 5 business days of the sooner of actual notice of the involuntary release or the date notification of the player's involuntary release by the club is mailed to the player and the player's parents.
- D. If the player and the player's parents desire or agree with the coach that a player should be released from a FCSA competitive team and such is reflected by their signature on the USYS Release/Transfer Form, then the release is not an involuntary release under this Section 10 and the fully executed USYS Release/Transfer Form is all that is required for the FCSA competitive team's roster to be amended to remove the name of that released player; provided, however, any attempt by a released player (whether a voluntarily or involuntarily released player) to subsequently register on a FCSA competitive team during the same seasonal year shall only be allowed if approved by the FCC and only if a Competitive Transfer Request has been timely submitted to and approved by the FCC, and all requirements therefore under Section 9 above are met.

## **SECTION 11** **AMENDMENT OF COMPETITIVE BYLAWS**

These Competitive Bylaws may be amended at any regularly scheduled General Board meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present, provided that the proposed amendment is presented in writing to the General Board members at least one week in advance of the General Board Meeting or is presented at the last previous regularly scheduled General Board meeting. These Bylaws may not be amended at any special General Board meeting.

Amended and adopted this 13th day of December, 2004.

ATTEST:

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Fred Bross  
Secretary/Treasurer, FCSA

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Mickey Weatherly  
President, FCSA